

Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, and Noxious Weed Abatement District
Board of Trustees
Churchill County, Nevada
7400 Reno Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
Meeting March 30th, 2023
OPEN MEETING SESSION

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman, Cynthia McGarrah called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairwoman, Cynthia McGarrah
Vice Chairman, Marion Jonte
Trustee, Richard Grondin
Trustee, Barry Stewart
Trustee, Kim Turner

Legal Counsel, Joseph Sanford
District Manager, Nancy Upham
Assistant Manager, JD MacKay
Board Secretary, Melania Sagi

Public Present

Amanda Young

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Review and Adoption of the Agenda:

District Manager requested that New Business be presented before Old Business. Trustee, Barry Stewart made a motion to adopt the agenda with the proposed change. Trustee, Richard Grondin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from March 9th, 2023:

Mr. Grondin made a motion to approve the minutes from March 9th, 2023. Vice Chairman, Marion Jonte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. Certificate of Posting:

Ms. Upham stated that the agenda was posted in accordance with NRS.

7. Correspondence:

None

8. Appointment:

None

9. Old Business:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the purchase of a Backwater Performance 14 – 7.5-foot Airboat and trailer from Backwater Performance LLC for \$55,000.00. This airboat is a necessity and necessary piece of equipment to be utilized in response to planned mosquito abatement treatments during a flood emergency such as this year’s potential flood status. Ms. Upham explained that our current Aerial contractor would be unable to fly for the District this year. Management has been looking into alternative aerial applicators but there are significant cost and availability issues. One of the companies that Management has been in contact with is VDCI which has taken over the whole mosquito abatement control for Humboldt County. They are more than double the cost that the District has been paying for Frey Spray services. VDCI would need to be compensated for travel from the closest station in Utah on top of the treatment cost. They would also need at least 48-hour notice before treatment. Management does plan on using VDCI for adulticiding but hopes to mitigate the need by investing in other equipment that will benefit the District in the long run.

Mr. Jonte admitted that he could see the benefit of an airboat but it was the cost that he could not support. Trustee Kim Turner stated that this particular boat was the most cost-effective. Mr. Stewart added that the next cheapest was \$90,000 and did not include a trailer like the one that Ms. Upham was proposing. Mr. Jonte asked if the District would be able to utilize the boat even in low-water years. Assistant Manager, JD MacKay said that yes, an airboat would be able to go places that the District’s current equipment could not, thus limiting the need for aerial treatments.

Mr. Grondin made a motion to approve the purchase of the airboat and trailer from Backwater Performance, LLC for \$55,000.00. Mr. Jonte seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. New Business:

1. Discussion of updates from the weekly meeting addressing the status of the snowpack and flood potential for Churchill County. These meetings are on Thursday mornings and are intended to cover any updates relevant to the emergency declaration regarding potential flood issues from County Commissioner approved on March 2nd, 2023, and planning for such an event. Ms. Upham condensed the information she has been receiving from the weekly flood preparation meetings. There is a real threat of flooding as Lahontan Reservoir has a maximum capacity of 300,000 cubic acres of water and the TCID is predicting the May snow melt to be over 250,000 cubic acres.

The County has begun construction on a new Weir to ease the load from

the “Big Dig” that was built in 2017 in preparation for the expected flooding that year. Mr. MacKay said that there will be water in places that have not seen water in many years. The Board discussed and clarified what reservoirs and dry lake beds would be getting water and where the water would eventually end up.

Mr. Jonte asked if FEMA funds would be used to help mitigate the cost. Legal Counsel, Joe Sanford responded that FEMA funds were a reimbursement and not an upfront payment. Ms. Upham added that the County had already applied for FEMA and begun designating funds to contractors and County entities.

Mr. Jonte asked how the flooding would affect the District’s mosquito abatement efforts. Ms. Upham responded that high flows and deep water could reduce the number of source locations for larvae as they prefer shallow, slow to stagnant water. Mr. Jonte asked how far adult mosquitoes could travel and Ms. Upham said from 300ft to 3 miles. Board Secretary Melania Sagi asked Ms. Upham if it was true that mosquito larvae could lie dormant in the dirt for many years. Ms. Upham verified that they could hatch after 20 years of sitting in the ground and being exposed to viable conditions. Mr. Jonte clarified that mosquitoes typically go dormant in the fall and Ms. Upham agreed that mid-October is when the District typically sees the population decline. The Board thanked Ms. Upham for her information.

11. District Manager’s Report and Operations Review:

None

12. Board Member’s Reports:

Mr. Grondin said that he was continuing to do more research on a dry ice machine. He said that the machine could produce dry ice with a 40-45% loss of liquid CO₂ and that there were ways to trap the loss and reintegrate it for a 90% use. He was happy to do the research and is looking forward to finding more out about the process.

13. Any Request for Future Agenda Items:

None

14. Expenditures:

None

15. Public Comment:

None

16. Adjournment:

Ms. McGarrah called the meeting to a close at 6:48 PM.

Cynthia McHanna

SIGNATURE:

Chairwoman or Vice Chairman

9-14-2023

DATE: