

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

August 13, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Vector Control District was called to order at 1:32 P.M. by President Giambruno.

Board Present: Rob Bostock, Curt Giambruno, Ron Nagy, Frank Lincoln, and George Spurr.

Absent: None.

District Personnel: Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D., Manager and Research Director, and Chip Markwardt, M.S., Research Entomologist.

Guests: None.

Citizen's Input: None.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions: None.

Approve Minutes of July 9, 2025 Regular Meeting with a Correction to the Check Numbers to Include Checks 23467-223486 Making the Total Expenditures for July 2025 \$489,323.05

Mr. Lincoln moved to approve the Board Minutes of July 9, 2025 with corrections. Mr. Nagy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of New Employee: Chip Markwardt, M.S., Research Entomologist

Dr. Scott introduced Chip Markwardt, Research Entomologist, who started work in June. Chip is working with the District Vector Control Technicians to identify effective control methods for local *Culicoides* spp. (biting black gnats). Chip's work is funded by a CDC Grant that is administered through the American Mosquito Control Association's *Culicoides* Fund.

Research Report

Dr. Scott reported on arbovirus activity. Three sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus in Lake County so far this year.

In the rest of California, West Nile virus has been detected in 969 mosquito samples and 70 WNV-positive dead birds have been reported. Additionally,

seven cases of West Nile virus illness have been reported in California residents.

Nine mosquito samples tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) from three California counties this year.

For the rest of the United States, 140 human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) illness have been reported from twenty-six states. In addition, thirty-eight states have reported WNV activity in dead birds, mosquitoes, and sentinel chickens.

Nonhuman Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) has been detected in six states in 2025.

Ten human cases of La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) virus have been reported from five states this year, and two states have reported mosquito samples positive for LAC.

Seven states have reported mosquito samples positive for Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) in 2025.

Six states have reported twenty-four human cases of Powassan virus (POWV) disease in 2025 including four fatal cases.

Three states have reported St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) in mosquitoes and sentinel chickens this year. No human SLEV cases have been reported in 2025.

There have been forty-six chikungunya virus disease cases reported this year in the United States. All the cases were in travelers returning from affected areas

Four travel-related cases of Zika virus illness have been reported in residents of three states. In addition, one locally acquired case of Zika infection was reported in a resident of Puerto Rico.

One travel-related case of Oropouche virus has been reported in a resident of Wisconsin in 2025.

Four cases of locally acquired dengue virus infection have been reported in Florida. In addition, the US Virgin Islands have reported 47 locally acquired cases of dengue virus and Puerto Rico has reported 2,085 cases this year.

Dr. Scott reported on adult biting fly activity. Carbon dioxide-baited traps were set during in a variety of locations throughout the county in July. Several mosquito species were collected, including *Culex tarsalis*, *Anopheles freeborni*, and *Aedes melanimon*. In addition, large numbers of *Culicoides* (biting black gnats) were collected.

New Jersey Light Traps were set in the Reclamation and near the City of Clearlake. The mosquito species collected from the sites included *Anopheles franciscanus* and *Culex tarsalis*. In addition, *Culicoides occidentalis* (biting black gnat) were collected from the NJLT set in Clearlake.

The Large Resting Boxes (LRBs) were set in Upper Lake. Among the mosquito species collected were *Culex tarsalis*, *Anopheles freeborni*, and *Anopheles franciscanus*.

Dr. Scott reported tick testing. Eight *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*. Seven of the samples were negative and results are pending for the most recent sample.

Dr. Scott reported on the Clear Lake Gnat, Chironominae, and Tanypodinae Surveillance in Clear Lake. The number of *Chaoborus astictopus* collected decreased from an average of 2.64 larvae per dredge in June to 0.82 larvae per dredge in July. Chironominae decreased from 51.54 larvae per dredge in June to 33.46 larvae per dredge in July. Tanypodinae decreased from 2.57 larvae per dredge in June to 1.64 larvae per dredge in July.

Dr. Scott reported on District publications. An article co-authored by Dr. Scott and Vector Biologist Michelle Meighan appeared in the Journal of Medical Entomology. The article is titled "Assessing pyrethroid resistance mechanisms in individual *Culex tarsalis* (Diptera: Culicidae)."

Operation Report

No rainfall was recorded in the District's rain gauge during July. The total seasonal rainfall is 27.83 inches, which is 108% of the average precipitation for the season.

On July 1, the level of Clear Lake was at 6.37 feet on the Rumsey Gauge. The lake level decreased to 5.23 feet by July 31.

Sixty-six service requests were completed in July. In addition, there were twenty-two yellowjacket requests, 42 online requests, and 31 larval sources treated by District Technicians.

During July the Vector Control Technicians made a second application to an organic irrigated pasture near Middletown. A third application by drone took place on August 11.

The VC3 staff was onsite at the District during July to install the firewall, hubs, and wiring to secure District computers against external cyber threats. All the computers and printers have hardwired connections and Wi-Fi is available for cell phones, other devices, and guests.

A Starlink connection was installed at the Todd Road facility. As cell phone coverage is limited at the site, and a Wi-Fi connection will enable District employees to access necessary online information.

Vector Control Technician Julian Chavez was promoted to Vector Control Technician II. Julian started with the District in 2022 and is a valuable member of staff.

Three District employees participated in an aquatic insect and blacklight collecting night in Kelseyville on July 18. The insects collected will be used to update the District's collections.

Samuel Euston of Euston Productions revisited the District in July to record additional segments for the upcoming Xabatin documentary.

Dr. Scott has been working on the *Culicoides* Project with Research Entomologist Chip Markwardt and the Vector Control Technicians.

Dr. Scott has been working with a ranch manager near Middletown to update their irrigation practices on an organic cattle ranch to reduce the amount of mosquito control needed on the property.

Dr. Scott met with Mike McCall, the Benefits Director for Operating Engineers #3 Public and Miscellaneous Employees Health and Welfare Fund to discuss the 2026 premium rates and benefit improvements.

Dr. Scott and Office Manager Jacinda Franusich continue to meet with Amber Mena from VC3 to discuss the project progress.

Dr. Scott was contacted by the City Manager for the City of Willits, Mr. Rob Wilburn. Mr. Wilburn had received complaints from residents about mosquitoes and was looking for information about vector control services. Dr. Scott referred him to our region's Biologist with the California Department of Public Health Vector-Borne Disease Section.

Dr. Scott has contacted three companies to request bids for a Biological Resources Report that is needed for the District to move forward with its request for rezoning and General Plan amendments.

Approve Checks for the Month of August 2025

Mr. Nagy moved to approve Check Nos. 23487–23534 for the month of August 2025 in the amount of \$144,764.44. Mr. Bostock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Announcement of Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 1:30 PM on September 10, 2025 at the Lake County Vector Control District Office, 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 2:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Nagy
Secretary