

**MMAD Board Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2021**

**Board members present:** Tim Graham, Jeanette Kopell, Mike Binyon, Sarah Stock

**Board members absent:** Chace Gholson

**Others present:** Michele Rehbein

Meeting opened at 5:30 p.m.

- Tim Graham opened with talking about concerned citizen comments; mostly Kaki Hunter and Lisa Patterson; Flora Najafi stopped into the office earlier today. Flora doesn't like the pesticides, then called Kaki because she knows her, so Michele spoke with Kaki over the phone. Kaki apologized to Michele twice now due to her irate voicemail messages. Kaki asked Michele more questions, similar to ones Michele addressed in her response to Kaki through email. Sarah asked about the timing of this, and Michele said these concerns just go in circles. Mike Binyon suggested not to continue the responses to Kaki because Michele does not have all the time in the world to answer these questions.
- Michele said she spoke with Ary Faraji, executive director at SLCMAD, about handling concerned citizens, and he said you can't engage and answer every single question folks have because it will eat up so much of your time and efforts. Ary recommended steering them back to the CDC and EPA, and because the abatement districts are governed by so many things like FIFRA and the Food Quality Protection Act.
- Sarah mentioned Kaki sent out her concerns to the Moab Food listserv and Sarah said she replied since she is on the board. Sarah said people may be concerned we are not doing the Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Sarah replied to them about how Michele is an ecologist and this is a worst case scenario that MMAD has acted on to fog. Sarah said citizens were expressing how they were glad Bob Phillips had adopted policies to steer Moab away from indiscriminate fogging in the past. Sarah said the public is concerned the CDC doesn't always take into account the science that is available and is where the circular comment will always happen.
- Sarah suggested messaging that includes the IPM. Tim said pretty much everybody spends most time and effort on eggs and larvae, but you don't get it all, especially with *Aedes aegypti* where the egg can develop to adult in a teaspoon of water, and we can't find all of that to put Bti in.
- Michele said the *Ae. aegypti* eggs can lay dormant for months in dry conditions. Michele said it was found first at the tire yard, so the eggs could have been attached to the tires. Then with rain in the weeks leading up to that, it could have caused the eggs to hatch with the right conditions. Michele said this will have to be a huge community effort for folks to get out in their yards and empty standing water and scrub containers because the eggs can overwinter that way and it will be worse for next season.
- Sarah steered the conversation away from addressing the concerns and stick to the agenda.
- Sarah also heard people were thankful for the notice of the fogging. Michele was glad to hear that and also said it is difficult hearing when people say why MMAD wasn't notifying people weeks in advance and how we put these notices up as soon as we found the first *Ae. aegypti* specimen. Michele said she reached out to so many sources to help spread

the word and at that point it is up to those sources to disseminate the information given to them.

- Tim mentioned it is hard with print paper because it goes to press once a week and things are often behind. Tim said it is the best you can do to get it out to wherever we can.
- Mike made a motion to approve the July 2021 meeting minutes. Sarah seconded. All voted in favor.
- Tim asked Jeanette about past meeting minutes, Jeanette said she will get those to Michele.
- Tim asked Mike about the entity moving under the county. Mike said at that time he brought it up, it was during a rough period, but as long as things are moving along fairly well, it is probably not necessary. He did say in terms of human resources and our legal ability it could be easier from under the county. Disadvantages are that we can't control our own budget, and if that were to happen we could throw that back on elected officials. Tim said we would have to balance those fights with the supervisors of the county. Tim agrees that the special service district is a better fit, but he could see how in situations like 2019 and if we can't get people to continue to occupy the hot seat could be an issue. If district is dissolves, someone would have to come up with a solution.
- Tim said we could probably put this back up on the shelf. Mike said the big issue would be the manpower and how to handle the uproar. Sarah asked if it was a budget constraint, and Tim and Mike said because they couldn't retain employees, due to reasons like the weather (hot, humid, lots of water) and past management. The county helped MMAD out with bringing in an aerial spray which helped knock down the mosquito numbers and other abatement districts came down to help.
- Sarah said the county is running into the same shortfalls and it's been hard to hire new employees, even with a raise in salary. Jeanette said the big issue is the housing and no one can find housing. We will not need to invite Chris Baird to the next meeting to discuss moving under the county. Sarah asked if we should invest in some housing for district. Tim said some groups are buying into the Arroyo Crossing and Redcliffs.
- Tim said we can revisit the lease maybe in December or January to consider options and look at who has what responsibilities in the building, like maintenance and cleaning. Tim said the lease Chris sent him was from 1996 and it renews automatically every five years. Jeanette said it may be in the same boat in terms of lacking manpower. Tim said maybe it's worth paying a little more so mosquito staff can do mosquito stuff and weed staff can do weed stuff and not worrying about maintenance or cleaning.
- Michele mentioned she did speak with Izzi and Maddie Logowitz and how the county is looking for new office spaces. Michele did look briefly into the movable partition walls. That could be an option to set up an office space for the MMAD building. Mike mentioned some permanent partitions that could be put up, but not sure we have room to do that in this current building due to common and shared space. Also a question of who would pay for it anyway.
- Tim said after budget discussions we can talk about the lease and get together with anyone from the county. Take some time before the field season starts to get MMAD and the county talking, let it stew throughout the field season and see what comes up towards next fall.
- Tim said another option is that one of us moves and the other takes up the whole building. Sarah brought up now that the recycling area is cleaned up a bit there is more room and a possibility that another modular office building could be an option, but that is a little further down the line.

- Michele said at the last board meeting she reported on meeting with Linda Whitham from The Nature Conservancy and Makeda Hanson from DWR and wanted to meet again with them this fall along with the other MMAD crew and if any board members are interested as well. Michele said she also hopes to work with TNC and DWR this winter to open a conversation of how to better collaborate and manage the wetlands to help mitigate some mosquito issues. The board expressed interest in meeting with them and learning more about their projects and think about it from the mosquito perspective and from the fish perspective. Michele suggested giving three possible dates and then see what dates work best for everyone to meet, maybe mid to late October.
- Tim will send Michele the SE UT riparian partnership, which is late October or early November, so we can work around those dates. Tim also mentioned looking at a whole day thing like 10 am – 3 pm, so whatever day we pick isn't something we could squeeze a short amount of time in.
- Tim brought up NPR reporting on WNV in the state. Michele said the local ABC station also interviewed Greg White from SLCMAD and Hannah Rettler, epidemiologist, and said how WNV has been the worst this year on record and one death up north already due to it. No WNV positive thus far here in Moab.
- Tim said he saw a lawn with standing water near 4<sup>th</sup> N that was completely flooded. Sarah saw that too recently. Tim said it was probably 5-10 cm deep.
- Mike said he is okay with Michele lumping bills together, i.e., anything under \$100 could be lumped together on the manager's report.
- Sarah made a motion to approve the July and August manager's report and bills. Mike seconded it. All voted in favor.
- Sarah asked Michele what long term plans/tactics would be since it seems the Ae. aegypti mosquito will be here to stay and initially it was a rapid response. Michele said MMAD can focus on smaller plans like targeted hand spraying where these mosquitoes are being found and continuing larval surveillance. Michele said she has the UMAA conference coming up in October and is planning to reach out to other districts that have dealt with Ae. aegypti in the past couple years to chat with them about how they handle it. Michele said it is possible to send out our specimens for testing for viruses, but it will be costly depending on how many we send out. Michele said for now we have no other fogging planned. Michele said MMAD appears to have knocked down a lot of larvae, however if eggs are still around and it rains again it is possible we will have more larvae and adults this year or not until next year.
- Sarah asked if there is something people could spray inside tires as a preventive measure. Michele said MMAD uses granule pesticides to put inside tires and these can be residuals. She said there is also mineral oil, but you need water already in the source. Michele said business and homeowners could always go to the store themselves to purchase insecticides if they choose.
- Sarah said maybe we can really ramp up our educational campaigns before monsoon season so people can have that in their minds to be aware of when this mosquito emerges and empty water.
- Tim suggested talking with Point S and Grand Tire about sponsoring a tire reclamation or tire recycling for the community. Perhaps get a small grant from the state or somewhere to help the businesses pay for disposing of the tires and takes away the issue of these tires being in people's yards.
- Mike said in the spring MMAD could do an advertising campaign in the papers, even weekly, just a small ad.

- Michele said she met with Mila Dunbar-Irwin the Sustainability Director from the city, and how MMAD and them could possibly do a joint outreach with conserving water while also help reduce mosquito habitat at the same time.
- Sarah said a one-pager with some images could help with any irate citizens and lead them to do neighborhood checks to avoid the need for this in your neighborhood since we don't have the manpower.
- Michele said she is looking forward to the Moab Festival of Science STEMonstration booth coming up to chat with kids and families and bring some *Ae. aegypti* larvae to teach people about.
- Tim brought up the *Wolbachia* project Kaki sent. Michele said there isn't much of that project here in the U.S., but definitely in South America and other areas. Kaki had asked why aren't we doing that here right now, and Tim brought up there are so many reasons right now we can't do it because it may or may not really function in this environment and on and on. He also brought up the GMO sterile *Ae. aegypti* released in FL recently. There are other potential long term solutions, but they aren't right-now solutions. Tim said the responses have to be proportionate to what is available.
- Tim said every year Moab is a destination location and we have many people coming in and out. If we have the disease here or the vector, it will soon get together. Michele mentioned in the biweekly arboviral coordination calls she attends there was a travel associated case of Chikungunya reported in Colorado and California.
- Mike said he is surprised the board members contact info isn't on the county website. Tim said he has looked for board members on other boards and hasn't found a listing for their contact info. There is an issue with being completely consumed by these concerns. Sarah suggested creating a general email for general questions for the board.
- Mike asked about the logo. Michele said we officially have a logo, we are waiting for Issa Designs to get her second payment, then she will send MMAD the logo files. Michele wants to make hats, shirts, stickers, and business cards.
- Tim brought up sick leave in terms of COVID, and we should add in a section about that. Sarah said the county has a sick leave policy that MMAD can grab and add some COVID sick days in there.
- Mike said pay scales should be an addendum to the handbook and not include directly in it or else MMAD will have to adjust or rewrite the handbook frequently.
- Mike said he doesn't think hourly wage employees should be paid for holidays and for the hours they are not working. Tim said as a federal employee he was paid for holidays even while he was hourly. Tim said it could foster some loyalty for employees, especially for a job like this it may be worth doing that.
- Sarah brought up a few edits in the sexual harassment/discrimination section. Sarah will send Michele her edits on the policies and procedures handbook.
- Michele asked what constitutes a "large" purchase that the board would need to approve. Sarah said the county recently increased theirs from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Mike said it would be irregular purchases. Tim said it would be items that are under capitol equipment. Tim said if you can buy it and use it then if you need to go through a procedure to take it off the inventory list then that might be the cutoff.
- Michele then asked about the microscopes and if she can go ahead and order a new one after this conversation. Tim said pick the one or two she wants and order it.
- Jeanette moved to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.