

MMAD Board Meeting Minutes July 12, 2021

Board members present: Tim Graham, Jeanette Kopell, and Mike Binyon

Board members absent: Sarah Stock, Chace Gholson

Others present: Michele Rehbein, Michael Carlson

Meeting opened at 5:44 p.m.

- Approve minutes from past months – Jeanette Kopell transcribed past minutes and will get the copies to the board to get signed over the next month and be officially approved at the next meeting.
- Last month's meeting minutes – Mike Binyon made a motion to approve, and Jeanette seconded them, all voted in favor of approving last month's meeting minutes.
- Mike Binyon asked how staff meetings were going. Michele said they are going pretty well, may consider moving staff meetings from 6 am to the end of the field technician's workday to touch base and debrief. This way they can get out early in the morning before the heat and have time to cooldown at the end of their shift. Some work still needs to be done in getting Shanon as Field Supervisor and David and Braxton as field technicians to work together better and communicate and alleviate the tension between all parties.
- Mike Binyon asked about actual mosquito situation and how the mosquitoes have been this season. Michele said the highest numbers we have had are ~100 per trap at night (*Cx. tarsalis*), said Michael trapped *Ae. vexans* in traps with numbers around 59 and 63 per trap. Not super high, some are concentrated around certain areas like the Holiday Inn/Archway Inn and along the wetland. Trying to stay consistent with inspecting those areas and pinpointing the sources. All other areas are fairly dry.
- All WNV tests have been negative from MMAD.
- Tim asked if there have been any WNV positive pools anywhere else in the state – Michele and Michael said Davis mosquito abatement just had a positive pool last week.
- Michele said SLCMAD and others up north have been testing many pools, but so far all others have been negative for WNV.
- Michael said really it is important to test for *Cx. tarsalis*, especially being so dry since mosquitoes and birds are being concentrated together and can easily pass the virus. Birds are primary reservoir hosts for WNV.
- Michele said she has been sitting in on the biweekly UT arboviral coordination calls.
- Tim asked if MMAD has had any communication with Grand Junction's mosquito abatement – Michele said she has been thinking about it but hasn't yet gotten around to it. Tim recommended reaching out to them to chat. They may have had *Ae. aegypti* too in Grand Junction or Fruita shortly after the time Moab had *Ae. aegypti*. It seems like if the mosquitoes had come in on the truck, the next stop would be Grand Junction/Fruita area and they have such a similar environment to us compared to abatement districts up north, that it may be worthwhile to work with them more. Michele also brought up SWMACD in Washington County that is similar in environment, too. Might be nice to touch base with Grand Junction and ask if they'll be at UMAA this year so we can have some opportunities to talk with them there.
- Mike Binyon made a motion to approve the Manager's Report, Jeanette seconded it and all voted in favor.

- Revisiting the lease, just begin the discussion on this and then resume a discussion on it in the fall/winter. The lease is from 1996 and renews automatically every 5 years. It is outdated and we need to determine what changes/updates may be needed since the lease says the abatement district is responsible for X number of things and the Weed Dept. is responsible for X number of things, who is charge of cleaning up messes, it probably doesn't even mention the internet, the shower, *etc.* Tim mentioned that MMAD doesn't pay a lot of money to rent the building and Mike pointed out we aren't getting a lot either. Jeanette said to automatically put on agenda in October and part of discussion with Chris Baird. Mike said we don't have a lot of options to move to a different building, but Jeanette and Tim said we can revisit the lease itself.
- Michele said she was talking with Izzi from Weeds and how it would be nice to have walls for offices in the building to have some privacy to get work done and less distractions of folks coming in and out. Jeanette mentioned the hospital has movable walls/partitions which may be an idea to look into. Tim mentioned we have one swamp cooler in this building which may play a part in partitioning, but Mike said we could duct it and possibly have another swamp cooler/unit in the window – county could pay for it?
- Michele spoke with Obe Tejada from WWRF – he said MMAD can still move the side by side down there and maybe have space for another vehicle or two, but Shanon mentioned before that it would be a good idea for some type of protection/coverage for it from weather. Would need to chat with Obe further about getting a storage container or some structure on the WWRF property to keep our vehicles under and make sure we wouldn't have to move the storage structure every several months or so. Tim/Mike suggested maybe just a pole awning structure to just keep rain/snow/sun off equipment. Think of temperature and what we could store there, maybe not pesticides in the hot sun.
- Tim – thoughts on advantages and disadvantages of MMAD moving to the county. Mike said even if we did move under the county, the process would take months. Tim said between now and October we can all think about pros and cons and talk together as a district and then be prepared to talk with Chris. Everybody has homework to think on this the next couple months and come up with some questions we can ask Chris Baird whenever he comes in to speak with us in October.
- Jeanette asked if most abatement districts throughout the state are separate from county, Tim said maybe just a couple that are under the county. Jeanette asked why we are a special service district and not placed under the county in the first place. Tim said the county may not require a mosquito abatement district and if that was the case, everyone would be taxed and we would be responsible for the entire county boundary. Tim said maybe we should try to find and go over the documents that generated the district boundaries and when did it come into being. Jeanette said it's hard even getting nurses and doctors out here, Tim said we wouldn't be able to get enough people to cover the entire county for abatement by just taxing everyone. Tim brought up we don't exactly report to anyone, even when the board hired Michele, they didn't have to report to anyone about it such as the association of special service districts or the county.
- Michael brought up wages from the county vs. abatement district and Tim said being under the county could put us in a set structure. Jeanette said when do we stop raising wages, Tim said we need to have a set policy/pay structure and stick with that policy when field techs/staff are hired. When people are hired, they need to know what our sequence is *i.e.*, you work here X number of years and then you'll get paid X number of dollars and so on, but we can't respond to every whim and pay more. The field techs can make those choices and we may suffer for it if we lose some of our experience, but

that's the way it is. Tim said our field techs make more and our manager makes less than other districts.

- Michael said this year and last year are pretty relaxed in the field compared to 2019, it's just really hot.
- Jeanette asked Michele how the meeting with TNC and UDWR went. The meetings went well, Michele wanted to get a feel for everyone, meet them, and try to begin building these relationships with them. Michele would like to set up another meeting with Linda Whitham and Makeda Hanson with the field techs and other staff at MMAD so they can officially meet and touch base. Jeanette said it is great that Michele is trying to build these relationships because there have been some issues in the past. MMAD is in the wetland so frequently and if TNC/UDWR are down there more often, they might see more of the issues that need better management in the wetland. Tim said before David, Braxton, and Michael leave for the season, could have everyone get together so TNC/DWR can give a little talk about what they're doing out there and Tim and board members would like to sit in on this. Tim has talked to Linda about burning out there before and Linda is hoping for burning next winter but didn't have enough funds for it in the past.
- Michael had a question about him coming to the meetings and if he still needs to. Tim said anyone is welcome to come and if they have questions or concerns with the current situation. Jeanette said Michael and anyone are always welcome. Mike, Tim, and Jeanette said the best place for staff to voice concerns would be at the meeting. Mike said he was surprised Shanon was not at the meeting because he is on salary and Tim said we can get him here when we need to talk about whether that should stay that way or not. Tim said he doesn't need to be here and just because he is on salary doesn't mean that's part of his job and it is up to Michele on whether that is part of his job or not. Mike said Shanon's job is to report on what is going on specifically in the field and both Tim and Jeanette said he could report that directly to Michele. Jeanette suggested he could write a report, but he wouldn't like that, Michele said she thought of asking Shanon to do that before but thought it wouldn't work out well. Tim told Michael there may be times they'd like to invite Michael to be at the board meetings if we were to specifically talk about GIS developments or WNV/trapping related discussions.
- Invite Chris Baird to board meeting in October. In the meantime, all think about questions, advantages, and disadvantages for Chris about moving under the county.
- Next meeting September 13th at the MMAD office at 5:30 pm.
- Jeanette moved to adjourn meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.