

## South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District

### Board Meeting Minutes

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025 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 Tarrah Anderson (Herriman), Ellen Birrell (Cottonwood Heights), Silvia Catten (Millcreek), Don Christensen (West Valley), Brad Gilson (Draper), Paul Glover (Midvale), Kelvin Green (West Jordan), Kathie Johnson (South Jordan), Kristie Overson (Taylorsville), Linda Price (White City), Florence Reynolds (Sandy), Ilene Risk (Salt Lake County), Laverne Snow (Murray), and Greg Wilding (Bluffdale).

The following board members were absent: Jeff Bossard (Brighton), Ty Brewer (Holladay), Tish Buroker (Riverton), and Natalie Pinkney (South Salt Lake).

Also attending were Dan McBride (District Manager), Scott Sommer (Assistant Manager), Eric Gardner (Assistant Board Clerk), and residents Gene Drake and Sharon Drake.

1. **Welcome.** Catten called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 2:01 pm.
2. **Citizen Comments.** No citizens commented.
3. **Board Conflicts of Interest Disclosures.** No board members disclosed any conflicts of interest.
4. **New Board Member-Oath of Office** Gardner administered the oath of office for new board member Ellen Birrell.
5. **Approve Minutes.** Overson moved to approve the minutes of the October Board meeting. Risk seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all in favor; Birrell was absent for the vote.
6. **Approve 2026 Tentative Budget, Salaries**

McBride presented a tentative budget including funds that may be received pending approval of a proposed tax rate increase. He explained that because any additional funds from a pending proposed tax rate increase would not be received until the end of 2026, those funds, if approved, would be used to replenish the depleted dedicated reserve fund and for expenses in 2027.

In describing revenue expected in 2026 McBride reported that funds are expected to be appropriated from the reserve fund again in. He noted that compared with numbers from 2025, less revenue is expected from interest in the operating and reserve funds and from sale of fixed assets as no vehicle sale is anticipated. An additional \$320,000 in revenue from property taxes would be expected pending approval of a proposed property tax rate increase.

In describing anticipated expenses in 2026 McBride noted that no transfer to the capital projects fund is anticipated. Other anticipated decreases were reported in the amounts budgeted for conference attendance (decreased by \$10,000), purchase of

insecticides (decreased by \$5,000), professional services (decreased by \$15,000), and services of the Salt Lake City Mosquito Abatement District (decreased by \$2,000). Increases in budget lines were proposed for automobile maintenance to maintain aging vehicles (increased by \$3,000), to payroll (increased by \$50,000), for service charges (increased by \$1,000) and for utilities (increased by \$7,000).

Regarding capital projects, McBride noted that the tentative budget includes less revenue towards the capital projects fund (decreased by \$48,000) as interest earned is expected to decrease and no transfer in from the general fund is expected. He described proposed increases in expenses for building improvements (increased by \$7,500) and facilities and equipment (increased by \$9,000) to cover upgrades to the insectary, and maintenance and repair of the carwash and windows. The amount budgeted for computer equipment decreased (decreased by \$5,000), as did the amount budgeted for vehicles (decreased by \$28,000) as new vehicles are not planned for 2026.

In response to concerns expressed by Snow, McBride explained that budget plans are in place to accommodate either approval or denial of a proposed tax rate increase, and pointed out that the board could elect to amend the budget if needed once a decision about the tax rate has been made.

In describing changes to the amount budgeted for payroll, McBride explained that the cost-of-living adjustment for regular staff was complicated because the U.S. Employment Cost Index on which that adjustment is based is not currently available because of the federal government shutdown. Numbers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025 put the Employment Cost Index at 4% but trending down. McBride therefore proposed a combined cost-of-living adjustment and merit increase of 5% for regular staff.

McBride noted that a salary survey among mosquito abatement districts and information from other entities suggested that seasonal pay at SSLVMAD was relatively low, and he proposed increasing the starting wage for seasonal workers to \$16 with a graded scale based on experience; the starting rate for interns was proposed at \$19. In response to a question from Risk, McBride explained that a more extensive salary survey for regular employees is expected in 2026, but wages currently seem appropriate.

Green moved to approve the tentative budget that includes the amount of property tax revenue pending approval of a proposed tax rate increase currently in the truth in taxation process. Gilson seconded the motion and the motion passed with the following vote:

Anderson: yes  
Birrell: absent  
Bossard: absent  
Brewer: absent  
Buroker: absent  
Catten: abstain  
Christensen: yes  
Gilson: yes  
Glover: yes

Green: yes  
Johnson: yes  
Overson: yes  
Pinkney: absent  
Price: yes  
Reynolds: yes  
Risk: yes  
Snow: yes  
Wilding: yes

#### 7. UMAA/UASD Annual Conference Report.

Board members that attended the annual meetings of the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association (UMAA) and Utah Association of Special Districts (UASD) reported on highlights from the conferences. Johnson reported on presentations from the UMAA annual meeting dealing with use of drones in mosquito control and incidence and control of *Aedes aegypti* around St. George. Risk complemented McBride for organizing the UMAA conference and mentioned presentations by interns from SSLVMAD including one about the impact of outreach events on public knowledge. She also mentioned presentations describing the high incidence of West Nile virus reported in 2025, occurrence of St. Luis Encephalitis virus, *Aedes aegypti* in cryptic habitats, and hoof-prints as larval mosquito habitat. McBride acknowledged some challenges of preparing the conference and expressed gratitude for all that participated.

In reporting on the UASD annual meeting Price mentioned legislation that could potentially impact special districts and noted presentations warning about cyber-security risks. Christensen commented on presentations describing regulations regarding truth in taxation hearings including facilitating electronic participation from members of the public. He also mentioned privacy programs and the Utah Office of Data Privacy.

#### 8. Conditions of the District.

McBride reported that District activities have included the UMAA annual meeting, preparing the budget and truth in taxation requirements, data analysis, winterizing equipment, and elementary school presentations. Upcoming activities include continued classroom presentations, and developing and implementing recruitment strategies and intern opportunities.

McBride will be participating in preparations for the annual meeting of the West Central Mosquito and Vector Control Association to be held in Grand Junction, Colorado in February. Other conferences in 2026 include the annual meeting of the American Mosquito Abatement Association (AMCA) in Portland, Oregon in March, AMCA Washington Conference in May, and the annual meetings of the UMAA and UASD.

A suggestion to forgo holding a holiday social was mentioned and met with approval.

Safety goals have been met since the previous board meeting and no new safety incidents have been reported.

9. **Discussion on timing and items on Budget Public Hearing in December (NOT Truth in Taxation Hearing on December 8th)**

McBride described direction from the tax commission recommending holding a public hearing to satisfy truth in taxation requirements associated with a proposed tax rate increase, amendments to the 2025 budget, and approval of the 2026 budget on the same night. The meeting would include presentation of the material, public comment, board discussion, and vote, with that process followed for each of the three topics. He explained that care should be taken not to discuss anything else. Board members recommended following directions from the tax commission and legal counsel. In response to questions from Price and Catten, McBride verified that the meeting is scheduled to be held in-person at the District office at 6:00 pm on December 8<sup>th</sup> with a virtual attendance option for members of the board or the public.

Board members reported that notice of the District's proposed tax rate increase have been presented at city council meetings. McBride expressed appreciation for those presentations and reports and noted a few additional upcoming presentations.

10. **Approve Bills** Price moved to approve payment of the bills as presented; Risk seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor; Birrell was absent for the vote.

11. **Adjourn.** Green moved to adjourn the meeting, Glover seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.