

## MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

August 14, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Vector Control District was called to order at 1:37 P.M. by President Giambruno.

Board Present: Rob Bostock, Curt Giambruno, Ron Nagy, Frank Lincoln, and George Spurr.

Absent: None.

District Personnel: Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D., Manager and Research Director, and Jessi Edmiston, M.S. Entomologist

Guests: None.

### **Introduction of New Employee: Jessi Edmiston, M.S., Entomologist**

Dr. Scott introduced Jessi Edmiston, the District's Entomologist, who started work in July. Ms. Edmiston has a Master of Science in Entomology, and prior to her employment at the District, worked as an Entomology Seed Technician for Bayer Crop Science and a Biology Instructor at National Luis University and Elgin Community College.

Citizen's Input: None.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions: Item Number 7 was deleted from the Agenda.

### **Approve Minutes of July 10, 2024 Regular Meeting with a Correction to the Check Numbers to Include Checks 2685-22699 Making the Total Expenditures for July 2024 \$388,961.26**

Mr. Lincoln moved to approve the Board Minutes of July 10, 2024 with corrections. Mr. Nagy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Research Report**

Dr. Scott reported on arbovirus activity. Eight mosquito samples, one dead bird, and three sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus in Lake County so far this year.

In the rest of California, West Nile virus has been detected in 838 mosquito samples, 218 WNV-positive dead birds have been reported, and 46 sentinel chickens have tested positive for antibodies to WNV. Additionally, nine human cases of West Nile virus illness have been reported in 2024.

Thirteen mosquito samples tested positive for St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) from three California counties this year.

For the rest of the United States, ninety human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) illness have been reported from seventeen states.

One hundred three human cases of West Nile virus disease have been reported in residents of 26 states in 2024. In addition, 63 asymptomatic blood donors have tested positive for WNV this year, and 41 states have reported WNV activity in dead birds, mosquitoes, sentinel chickens, or equids.

Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) has been detected in twelve states in 2024.

Three states have reported Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) human cases and six states have reported mosquitoes positive for JCV.

Two human cases of La Crosse encephalitis (LAC) virus have been reported from North Carolina this year

Eight states have reported twenty-nine human cases of Powassan virus (POWV) disease in 2024 including three fatal cases.

Five states have reported St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) in mosquitoes this year. No human SLEV cases have been reported in 2024.

There have been fifteen symptomatic Zika virus disease case reported this year to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Six of the cases were in travelers returning from affected areas and nine cases were locally acquired in residents of Puerto Rico.

There have been fifty-four chikungunya virus disease cases reported this year in the United States. All the cases were in travelers returning from affected areas.

This year 3,290 dengue cases have been reported in the United States and its territories. Of these cases, 2,240 were locally acquired in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Isles, and Northern Marianas, and 18 were locally acquired in Florida. The remaining 1,032 cases were reported in travelers returning from affected areas.

Dr. Scott reported on adult biting fly activity. Ninety-nine carbon dioxide-baited traps were set during July. Several mosquito species were collected, including *Culex tarsalis*, *Anopheles freeborni*, and *Anopheles franciscanus*.

New Jersey Light Traps were set in the Reclamation and near the City of Clearlake. The mosquito species that were collected from the sites included *Anopheles franciscanus* and *Culex tarsalis*. In addition, *Culicoides occidentalis* (biting black gnat) were collected from the NJLT set in Clearlake.

The Large Resting Boxes (LRBs) were set in Upper Lake and Lakeport. Among the mosquito species collected were *Culex tarsalis*, *Anopheles freeborni*, and *Anopheles franciscanus*.

Dr. Scott reported tick testing. Eight *Ixodes pacificus* ticks that were removed from Lake County residents have been submitted to the Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory for testing for *Borrelia burgdorferi*. All the samples were negative.

Dr. Scott reported on the Clear Lake Gnat, Chironominae, and Tanypodinae Surveillance in Clear Lake. In July, 0.39 *Chaoborus astictopus* larvae per dredge were collected in the Upper Arm. Chironominae averaged 20.86 larvae per dredge in July. Tanypodinae averaged 2.68 larvae per dredge in July.

### **Operation Report**

No rainfall was recorded in the District's rain gauge during July. The total seasonal rainfall is 29.88 inches, which is 114% of the average precipitation for the season.

On July 1, the level of Clear Lake was at 5.56 feet on the Rumsey Gauge. The lake level decreased to 4.23 feet by July 31.

Four hundred twenty-one service requests were completed in July. This number includes fifteen yellowjacket requests and 48 online requests.

During July the Vector Control Technicians planned an application to two irrigated pastures near Middletown. The applications would be made using the swisher spreader on the side-by-side. Halfway through treating the first field mechanical issues with the swisher spreader were experienced preventing further work. The applications were completed the next day by Leading Edge Associates using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones).

During regular surveillance it was discovered that about 86 acres of former rice fields were still holding water in the Reclamation near Upper Lake. The District contacted Lake County Water Resources and let them know that the recommended solution was to remove the water and eliminate the mosquito source rather than treat for mosquitoes. The County was cooperative and turned on the appropriate pump, which drained the water in a few days.

The District's new Entomologist, Jessi Edmiston, began work on July 29. She is a good addition to the District's staff.

A media release was issued by the District on July 19. The release announced the year's first detection of West Nile virus, and reminded residents to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Articles appeared in the Lake County News, the Lake County Record Bee, and The Press Democrat.

Dr. Scott has been working with the new Entomologist to educate her about the District and its policies.

Dr. Scott attended the MVCAC Summer Board Meeting via Zoom on July 11.

Dr. Scott has been reviewing the District's policies and meeting with the District's Labor Negotiator Austris Rungis.

### **Approve Checks for the Month of August 2024**

Mr. Nagy moved to approve Check Nos. 22700–22746 for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$74,833.94. Mr. Spurr seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Giamb Bruno asked if District staff had plans to attend the Clear Lake Integrated Science Symposium (CLISS) that will be held in Lake County during August. Dr. Scott confirmed that several staff members planned to attend the meetings and events.

**Announcement of Next Regular Board Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 1:30 PM on September 11, 2024 at the Lake County Vector Control District Office, 410 Esplanade Lakeport, CA 95453.

Mr. Nagy moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Spurr seconded the motion. There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by President Giambruno at 2:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Nagy  
Secretary