

Cache Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees

The Cache Mosquito Abatement District (CMAD) Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2008, in the Bear River Environmental Health Department conference room (85 E 1800 N, North Logan). Representatives from nine municipalities and the county unincorporated area were present:

Dave Wood, Amalga

Ed Rigby, Wellsville

Jeff Ricks, unincorporated

Elaine Nelson, North Logan

Mike Carlson, Mendon

Darwin Pitcher, Lewiston

Scott Larsen, Nibley

Dave Gatherum, Hyde Park

Perry Spackman, Trenton

Deon Johnson, Providence

Excused: Tom LaBau, Hyrum; Leslie Erickson, Richmond; Richard Rigby, Newton; Robert Mather, Smithfield. Absent: Karen Blotter, Millville; Boyd Pugmire, Clarkston; Nick Murphy, Cornish.

Also in attendance was Grant Koford, BRHD (Bear River Health District).

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Perry Spackman at 7:03 pm.

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 25, 2008, meeting were reviewed.

Scott moved, and Elaine seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion passed unanimously with Perry and Mike abstaining.

COURTESY NO-SPRAY POLICY

Scott had a question about the first paragraph where it states that mosquito districts can spray outside of the district boundary. Terrie responded that the provision was approved in the 2007 *Utah Code* revision. He also had a concern in the second paragraph about maintaining a 100 ft zone around the boundary of a property requesting no spraying. He'd prefer wording that would allow the District to keep 100 ft from a residence requesting no spray or from bee hives yet still be able to spray along the rest of the boundary. Elaine asked about replacing the numerical value with the phrase 'reasonable distance.' Much discussion ensued. Several still would like to have a numerical value to go by, feeling that would be defensible in court. Others feel that it would be more workable to allow some 'wriggle room' in judging how close to spray to the boundaries. Scott's concern is that some properties run for quite a distance along a spray route yet only are really concerned with spraying close to their residence. Rather than leave a long stretch untreated, he'd rather be able to have the no spray zone defined around a residence and not the entire parcel of property.

Other options would be to specify the no spray boundary would be set on a case-by-case basis. There is enough room on the page that they could draw a map showing *where* they don't want

the spray: around the house or the beehives or the garden. Deon offered to visit with those who request no spraying on their property to see if it's just around their house they're most concerned with or what, and to explain the District's goals. Bottom line is that if one person wants the spraying and the one across the road doesn't, the one wanting the spray trumps the courtesy no spray request.

Several trustees asked what the proportion of no spray requests are: how many due to legitimate health concerns or because they're a beekeeper or what. Mike asked how the requests are kept track of, especially when one wants spraying and their neighbor doesn't. In two cases this season, we notified the no spray person the half hour before the pickup and fogger arrived in the area so they could close things up. Mike asked how the calls are kept track for no spray or for spray. Terrie described the phone record she's keeping: a log of each call with details on the call, person's name, phone number, and address. A big publicity push on announcing the no spray request policy needs to occur. Terrie suggested mailing the policy to those requesting no spray in the past as well as press releases.

In the third paragraph, Scott wanted to strike the word 'special' before consideration; he doesn't want to give the impression some requests are more special than others. Scott also wanted a sentence added to the final paragraph, reiterating that the District has the right to modify or nullify any courtesy no spray request at will. Perry reluctantly agreed with the statement, but is still concerned about the District deliberately spraying a beekeeping operation. Scott would prefer to keep the sentence about a declared vector emergency and just re-emphasize that the District has the right to modify or nullify any request. Terrie will make the changes discussed and check with legal counsel.

2009 PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION

Ed feels strongly that the District needs to bring its expenses into line with its revenue; a number of others agreed. He also feels that now is not the time to raise taxes. Dave G. thinks that the trustees need to reach out more to citizens to educate them on what their taxes pay for. He said that cutting back on the level of service may be necessary. It's important to be very conservative, especially in the current financial climate.

Discussion then moved to the options presented by BRHD. None of them have anything set aside for the contingency fund nor is the District's cost for administration part to the options. The ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) have already been purchased, thus reducing the budget options by \$10,600 for 2009. Grant said that the BRHD would replace the V10 truck with an 'inherited' F150 extended cab pickup. General consensus is that the District not raise the tax rate for this next year. Dave G. doesn't want CMAD to micromanage BRHD; give them the budget we can afford and have them adjust accordingly. Ed and others feel strongly that the District needs to live by the budget adopted regardless of what comes along. Scott, Elaine and others also want to see a set amount going to the contingency/capital improvements fund every year. Ed wants to see a more detailed budget report (both actual and expected) at least quarterly.

Darwin said that the Board should identify specific needs and possibly see if a private citizen would be interested in donating either land or funds to assist. Based on the current budget and the reluctance to raise the rate, it's not feasible to recruit College-Young MAD to join CMAD.

Scott mentioned that in the past, a subcommittee met to draw up the preliminary budget. Ed volunteered to sit on the committee; others will be Scott, Perry, and Darwin. The group decided to meet at BRHD if it was available; the time chosen is Wednesday, October 29, at 7:30 pm. The budget process was reviewed and the revenue/expense reports explained.

UMAA CONFERENCE REPORT

Terrie reviewed the summary sheet of her observations from the UMAA (Utah Mosquito Abatement Association) conference. The main news is that the UDAF (Utah Department of Agriculture and Food) grant program has been slashed to \$20,000 for 2009. UDAF is not sure what to do this next year; they may give the whole amount to UMAA for their projects.

She got some good information on additional things homeowners can do to reduce mosquito harborage on their properties. Several other districts offered their information sites for use, especially for landscape management. Variable flow fogger conversions and other pesticide treatments were discussed. Terrie pointed out the talk showing the correlation between mean daily temperature and WNV activity. She also handed out a sheet on proposed legislation that would affect the District. One of the main proposals is that taxes should be appropriated by an elected board, not an appointed board like CMAD. Another proposal is having draft minutes considered official minutes before Board approval. One thought is to have them available within 3 days of the meeting. Mike suggested that using a laptop to take the notes would help meet this.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The third quarter financial statement was reviewed. Scott moved, and Deon seconded, that the report be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

BILLS

The following bills were presented; Dave G. moved to pay the bills and Darwin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wages	\$ 200.00
Travel	293.67
Officer per diem	120.00
Trustee compensation	700.00
Toner cartridge	80.43
T-Mobile	34.42
Cache Yamaha	6,342.00

ADJOURNMENT

Ed asked that the phone records be brought to the meetings so the trustees can be aware of what calls are coming in. Everyone was reminded that the next meeting is Tuesday, November 11.

Elaine moved, and Ed seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.