

Churchill County Mosquito, Vector, and Noxious Weed Abatement District
Board of Trustees
Churchill County, Nevada
7400 Reno Highway
Fallon, NV 89406
Meeting October 13th, 2022
OPEN MEETING SESSION

1. Call to Order

Chairwoman, Christy Lattin called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairwoman, Christy Lattin
Vice Chairman, Michael Spencer
Trustee, Marion Jonte, Jr.
Trustee, Tom Hutchings
Trustee, Cynthia McGarrah

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

Public Present

Richard Grondin

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Review and Adoption of the Agenda:

District Manager, Nancy Upham requested that the Agenda be adopted as is. Vice Chairman, Michael Spencer, made a motion to accept the agenda as is. Trustee, Cynthia McGarrah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Discussion and Approval of Minutes from September 8th, 2022:

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes from September 8th, 2022. Trustee, 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 use of the drone (cooperatively purchased and owned with Douglas County) in Churchill County for District operations. Ms. Upham explained that the District still owned a portion of the investment of the drone purchased with Douglas County. The drone is a complicated piece of equipment to use. In addition to its fragile parts, it also requires a special Remote Pilot license, and securing it in an enclosed trailer to haul it. Ms. Upham would hate for damage to be done to the drone during transit that would leave both the District and Douglas County out of a drone. She added that she does see the benefit of using a drone in Churchill County as there are hard-to-reach areas that are unsafe to send the technicians to. Trustee, Tom Hutchings asked if Douglas County could treat those areas for us. Ms. Upham agreed that renting or establishing a contract with them could be a good solution. She explained that even at \$100-\$200 an hour, hiring Douglas County would still be affordable compared to sending a fixed-wing plane for aerial treatments. Ms. Upham offered to check into it.
2. Discussion and possible action of selling our part of the Drone cooperatively purchased and owned with Douglas County to Douglas County. Ms. Upham will be negotiating with Douglas County for the return of the District's investment in the drone. She said that the District may want to look into getting another drone in the future and especially in the event that Frey Spray is no longer available. She added that technology is always advancing so the drone purchased in the future will probably be more versatile and fit the District's needs better. Mr. Jonte made a motion to authorize the District's portion of the drone's purchase to be sold and bought back by Douglas County. Mr. Hutchings seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. New Business:

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the selection and hiring of full-time staff for the District. Ms. Upham explained that she just wanted to keep the Board apprised of the hiring situation at the District. Management is discussing the merits of maintaining the current system of a majority of full-time staff and 2 seasonal technicians or changing it as all of the senior technicians have retired.
2. Discussion and possible action regarding the selection and hiring of seasonal staff and incentives to retain seasonal staff moving into the 2023 season. Ms. Upham asked the Board if they had any suggestions for inspiring seasonal workers to return every year. Ms. Lattin suggested a bonus that increases every year they return. She added that there is a market for people looking for an 8-month job that would work well for this schedule. Ms. Upham explained that in this hiring market it is challenging to find people willing to work hard outside and that will keep coming back every year.

3. Discussion and possible action or purchasing a second A1 Mist Sprayer including attachments and accessories for no more than \$5,000.00 for potential noxious weed work. Ms. Upham explained that the A1 Mist Sprayer the District just purchased has worked well for mosquito work. Management has been discussing the merits of another, separate A1 Mist Sprayer for just noxious weeds. Mr. Hutchings asked why the District needed 2. He asked if one could be used for both or cleaned out and repurposed. Ms. Upham responded that during the season, mosquito and weed work can be done in tandem. It's potentially a waste of time, chemicals, and money to keep switching between applications since even trace amounts of the noxious weed chemicals could be detrimental in most mosquito abatement situations. Management is unsure which model they would prefer since the existing one can be mounted to the quad runners and a larger model would be limited to the pickup trucks. Ms. Lattin made a motion to table the topic until Management could provide more specifics. Ms. McGarrah seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. District Manager's Report and Operations Review:

Ms. Upham is waiting on the invoices from Frey Spray so that she can provide the Board members with the 2022 flight breakdown. Management provided staff with a gas incentive for evening fogging.

12. Board Member's Reports:

Mr. Jonte shared with the Board his experience of hearing a woman plagued with life-long disabilities from a mosquito bite in her youth. He emphasized how important this work is in preventing that from happening to anyone else.

Ms. Lattin asked that the District put more effort into getting the building dedication plaque taken care of. She also asked if it would be possible to acknowledge the recent retirees for their years of service.

13. Any Request for Future Agenda Items:

None

14. Expenditures:

September 2022 Expenditures	
Payroll:	\$51,878.09
Vendor:	\$14,404.77
Total Overall:	\$66,282.86

Mr. Jonte made a motion to accept the September 2022 Expenditures. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

15. Public Comment:

None

16. Adjournment:

Ms. Lattin called the meeting to a close at 6:16 P.M.

Christiane Lattin

SIGNATURE:

Chairwoman or Vice Chairman

11-16-22

DATE: