

South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District
Board Meeting Minutes
August 12th, 2024 at 2:00 pm

The Board of Trustees of the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District (SSLVMAD), Salt Lake County, State of Utah, met via an electronic board meeting via Zoom with an anchor location established at the District offices at 7308 Airport Road, West Jordan, Utah.

The following board members were present Ty Brewer (Holladay), Tish Buroker (Riverton), Silvia Catten (Millcreek), Don Christensen (West Valley), Gene Drake (West Jordan), Brad Gilson (Draper), Paul Glover (Midvale), Matt Holton (Cottonwood Heights), Kathie Johnson (South Jordan), Kristie Overson (Taylorsville), Natalie Pinkney (South Salt Lake), Linda Price (White City), Florence Reynolds (Sandy), Ilene Risk (Salt Lake County), Steve Shields (Herriman), Laverne Snow (Murray), and Greg Wilding (Bluffdale).

The following board members were absent: Jeff Bossard (Brighton).

Also attending were Dan McBride, Scott Sommer, Eric Gardner, and resident Steve Van Maren.

1. **Welcome.** Chair Catten duly called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 2:00 pm.
2. **Citizen Comments.** No citizens commented.
3. **Board Conflicts of Interest Disclosures.** No board members disclosed any conflicts of interest.
4. **Approve Minutes.** In relation to a to the inclusion of a mention of West Nile virus testing in the minutes of the July board meeting, Buroker asked when West Nile virus testing began at the District. Buroker then moved to approve the minutes of the July board meeting. Glover seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor; Holton and Shields were absent for the vote.

Oath of Office-New member introduction. Gardner administered the oath of office for Natalie Pinkney (South Salt Lake).

5. **URS Audit/ By-Laws Edit**
McBride presented a recommendation from a URS audit that language be added to the Trustee Bylaws specifying that Tier 1 Board Members are eligible for retirement contributions based on earnings. Tier 2 appointed or elected Board Members are considered part-time ineligible for retirement benefits. Overson suggested including the phrase "appointed or elected" for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 designations. Snow moved to adopt the recommended change as amended. Price seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.
6. **Board Member Communication-West Nile Reporting to Cities**
McBride introduced a discussion about notifying board members representing areas where arboviruses have been detected in mosquitoes and asked for notification

preferences. The board discussed the amount of information they would like to receive, disclosure and relevance of the specific location of mosquito pools positive for arbovirus, recommended information to communicate to city officials or residents, coordination between city public information officers, the District, and public health officials, assurances that detection of arbovirus is likely not a reason to panic and that mosquito control procedures are in place, implications of announcements of mosquito adulticide application beyond existing required announcements, and that public health officials would make any announcement about human cases of diseases transmitted by mosquitoes. Future notifications to effected board members will include the location of mosquito pools positive for arboviruses and a packet of information about the arbovirus prepared by county public health officials.

7. Conditions of the District.

McBride reported that 17 mosquito pools had tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) in Salt Lake County and that, nationally, West Nile virus activity has been observed in 298 counties in 23 states. Human cases of arboviruses in Utah to date this year have included only travel related cases of Dengue and malaria. McBride updated the board on a mosquito pool potentially testing positive for either or both of WNV and St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLE). South Salt Lake Valley and Salt Lake City mosquito abatement districts returned positive results for WNV and SLE, though SLE was not confirmed by the Utah Public Health Laboratory. Confirmation of test results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is pending. In response to a question about differences in test results McBride noted that different labs may use different tests or the quality of a sample may degrade over time. McBride explained that transmission and symptoms of SLE are similar to WNV that the District deals with more regularly, though viral load may need to be higher before symptoms are observed in humans and the likelihood of severe symptoms or death may be greater for SLE than WNV among symptomatic patients. Operational response to a detection of either virus is similar and was initiated immediately following detection. Plans are being made with public health officials for a press release if the pool is confirmed positive for SLE. The health department would communicate the presence of the disease with physicians. Expanded surveillance, and the likelihood of recurrence were discussed. McBride noted that existing plans at the District and the health department seem adequate to effectively respond to detection of SLE.

McBride reported that the total area treated for mosquito larvae in 2024 is above average due to above average water and to heat; mosquito numbers have been above average, though decreasing in the previous week or two; the number of service requests is below average, as is the number of mosquito adulticide applications, the latter due largely to weather conditions not being conducive to application.

Board members' completion status of required trainings was reviewed and board members were encouraged to complete or report training completion before a fraud risk analysis in September.

Upcoming conferences of the Utah mosquito Abatement Association and Utah Association of Special Districts in will be held in October and November respectively.

Safety goals since the previous board meeting were met. Since the previous board meeting, three safety incidents, one close call, and one automobile accident were reported, all minor.

McBride presented updates to the Districts capacity to house and rear mosquitoes for use in laboratory bioassays testing efficacy of mosquito control products currently in use. That capacity has been improved, including through dedicating space for use as an insectary.

8. **Board Meeting Items for September 9th Meeting.**

The September meeting of the board of trustees will be held in-person. Board members were invited to tour the facility after the meeting if interested. No additional items were recommended.

9. **Approve Bills.** Price moved to approve the bills; Brewer seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Drake, Holton, and Shields were absent for the vote.

10. **Adjourn.** Buroker moved to adjourn the meeting, Glover seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 pm.