

Teton County Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2010

Call to order. Dan Burr called to order the above referenced meeting at 6:37 pm at the Teton County Courthouse in Driggs, Idaho.

Attendees. Greg Adams, Dan Burr, Angela Booker, Jack Liebenthal, Sean Moulton, and Summer Winger, with Abigail, Allan and Susan representing VDCI, were present.

Review and Approval of Minutes. Liebenthal made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, Booker seconded and all voted in favor.

Budget Status. Adams stated tax collection rate is 86-87%, with \$138,138.08 in the account currently. Adams provided the results of the budget meeting with the Teton County Commissioners: \$410,000 is their 2011 budget decision. The contract renews with VDCI with no rebidding process necessary; process starts this fall. However, the approved budget of \$410k requires payments of \$19,132—less than the 2010 contracted amount. There may be contingency money from the 2010 fiscal year but the amount is unknown and therefore difficult to place into the 2011 budget.

Allan Loe from VDCI then stated he would be willing to accept decreased payments in 2011. Adams asked VDCI about decreasing services and therefore 2011 payments, to which Loe responded, “yes”.

Liebenthal then proposed a 2-year contract with VDCI with a one year renegotiation clause. Loe then stated he preferred to decrease the contact amount rather than decreasing abatement activities so as to not lose ground. He is willing to delay payment due date to accomplish the goal of allowing sustained abatement activities while accommodating decreased budget amount approved by Commissioners.

Adams then asked about removing aerial spraying, with contingency of an unknown amount to be applied to that service—if money available. County Commissioners to determine Adams’ salary. After the salary has been determined, the 2011 budget will be finalized in August.

Public Awareness. Commissioner Benedict told Adams he was pleased with the work of [VDCI]. Moulton relayed his separate conversations with Commissioners Young and Benedict about the District’s efforts. VDCI met with Victor City personnel but were advised to not address the Council until August. On July 12th, VDCI attended the Tetonia City Council meeting. Council expressed pleasure with mosquito abatement.

There were 113 service requests in previous month. Both 6000S and 4000N roads had mosquito problems. Another donation offer was made. It is legal to accept donations, a question raised at the June meeting.

Contractor Activity. There is a large increase in mosquito activity from 6000S to Felt, a wider area than last year. Light traps focus on areas not well known to have mosquitoes. Ochlerotatus species can transmit West Nile Virus, although not as frequently as Culex. Increased larvaciding this year over 2009 with mixed effectiveness. Aerial Larvaciding costs about \$12-14/acre. Most effective in Spring Creek or up Leigh Creek rather than a widespread approach. Adulticiding with possible aerial application planned—date to be determined. Approximate cost is \$1.60/acre but expensive because a great deal of area covered each application.

Organic growers—VDCI is diligently working with the growers to meet both the needs of the grower and the abatement effort. There are 12 pages in the opt-out package developed by state of Idaho. The opt-out process is very cumbersome for the growers and for the contractor. VDCI created a one page letter of agreement that allows treatment as long as it doesn’t effect organic status. This is a collaborative approach to allow treatment with biologics and surveillance. Regardless of opting out process, bees are given a wide berth.

Adams asked about notice in the newspapers for treatment activities. There was an article in the Valley Citizen newspaper along with radio ads. VDCI stated an ad will be added and notification on the website as well. Moulton asked about Wyoming providing a link to Idaho’s website on their website. There is a good reciprocal relationship between the Wyoming and Idaho programs, particularly important with the geographical issues.

Other Business. None

Adjournment of Meeting. Moulton motioned to adjourn the meeting and Burr seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.