

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

October 13, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Vector Control District was called to order at 1:40 P.M. by President Giambruno.

Board Present: Rob Bostock, Curt Giambruno, Chuck Leonard, and Ron Nagy.

Absent: George Spurr (excused).

District Personnel: Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D., Manager/Research Director and Ms. Jacinda Franusich, Office Manager.

Guests: None.

Citizen's Input: None.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions: None.

Mr. Bostock moved to approve the Board Minutes of the September 8, 2021 regular meeting with a correction to the check numbers to include checks 20387-20407 making the total expenditures for September 2021 \$91,008.50. Mr. Nagy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Research Report

Dr. Scott reported on arbovirus activity. West Nile virus (WNV) activity was detected in four local mosquito samples this year. In addition, four sentinel chickens from the Upper Lake flock seroconverted for WNV.

For the rest of California, sixty-two cases of human West Nile virus illness were reported from eighteen counties, 198 dead birds tested positive for WNV from 19 counties, 2,191 WNV-positive mosquito samples were reported, and 79 sentinel chickens from nine counties tested positive for antibodies for West Nile virus.

St. Louis encephalitis (SLEV) virus illness was reported in a resident of Fresno County, and thirty-six mosquito samples from eight counties tested positive for SLEV.

In the rest of the United States, West Nile virus has been detected in 43 states, and includes 479 human illness cases

Dr. Scott reported on adult biting fly activity. Carbon dioxide-baited traps were set in various locations around the county in September. The biting black gnats were the most abundant biting fly collected.

The New Jersey light traps set near Borax Lake and in the Reclamation near Upper Lake collected four species of mosquitoes and large numbers of biting black gnats.

The resting box in Upper Lake was sampled during September. Two mosquito species were collected.

Dr. Scott reported on tick testing. This year, twenty-five *Ixodes pacificus* ticks that were removed from Lake County residents have been submitted to the Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory for testing for *Borrelia burgdorferi*. One sample was in poor condition and not tested, and the rest of the samples were negative.

Dr. Scott reported on Clear Lake gnats, Chironominae, and Tanypodinae surveillance in Clear Lake. Lake checks were not completed in September due to the fuel pump need to repair the boat being on backorder nation-wide.

Publications

An article coauthored by three District employees (Vector Biologist Michelle Koschik, former Vector Biologist Bonnie Ryan, and District Manager Jamesina J. Scott) was published in the journal *Parasites & Vectors*. The article is titled "Presence of a cryptic *Onchocerca* species in black flies of northern California, USA."

Operation Report

During September, 0.15 inches of rain was recorded in the District's rain gauge. The total rainfall for the 2020-21 season was 11.41 inches.

On September 1, the level of Clear Lake was at -0.98 feet on the Rumsey Gauge. The lake level decreased to -1.92 feet by September 30.

District Vector Control Technicians completed 38 service requests in September. Ten of the requests were for yellowjackets.

On September 15, Piper Kimball and Joe Daviss from Leading Edge Associates visited the District to update the staff on advancements in unmanned aerial vehicle or drone technology for mosquito control. They visited sites in the Clear Lake Keys, Clear Lake State Park, and Anderson March.

On September 21 the District issued a news release regarding new West Nile virus activity in mosquitoes and chickens. The release appeared in the Lake County News and the Lake County Record Bee.

The District hired Brandon Walker as a seasonal Vector Control Technician. Mr. Walker began his employment on September 16.

The District will be taking advantage of the low lake level this fall and completing maintenance projects on the pier. A permit was obtained from Lake County Water Resources in September to do a board-for-board replacement of the crossbeams that connect the wood pilings.

The District was contacted by its C Street neighbor regarding replacing the fence between the two properties with a cinder block wall. Dr. Scott is collecting bids from local contractors for the job.

Dr. Scott attended an informational webinar regarding the \$100 million that the State of California has set aside for COVID-19 relief to assist independent special districts.

Even though the District did not lose revenue due to COVID-19, it incurred pandemic-related unanticipated costs for additional personal protective equipment, video conference service, cleaning supplies, and mandated supplemental sick leave. The District has applied for a reimbursement of \$10,362.85.

Dr. Scott has been contacting the District's neighbors in-person regarding the District's application for zoning and general plan changes, and to share the concept drawings. So far, all the neighbors have been happy to hear that the District wants to improve its facility.

Dr. Scott will attend the Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California Fall Board of Directors and committee meetings in Costa Mesa on October 26-27.

Consideration of Resolution No. 21-05 Continuing COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave to District Employees through December 31, 2021

Beginning April 1, 2020, employers were required to provide 80 hours of paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). That program expired on December 31, 2020, but California continued to require employers to offer 80 hours of supplemental paid sick leave for COVID-19 related reasons from January 1, 2021 to September 30, 2021.

This has been a positive program and has afforded an additional level of protection to the District's COVID-19 Illness Prevention Plan.

After some discussion, Mr. Nagy moved to approved Resolution No. 21-05 A Resolution Continuing COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave to District Employees Through December 31, 2021. Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote as follows: 4 in favor (Mr. Giambruno, Mr. Bostock, Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Nagy), and 1 absent (Mr. Spurr).

Approve Checks for the Month of October 2021

Mr. Nagy moved to approve Check Nos. 20407-20449 for the month of October 2021 in the amount of \$53,634.94. Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Dr. Scott mentioned that two trustees' (Mr. Leonard and Mr. Nagy) terms would be up in January 2022. Both trustees said they would like to continue serving on the board.

Announcement of the Next Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be at 1:30 PM on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 in the Lake County Vector Control District Board Room, 410 Esplanade, Lakeport, CA 95453.

Mr. Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by President Giambruno at 2:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Nagy

Secretary