

MINUTES

1121st MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

January 10th, 2024

TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Physically held at the Office of the District
23187 Connecticut Street, Hayward, CA 94545 and
Teleconferencing at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86094737471>
TRUSTEES: Victor Aguilar, President, City of San Leandro
Cathy Roache, Vice-President, County-at-Large
Tyler Savage, Secretary, City of Alameda
Robin López, City of Albany
P. Robert Beatty, City of Berkeley
Kashef Qaadri, City of Dublin
City of Emeryville, vacant
John Zlatnik, City of Fremont
George Syrop, City of Hayward
City of Livermore, vacant
Eric Hentschke, City of Newark
Jan O. Washburn, City of Oakland
Hope Salzer, City of Piedmont: *from 76 Cambrian Ave, Piedmont, CA*
Valerie Arkin, City of Pleasanton
Subru Bhat, City of Union City

1. Board President Aguilar called the regularly scheduled board meeting to order at 5:03 pm.
2. Trustees Aguilar, Savage, Qaadri, Zlatnik, Syrop, Hentschke, and Arkin were present in-person at the district. Trustee Salzer attended remotely from the publicly posted location above. Trustees Roache, López, Beatty, and Bhat were absent. Trustee Washburn attended remotely under AB 2449 and stated that his absence is due to medical reasons.
Discussion: President Aguilar wishes him a speedy recovery while noting that we the board must approve an emergency exemption to allow Trustee Washburn to attend remotely under AB 2449.
Motion: Trustee Arkin moved to accept remote attendance for Trustee Washburn
Second: Trustee Hentschke
Vote: motion carries: unanimous
3. President Aguilar invited members of the public to speak on any issue relevant to the district. Vector Biologist, Sarah Lawton, was present to record the minutes. Information & Technology Director, Robert Ferdan, attended remotely for technical support.
4. Approval of the minutes of the 1120th meeting held December 13th, 2023.
Discussion: None
Motion: Trustee Hentschke moved to approve the minutes

Second: Trustee Zlatnik
Vote: motion carries: unanimous

5. Approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting held December 13th, 2023

Discussion: None

Motion: Trustee Qaadri moved to approve the minutes

Second: Trustee Arkin

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

6. Election of Board Officers. Gavel Transfer from President Aguilar to the newly elected President.

Discussion: President Aguilar presented the slate of 2024 officer candidates approved at the November regular meeting: Trustee Roache as President, Trustee Savage as Vice-President, and Trustee Arkin as Secretary.

Motion: Trustee Qaadri moved to elect the slate of officers

Second: Trustee Syrop

Vote: motion carries: unanimous. The gavel passed to Vice-President Savage due to President Roache's absence. Trustee Aguilar thanked the Board for their support in 2023.

7. Review of 2024 Board Meeting dates.

Discussion: The General Manager suggested canceling the September Board Meeting due to a conflict with the CSDA conference. Trustee Hentschke asked how this would be reflected on the District calendar (September will be listed as "canceled" on the website).

Motion: Trustee Aguilar moved to accept the 2024 calendar

Second: Trustee Arkin

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

8. Review of Finance Committee membership and appointing a Chair

Discussion: The members of the finance standing committee are Trustees Bhat, Roache, Hentschke and Qaadri. Trustees Qaadri and Hentschke mentioned that this is their first year on the committee, so they do not feel comfortable being Chair but suggested Trustee Bhat as an appropriate Chair.

Motion: Trustee Aguilar moves to appoint Trustee Bhat as Chair

Second: Trustee Arkin

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

9. Appointment of an ad-hoc policy review committee to review proposed changes to district policy

Discussion: After an explanation by the General Manager on the purpose and duration of this ad hoc committee, Trustees Zlatnik, Aguilar, Hentschke, and Arkin volunteered to serve. Vice-President Savage asked if this committee needs a Chair. (No, since it is not a standing committee so any member can report out at the regular meeting).

Motion: Trustee Qaadri moves to accept the appointees: Zlatnik, Aguilar, Arkin, and Hentschke

Second: Trustee Zlatnik

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

10. Presentation and approval of ACMAD Strategic Plan 2024-2026

Discussion: The General Manager commented that he felt the meeting went well and thanked staff for recording minutes in each of the separate rooms. Trustee Zlatnik asked about the revision process (the Strategic Plan can be amended, especially if circumstances arise, typically during the General Manager evaluation process.) Trustee Syrop asked about language access being a priority for him and Trustee Aguilar which he does not see explicitly reflected in the Plan. (while translated materials are to be addressed by this summer under the heading, "Ensure that we provide residents and visitors to Alameda County with effective, inclusive, and efficient mosquito control, it should be more spelled-out). Trustee Syrop followed up expressing that if it is already the District's goal, it is fine how it is. Trustee Aguilar added that if people do not have access to this information or know what is going on, it is very important that they do and agrees with staff that having a QR code leading to translated documents is a good idea. He also feels the Plan is too ambiguous regarding translating into different languages. Trustee Syrop suggested adding the goal: "Begin the process of identifying and translating high-impact documents into several other meaningful languages". Trustee Zlatnik asked if there has been any attempts to reach out to community groups that do not speak English as their first language (Yes and we specifically attend events for this purpose.) Trustee Salzer likes the idea of reaching out to people more proactively, especially because immigrant communities do not know we exist. She suggested implementing an alert that people can opt in for (while we already work with 311, we will work more to connect in different languages). The expected new hire will be required to speak another language. ACMAD often relies on a wider-audience, such as a City's PIO during WNV and other heightened activities. Trustee Salzer added that some populations may travel more than others, so they have more exposure to mosquito-borne viruses, so it would be good to add language specific to travel and for them to be aware of the danger of bringing viruses back home (good idea to discuss with Alameda County Public Health.) Trustee Zlatnik mentioned as a teacher, he knows that just because something is written somewhere, does not mean people will see it especially if it is not in their native language. Trustee Syrop agrees. Trustee Arkin likes the idea to not state (in the Plan) a specific number of languages to be translated. Robert Ferdan added a comment remotely that our website can be translated into 13 languages through Google. (The General Manager agreed that while Google does provide translating services, they are not error-proof). Trustee Aguilar said staff did a great job at the Strategic Plan meeting and the meal was enjoyable.

Motion: Trustee Qaadri moved to accept the Strategic plan with the proposed amendment

Second: Trustee Arkin

Vote: motion carries: unanimous

11. Form 700 FFPP Conflict of Interest Report

Discussion: After the General Manager gave background information Trustee Syrop asked if he files this his city, will ACMAD be notified (Yes, but please let us know so we can file our own copy.)

12. Financial Reports as of December 31st, 2023

Discussion: After the General Manager discussed various charges, Trustee Aguilar asked about the \$190 allowance in policy for work boots and have you discussed increasing this as his work boots cost \$350 (that is an appropriate request for the Policy Committee to discuss, and the Employee Association to review.) Trustee Arkin also feels \$190 is too low for boots.

13. Presentation of the Monthly Staff Report

Discussion: After the General Manager summarized staff reports, Trustee Syrop asked what a mosquito's average life span from egg to adult is. (The General Manager and Sarah Lawton explained that it varies, but some species are 1-2 weeks and other species could be several

months.) Trustee Qaadri asked if we use rainfall models to forecast for mosquitoes (Robert Ferdan shared that ACMAD had a prior strategic plan goal on predictive analysis that had to be tabled for now but there was a program called "Zing" that the District created in the late 1970's-early 1980's for predicting which and when mosquito sources will emerge. Trustee Zlatnik was amazed that species can survive as eggs in the heat until they hatch (Sarah Lawton explained several *Aedes* species survive extreme living conditions) Trustee Savage asked about the West Nile virus detections from last year and will this affect this years' virus detections (last year went against normal predictions, which are that wet years usually have low viral detections and dry years have high viral detections. We always expect a normal WNV year but prepare for the unexpected.) Trustee Syrop asked if the pie chart showing channels used for SR's can be evaluated year-to-year and reflect how the trends change (yes, that will be included in the future.) Trustee Syrop asked about the gap in the mid-County area for educational presentations and how he can help to fill in that gap (the education program is in its 3rd semester which we focused mostly on Newark and San Leandro due to factors such as mosquito risk, underserved communities, and access to educators. This is evaluated every year so yes; we will look into the Hayward school but we also reach residents through public education events). Trustee Savage asked about the Fish Project timeline and would like to see updates on any major capital projects reflected in the Board Packet. (Construction should be completed in March-April, and the tanks will be operational by summer, but yes, updates will be placed in future staff reports.) Trustee Syrop asked about the section "Top 10 locations of website users", and pointed out that it seems odd to have other cities outside of the county listed, but it is likely because of our ubiquitous name for the website domain (agreed).

14. Presentation of the Manager's Report

Discussion: Trustee Zlatnik asked how many training hours are required (two, two-hours sessions every two years.)

15. Board President asks for reports on conferences and seminars attended by Trustees.

Discussion: Trustee Qaadri attended a ride-along with John Busam in Dublin for about a half day where he also met Mark Wieland there as well. It provided a huge appreciation for the work done, he learned a lot, and highly recommends other Trustees do the same. Trustee Zlatnik asked what environment they visited. Trustee Qaadri said John showed him a mixture including a marsh, park, and a neighborhood which made him realize how many different opportunities mosquitoes have to lay eggs. He said he appreciates John's patience answering his questions. Trustee Aguilar asked how long the tour lasted. Trustee Qaadri said about 3 hours.

16. Board President asks for announcements from members of the Board.

Discussion: None

17. Board President asks trustees for items to be added to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Discussion: The General Manager mentioned that the proposed changes to the District Policy may be ready for review at the next meeting. The Finance committee may also want to meet prior to the regular meeting.

18. Adjournment at 6:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Tyler Savage, Vice President

Approved as written and/or corrected
at the 1122nd meeting of the Board of
Trustees held February 14th, 2024

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. Roache", written over a horizontal line.

Cathy Roache, President
BOARD OF TRUSTEES