

Benton County Mosquito Control District

Meeting Minutes Regular Board Meeting April 25, 2022

I. Call to Order:

Richard Bloom called the Benton County Mosquito Control Board of Trustees meeting to order at 7:02 PM on April 25, 2022.

II. Roll Call:

The following Board members were present:

In Person: Richard Bloom, Tom Groom, Jessica Wadsworth, and Bill Moore

Absent: Cynthia Gray (excused); Brad Beauchamp (unexcused); Kevin Christensen (unexcused)

III. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Groom moved to approve the minutes from the March 28, 2022 meeting. Bill Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Guest Agenda Items:

There were no Guest Agenda Items.

V. Financial Report:

Angela Beehler, District Manager, presented the Year-To-Date Financial Report and offered explanatory notes to new Board member Jessica Wadsworth. There were no questions or further discussion.

VI. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for presentation or discussion.

VII. Manager's Report:

- A. 2022 Tire Drive – the purpose of the tire drive is to help clean up tires off property, reducing potential mosquito breeding sites. BCMCD pays for the crew's lunch and the Department of Ecology covers collection and recycling costs. The contractor will load approximately 500 tires/trailer at a cost of, roughly, \$900/trailer.



A maximum of 20 tires is allowed per participant and participants are required to show proof of residence within the mosquito district. The district's crew unloads and stacks tires on the day of the event. This year's annual tire drive was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022, collecting 7,829 tires. Appointments are set up for larger loads, e.g., 100 tires, to be brought in after the event. It is anticipated that an additional 270 tires will be brought in through April 26, 2022; participants must unload tires themselves.

- B. Crew Update –Employee coverage is light in the valley (Prosser) and some shifting of employee's area responsibilities may be required to meet the needs of the valley. Donna Rise, the seasonal Administrative Assistant, was introduced and then Angela Beehler discussed the work that Gretchen Graber, the Education and Outreach Specialist is doing, including an upcoming educational event at Hanson Park. Angela Beehler indicated that Steve Ingalls, Field Supervisor, was doing a good job with training materials for field people. She also discussed applicator licensing for employees, explaining that treatments must be conducted by a licensed applicator or by operators under direct, line-of-sight oversight by a licensed applicator. She indicated that there have been limited available pesticide applicator testing slots from the Washington Department of Agriculture.

The Board was updated on the sudden passing of Merwyn Gilderoy this past Friday. Merwyn was a Control Operator who was hired to treat storm drains. Angela Beehler extended her condolences and best wishes to the family. Richard Bloom initiated a short discussion of recruitment challenges. Angela Beehler concurred with Richard Bloom's assessment that applications have been slower to come in, but that we were able to fill all the necessary positions.

- C. Pollinator Language for 16-228-1110, WAC – Washington Friends of Farms and Forests gave the Benton County Mosquito Control District a heads up about the Washington Department of Agriculture's (WSDA's) proposed rulemaking to update the pesticide violation penalty matrix, to include language about pollinators. The term pollinator is extremely broad and can include mosquitos, wasps, and other insects typically considered pests rather than pollinators. Kevin Shoemaker was concerned that the language was open to interpretation and needed clarification. His first recommendation to the WSDA was to remove the pollinator language, however, removal of the pollinator language was not acceptable to the WA Attorney General. After considerable discussion, several administrative rule language iterations, and Kevin's persistence, pollinator language was developed that explicitly permits mosquito control uses. Discussion by the Board focused on differences between mosquito applications and farm applications, nuisance pollinators, pollinators as pests, and public health pesticides.

VIII. Old Business:

There was no old business.

IX. New Business:

- A. Angela Beehler indicated that Donna Rise was updating the Benton County Mosquito Control District Contact and Conflict of Interest Lists and asked Board members to check with Donna Rise before leaving to review their information. Conflict of Interest information is needed for the annual report to the state for audit purposes.

- B. Angela Beehler reviewed Open Government Training requirements for Board member, including new board member training requirements, documentation of completed training, and recertification requirements. The District must maintain documentation of completed training. Richard Bloom will forward information that the City of West Richland is using to demonstrate certification of Open Meeting requirements. He also said that the training needed to be taken every four (4) years. Angela Beehler will check on initial and recertification requirements for Board members and check the Benton County Mosquito Control District training policy and update if needed.

X. Payment of Bills and Signing of Documents:

Following review by the Board, Tom Groom moved to approve and sign warrant numbers 9725 through 9762, payroll direct deposits, and tax payments totaling \$56,297.33. Bill Moore seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Richard Bloom	Aye
Tom Groom	Aye
Jessica Wadsworth	Aye
Bill Moore	Aye

XI. Adjournment:

Hearing no further business to come before the Board, Bill Moore moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tom Groom. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Angela Beehler
District Manager**

**ATTEST: Richard Bloom
Board Trustee**

**ATTEST: Tom Groom
Board Trustee**