

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting June 28, 2021

I. Call to order:

Board President, Cynthia Gray called to order the meeting of the Benton County Mosquito Control Board at 7:00 pm on June 28, 2021.

II. Roll call:

The following members were present: Marianne Boring, Cynthia Gray, Bill McKay, Jake Mokler, and Bill Moore. Excused: Tom Groom, Kevin Christensen, and Richard Bloom.

III. Approval of Minutes of April 26th Regular Meeting:

Bill Moore moved that the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 26, 2021 be approved as written. Motion was seconded by Bill McKay. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes of June 9th Special Meeting:

Marianne Boring moved that the Special Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2021 be approved as written. Motion was seconded by Bill Moore.
The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Motion carried unanimously.

V. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no guest agenda items to discuss.

VI. Financial Report:

Angela Beehler, District Manager, presented the year-to-date financial report and Treasurer's statements.

VII. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence to discuss.



VIII. Manager's Report:

Angela Beehler, District Manager, provided her report:

- The district is providing staff with additional indoor trainings and safety meetings during the Excessive Heat Warning issued by the National Weather Service.
- The PCR testing being done in our lab has produced negative West Nile virus results to date. The advantage to PCR testing is that we have faster, more reliable results than the RAMP testing.
- Upon checking the CDC's website for West Nile virus surveillance, there have been only 5 human cases reported in 2021 nationwide. It appears that West Nile virus is being underreported, likely due to a lack of laboratory capacity and shifting of resources to COVID-19.
- Our drone program has been success with positive public interactions and treating over 150 acres of water. We expect to reach our goal of at least 500 treated acres by the end of the season.
- Collaboration with the City of Richland staff involving the clearing of beaver dams, ditches, and culverts throughout the city has been advantageous and saved many man-hours.
- We promoted the National Mosquito Awareness Week sponsored by the American Mosquito Control Association from June 20th through June 26th on Facebook, and participated in the 2021 "Pass the Repellent" video montage campaign.
- The district was recently featured in a publication by ADAPCO, Inc. "spotlighting" our work monitoring and preventing pesticide resistance.
- Angela Beehler and Michael Crowder published an article immortalizing the district's ongoing partnership with The Barker Ranch in the May 2021 journal *Wetlands Ecology and Management*. The article is titled *Controlling Mosquitoes Through Innovative and Collaborative Wetland Management Practices in the Pacific Northwest*.
- Delivery of the water stargrass Eco-harvester has been delayed. In the meantime, we are using both kayaks and the drone to surveil for problem areas in the Yakima River. Angela has joined a Stargrass Advisory Group to discuss Integrated Pest Management options for stargrass moving forward.
- There is new legislation going into effect in January requiring Long Term Care insurance. We are gathering information and will need to be addressed by November to find the right solution for our staff.

IX. Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

X. New Business:

Koontz Slough Bids - Kevin Shoemaker, Assistant Manager, presented three bids to clear the drainage pipe at Koontz Slough of debris. This source reduction project takes place every few years to reduce standing water that produces mosquitoes. Kevin explained that the ditch and culvert at the end of the line would need to be cleaned first, or the water will have nowhere to go.

Bill Moore moved to accept the low bid from Columbia Pumping and Construction (CPC) in the amount of \$5,158.50, on the condition that the district first complete the project of cleaning the ditch and culvert. Motion was seconded by Bill McKay.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Marianne Boring (Aye), Bill McKay (Aye), Jake Mokler (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

XI. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Marianne Boring moved, and Jake Mokler seconded the motion to approve warrant numbers 9029 through 9206, payroll direct deposits, and tax payments for a combined total of \$430,028.82.

The motion passed by the following roll call vote: Marianne Boring (Aye), Bill McKay (Aye), Jake Mokler (Aye), and Bill Moore (Aye).

Cynthia Gray reminded Trustees to sign the documents.

XII. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Cynthia Gray adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.

Respectfully Submitted:



Angela Beehler
District Manager



ATTEST: Cynthia Gray
Board President

ATTEST: Bill McKay
Trustee