

PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
NORTH SHORE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the convened monthly meeting for the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District Board of Trustees held at the district office, 117 Northfield Road, Northfield, Illinois, Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009. Vice-President Blustein called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Trustee John Zbesko .....Present  
Trustee Otto Cesario .....Present  
Trustee Carol Blustein .....Present  
Trustee Nelson Howard .....Present  
  
Trustee William Zimmer.....Absent

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Superintendent Robert Berry  
Attorney Norman Rosen  
Office Manager Jennifer Zimmer  
Lab Director Marlon Henry

**I. MINUTES**

Minutes of the regular board meeting Sept. 2009 were approved with minor corrections. Motion made by Trustee Howard and seconded by Trustee Blustein. All ayes.

**II. REPORT FROM BOARD OFFICERS**

1. President: Absent
2. Vice President: None
3. Treasurer: Trustee Zbesko read financials: Total Receipts \$2,241, Total Disbursements \$76,320, Total Assets \$937,320 (all numbers rounded to nearest dollar). Motion to approve financials made by Trustee Blustein and seconded by Trustee Howard. Trustee Zbesko asked about declining balances while waiting for the second installment of taxes. Superintendent Berry said we have sufficient reserves and said he had heard December 1 would be the date for receiving the second installment because a computer glitch delayed the process. Trustee Cesario said he had heard some funds might be made available by November 1

because of school district needs. Superintendent Berry said that based on past experience, district expenses for the next 3 months will be about \$250,000, including employee expenses, purchase of a new truck and the carpet and paint projects.

3. Secretary: None
4. Assistant Treasurer: None

### **III. REPORT FROM LEGALCOUNSEL**

Attorney Rosen reminded the board that the district's budget must be ready for next month's meeting. Superintendent Berry said it is being prepared (see below).

### **IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **Informational Items**

This year's IMVCA (Illinois Mosquito & Vector Control Association) conference will be held November 19 & 20 in Peoria for the second year in a row. Superintendent Berry asked board members interested in attending to notify Office Manager Zimmer by October 23. Trustee Cesario said that he and Board President Zimmer planned to attend the conference.

The recently purchased new truck is expected to be delivered the week of October 12. The check for payment will be cut when the truck is delivered.

Superintendent Berry discussed the status of the bids for painting. Painting specs have been developed. A public request for bids will be published in a Pioneer Press ad October 8 and 15. Two proposals received so far were for \$3500 and \$3200. Attorney Rosen advised that any painters hired should sign mechanics lien waivers as well as liability and workers compensation waivers. Superintendent Berry said the carpeting project will follow completion of painting. Next year, Mr. Berry anticipates outside painting of the building and repair and resealing of the parking lot.

#### **Lab Report:**

Lab Director Henry said mosquito auto-trapping is finished for the year. He said it had been an uneventful season with lower WNV occurrences. The weather and earlier and more thorough larviciding may be the biggest reasons for this. Looking toward next season Director Henry said he will reinstate the use of the more economical 30-day larviciding ingots instead of longer-term ingots. This is now possible because the speed of field crews has become much quicker and efficient since GPS field monitoring was initiated. This allows more repeat coverage in problem areas. A longer lasting ingot will be used for later rounds of larviciding as crew size diminishes late in the season. He said the lab will also be trying out a new, slightly more expensive, "green" larviciding product in place of Altocid that may be more effective. It has a new active ingredient that

mosquitoes may be less resistant to it since it is new. The new product, Naturlar, will be tried out in Evanston and Skokie where WNV has been stronger.

Trustee Zbesko asked about this season's spraying over one full sweep of the district with follow-up sprayings of targeted areas where positive pools showed up. This season the district was sprayed 1 1/2 times. Last year the district did 2 full sweeps of the district with some areas being sprayed 3 times. This season saw 57 positives for WNV vs. 200-250 positives in heavier years. Last year, positives totaled 113. This year's low figures were attributed to a cooler summer and more effective larviciding. Only 3 WNV positive birds were found -- 1 in Skokie, 2 in Winnetka. There were 4 human cases statewide (1 in Chicago) last year we had 3 human cases in the district. In past years, the order of WNV infections has been birds, mosquitoes, horses, then humans. Now the order is shifting around. Experts are puzzled by this and still have many questions. We know that mosquitoes over-winter, but we have found that WNV mosquitoes don't. Birds seem to be where WNV over-winters and mosquitoes become vectors after coming out of hibernation and then biting the birds.

**Action Items: None**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Trustee Blustein asked if the district will be seeking an ecologist to fill the now-vacant ecologist position. The previous ecologist left after a mutually agreed-upon trial period. He did not prove to have knowledge needed for the job. Superintendent Berry said future interviewees will be vetted with more specific requirements in mind including the ability to identify a wide range of mosquito species. Trustee Cesario asked if it having a district ecologist was necessary. Superintendent Berry said there are many mosquito species already in our area or anticipated to enter it soon that aren't being identified in our lab. Some have the potential to carry WNV. Mr. Berry said lack of an ecologist won't slow down our operation and our state's Natural History Survey does have the staff and equipment to identify the unidentified mosquito remains we send to them. However, our own skilled ecologist could give the district earlier alerts to potential problems. Trustee Blustein asked if the district had considered offering a paid internship to attract an entomologist to the district. Superintendent Berry said that was being considered. He said true entomologists are in high demand and not easy to find.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

Superintendent Berry handed out a preliminary budget for the coming year to be reviewed by the board before the November meeting. He also, presented liability and medical insurance coverage proposals for the coming year. Superintendent Berry said the insurance proposals needed to be reviewed immediately because the November 1 renewal date will occur before the next board meeting.

The liability renewal will include the newly purchased vehicle. Trustee Zbesko moved to approve the liability policy renewal. Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes.

Superintendent Berry said the proposed renewal of employee medical insurance coverage reflects a 3% increase in employee premiums. He said the changing employee situation caused the total cost to be less than expected. He had budgeted \$90,000 and the expense is now \$87,000. Trustee Blustein questioned the need for the higher-than-average level of medical benefits provided to district employees. In discussion, it was pointed out that some employee prescription co-pay were, in fact, increased in the past year and that earlier discussions had concluded that unless employee medical benefits were substantially reduced, the district's total savings would be minimal. The board's consensus was that since the district is not facing budget shortfalls and since the district's workers have continued to increase their productivity and effectiveness, there is no reason to further reduce their benefits at this time. Trustee Zbesko moved to approve the medical policy renewal. Trustee Howard seconded. Three ayes. Trustee Blustein abstained.

Superintendent Berry gave a cursory report on the budget considerations for the coming year. He said that the district's building maintenance expenses have been reduced and a reduction of some larviciding costs can occur by using existing inventory. Higher part-time employee costs reflect a \$1 raise given to all part-time employees to stay in line with increased national minimum wage, plus, each year there is a \$1 automatic raise for any returning summer workers.

Most discussion of expenditures will occur at the November board meeting after a review of the budget by board members. There will then be a public hearing and a vote on the final 2010 budget in December.

Trustee Zbesko asked about the district's cash flow delay due to the property tax inflow being delayed. In past years, tax bills were sent out before August 1 and paid on September 1, but not in recent years. Superintendent Berry said that because of delayed cash inflow, the district might need to spend as much as \$250,000 from cash reserves to cover the gap until tax money comes in. Reserves are sufficient to do this with no difficulty.

Lab supply costs have doubled. The lab no longer receives free VEC test kits now that the district has opted to use the more accurate RAMP tests. The process of RAMP testing also costs more than VEC testing. The lab is economizing by testing samples from mosquito batches instead of RAMP testing entire mosquito batches.

Trustee Zbesko pointed out that it appears we may be \$100,000 under budget at year's end. Superintendent Berry said some of the reduced expenditures were the result of employee departures and a mild mosquito season. He said the district has the option of adding those funds to the district's reserves, which may prove prudent if local foreclosures cause a marked decrease in property tax income.

Trustees Zbesko motioned to adjourn the meeting and Trustee Blustein seconded. All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

ATTESTED  
President, William Zimmer

SUBMITTED  
Secretary, Nelson Howard