

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting March 27, 2023

I. Call to Order:

Board President Cynthia Gray called to order the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting at 7:00 PM on March 27, 2023.

II. Roll Call:

The following members were present: Richard Bloom, Thomas Groom, Jessica Wadsworth, and Cynthia Gray. Bill Moore and Brad Beauchamp were absent.

III. Meeting Agenda:

Board President Cynthia Gray added Resolution 4-23, Adjusting Mosquito Assessments in Yakima County to the meeting agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the January 23, 2023, Regular Meeting:

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Richard Bloom and seconded by Thomas Groom. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

VI. Financial Report:

Cynthia Gray, Board President, asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information provided in the board packets. None received.

District Manager Angela Beehler briefly touched on March purchases, credits, rebates, and assessments received. She also indicated that there had been no problems with product purchases.

VII. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence.

VIII. Manager's Report:

Staffing Update: The District Manager provided an update on staffing. Currently,



there are a total of 27 employees, three permanent, three permanent seasonals, and 21 seasonals.

Seasonals have started trickling in but the majority of seasonals will begin work in April.

Angela noted that the Department of Agriculture has implemented a new system for pesticide license testing, which should shorten the time between testing and test score receipt from a couple of weeks to a couple of days.

Steve Ingalls, Field Operations Manager, includes a math test related to calibration and application of control products to the interview process to aid in selecting employee candidates better suited to the job responsibilities. Kevin Shoemaker, Assistant District Manager, has created new study pretest options, geared toward preparing seasonals for pesticide license exam success.

Event Highlights: Angela Beehler provided a description of the following events:

- A. Salmonfest, April 17th & 18th – Gretchen Graber, Rudy Cruz, and David Rise will attend the festival. Gretchen will tie the district's technology and environmental management work with the science learning module the schools have been using and will include a drone demonstration. The highlight of the event will be the release of salmon to the river that the elementary students have reared in the classroom.
- B. Tire Drive, April 22nd, 7 am to 3 pm – A change in the event's flow of traffic has been planned to ease street congestion, allow for offloading of tires in the graveled area of the district's property and protect the asphalt from potential contractor equipment damage during tire loading after the event.
- C. Northwest Vector Control Association (NWVCA) Fall Meeting will be held in Whitefish, Montana, on October 24th (half day) & 25th (full day). Angela Beehler stated that the October board meeting could be rescheduled to another Monday if Board members are interested in attending the NWVCA meeting.
- D. NW Spring Workshop, April 12 & 13th – This meeting is geared toward seasonal employees. Meeting topics will include pesticide product reviews/updates, field surveillance techniques, calibration, and drone use and mapping.
- E. Army Corps of Engineers Access License Renewal: Angela Beehler attended a license renewal meeting where participants discussed mapping changes, management plan details, next permit renewal steps, and associated permit renewal costs.

- F. One Health: Angela Beehler recently attended a One Health meeting hosted by the Department of Health in Ellensburg. The meeting focused on human, veterinary and environmental health with a focus on data management and sharing. The meeting was well attended with at least 200 participants.

IX. Old Business:

There was no old business.

X. New Business:

- A. Control Product Bids for 2023 were outlined by Angela Beehler, referencing the Benton County Mosquito Control Trustees' March 21, 2023 Memorandum. Thomas Groom moved to authorize District employees to purchase control products from the lowest bidder. Jessica Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

- B. Shop Light Replacement Bids. Last summer a contractor for Benton Rural Electric Association (BREA) conducted an energy evaluation and recommended the replacement of existing shop lights with LEDs and the addition of two new shop LED lights. Rebates are available to offset costs. Bids were let through MRSC. After considering the bids, Richard Bloom moved to accept the bid from Northwest Edison in the amount of \$6,583.92 to replace and upgrade ten light fixtures in the shop to LED and install two new LED fixtures. Jessica Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a roll call vote unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

- C. Resolution 2-23 – Removal of Mosquito Control Assessment for Parcel Number 230807-11003.

Thomas Groom moved to adopt Resolution 2-23, "A Resolution Deleting Mosquito Assessment for parcel # 230807-11003." Jessica Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:

Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

- D. Resolution 3-23 – Mission Square Retirement Plan Changes; a Resolution Allowing Loans Under 457 Plans.

Angela Beehler indicated that there are two retirement plans for full-time employees; a pension plan with defined benefits and a 457b deferred compensation plan. The 457b plan changes include adding plan access to full-time seasonal employees, allowing beneficiary changes, and providing for loans and emergency withdrawals. Mission Square requires a resolution by the Board for plan loans. The other changes may be made administratively and have already been completed by Angela.

Thomas Groom moved to adopt Resolution 3-23 “A Resolution Amending a Retirement Plan to Permit Loans.” Richard Bloom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:
Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

- E. Resolution 4-23 – Adjusting Mosquito Assessment for Parcels 230934-44002 and 230922-22002.

Angela Beehler explained that the adjustments affecting two properties in Yakima County are a result of mapping errors. A reduction in the assessment was made after correcting for the actual parcel acreage.

Richard Bloom moved to adopt Resolution 4-23 “A Resolution Adjusting Mosquito Assessments for parcels 230934-44002 and 230922-22002.” Thomas Groom seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:
Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

- F. Desk Surplus: Angela described the surplus items as a desk with a glass top, two file cabinets with glass tops, and a bookshelf. After engaging in a short discussion, Richard Bloom moved to surplus the office furniture set including a desk, two small file cabinets and a bookshelf. Jessica Wadsworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Thomas Groom moved, and Richard Bloom seconded the motion to approve and sign warrant numbers 10424 through 10495, direct payroll deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$306,522.58. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote:
Richard Bloom (Aye), Thomas Groom (Aye), and Jessica Wadsworth (Aye).

XII. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Cynthia Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Angela Beehler
District Manager



ATTEST: Cynthia Gray
Board President



ATTEST: Richard Bloom
Trustee