

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE MACON MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Macon Mosquito Abatement District was called to order by Susan Kretsinger on April 15, 2021 at the office of the Macon Mosquito Abatement District at 3755 Cundiff Road, Decatur, Illinois 62526. Trustees present were Dr. Robert Groesch, Carol Carlton, and Susan Kretsinger. Also present were Jason Probus and Attorney Edward F. Flynn. Absent was Tom McQuiston and Sue Phillips. Susan Kretsinger presided over the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

During public comments, none.

The meeting was opened and a motion to approve the Minutes was made by Carol Carlton, seconded by Dr. Robert Groesch, and unanimously approved.

There was a motion made to approve the checks by Dr. Robert Groesch, seconded by Carol Carlton, and unanimously approved.

DURING OLD BUSINESS, none.

DURING NEW BUSINESS, none.

DURING DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, April has been a busy month here as we are now 33 days from orientation May 17, 2021. The Midwest Center of Excellence (MCE) is one of five CoEs established in 2017 by the CDC which serve as regional hubs to help prevent and rapidly respond to emerging vector-borne diseases across the United States. One part of their goals was to train public health entomologists in the knowledge and skills needed to address disease concerns – in this effort they award fellowships to students to conduct research and learn more about VBDs. Elizabeth, our vector biologist, was

previously a fellow student of the MCE and was recently selected by the MCE to represent it in a virtual meeting with the CDC and its other 4 CoEs. She was 1 of 5 individuals representing these regional centers which was a great honor. This meeting took place March 25th and attendees from all over the US were present. This was an excellent opportunity for the CoEs to promote their programs and highlight individuals who have gone on to work in various fields after their fellowship. Elizabeth was selected to make a presentation and she did a great job representing herself, the MCE and our District during the virtual meeting.

Next, Jason passed out a new mosquito identification key that Elizabeth developed over the winter. Using our digital microscope, she was able to take photos of real field caught mosquitoes and use them in her guide. As someone who has been tasked with training others in mosquito ID, I have to say that this is a significant step from the hand drawn dichotomous keys that we have used in the past. In addition, as we did last year, we will increase our surveillance efforts for the invasive *Aedes albopictus*. In doing so, we were contacted by the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, where Elizabeth previously worked, who has several of the specific type of trap needed and has offered them to us at no cost. The traps are like new and were not being used in their district because they do not get a lot of *albopictus* activity. Elizabeth will be traveling there Tuesday next week to retrieve the traps.

Our first order of insecticides was delivered last month. This month we received our catch basin larvicide order, scheduled our particle size calibration appointment for the ULV, ordered RAMP kits to test for WNV. We have finished truck maintenance and have started preparing them for receiving insecticide inventories. With the new larvicide

tracking software, we are now able to track inventories in individual trucks and plan to implement a new method of measuring treatments and reconciling those inputs with warehouse inventories. The goal here is to be better stewards of the locations we treat as well as track inputs more closely. We have been working toward finishing some projects in the rearing lab that will allow for more resistance testing and adding shelving for storage. We upgraded our battery charging system for our mosquito traps. What was once a line of wires that charged batteries in line and out of an abundance of caution was unplugged before the end of the day, is now two separate charging systems designed to charge 10 batteries each simultaneously and safely.

Regarding staffing, as noted in the last meeting, we were informed that our long-time receptionist would not be returning. After conducting interviews through the end of March and first of April, we have filled that role as well as the one vacant crew position, we were short. However, I was notified yesterday that one of our returnees for what would have been their 4th summer will no longer be returning. This opening will be filled from the applications on file.

We have had some returning crew members available to begin testing for their applicator license. This year an online version of the in-person training is available and accessible for a fee for 30 days at a time. Four returnees have taken the opportunity at gaining access to the program and one has already tested and passed. In previous years, conditions depending, we have brought a couple of crew members in earlier than the May 17th orientation date to get a jump start on larviciding activities. Depending on the weather outlook moving forward, we may bring the one newly licensed individual in early. Due to pandemic related issues last year, we have many returning crew members who will need

to test so getting a head start on this is welcomed. In addition, with my wife expecting anytime an extra hand to help if I were to need to be away will be ideal as Elizabeth ramps up her trapping duties.

DURING TRUSTEE COMMENTS, none.

DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION, none.

Subsequently, a motion was made by Dr. Robert Groesch, seconded by Carol Carlton and unanimously approved for adjournment.

Secretary