

# Mason Valley Mosquito Abatement District

Yerington, Nevada

## District Manager's Report

For February, 2023

February, always the end of "slow-time" and this one brought a lot of water, (just a taste of what's coming!). Two things happened last month, besides more snow.

The first and most important is we lost our aerial support! Both Alpine Helicopter Services as well as Frey Spray have closed their businesses. This effects all of the vector control districts as well as a lot of the state's ag. business. I am currently working on an agreement with Morris Ag-Air, out of Lovelock. They are the only aerial applicators left in the state. There are other out of state options but costs only go up, the further they have to travel. I have been working with Churchill MAD researching all options and costs, and so far Morris Ag-Air is the best choice. The Northern Nevada Vector Association is having a meeting in two weeks and this will be a main topic. We also invited representatives from out of state aerial services, to provide us with more detail of what they offer. What I do know is that aerial applications are a necessity in controlling mosquitos, in this environment! And the costs are about to increase. Along that line, I have been discussing our dilemma with the owner of Morris Ag-Air. They have never done mosquito work before but are willing to learn. Also, the planes they have need are not set up for ULV work. So I may have to train a pilot and set up a ULV system for the plane, (Mike, the owner has offered to lower our rate for the assistance). Currently he is contacting Frey Spray to see if he can buy or lease their equipment, if that happens we just have to train the pilot. If not, a specialized ULV system, capable of atomizing ½ oz. to 3 oz. of product, per acre will have to be installed. We have done this in the past, for Bob Nish, with Ag-Air when they were here. Anyway, Not a good year to loose air support!

Okay let's move on, as you know, this month was the American Mosquito Control's Annual Convention, and it was good! The weather did affect the attendance but overall it was still a learning experience. Over the four days, I attended 47 talks and presentations. Tuesday's subject matter was environmental effects on various mosquito populations and arbovirus transmission. Wednesday, I did pesticide resistance, and on Thursday I studied ULV work, both with planes and UAS, (drones).

A lot to take in, in a short time, but enough to chase the research you need, to "keep the toolbox full".

Ok, that's it for now, questions/comments?

B.W.Stinson



**MASON VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT**  
**27 South Main Street, Yerington, Nevada 89447**  
**Telephone/FAX (775)463.6566**

The Mason Valley Mosquito Abatement District Board held their monthly meeting  
February 8, 2023

**PRESENT:**

Joan Blake            Ed Moreda  
Linda Romero  
Alyce Reese  
Bud Stinson

**NOTE:**    Current vacant board position

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by Chairwoman, Joan Blake. In accordance with the "Nevada Open Meeting Law", the meeting is taped. The meeting tapes will be stored at the Mosquito Abatement office.

Items of Discussion:

- 1.) Motion by A. Reese to accept the February 8, **meeting agenda** as presented. Second by Ed Moreda.
- 2.) **Minutes - January 11, 2023** Motion to approve as presented, by Ed Moreda, with second by A. Reese.

**3.) DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT \*\* JANUARY 2023**

Bud still unable to do any "off road" work as to checking ditches, etc. due to mud issues every Where. Has spent his time Working in chemical shed, miscellaneous other maintenance and preparing equipment for Installation on/in the new Abatement district pickup. 2024 budget completed. Changes to budget include raising seasonal laborer position hourly wage to \$18.00 Plan to add a second part-time Laborer position at a wage of \$15.00 hr. This is in anticipation of an advanced mosquito Season resulting from the huge winter and to extreme snowpack. Seasonal positions will be Mid-May to mid-August. After 2022 season and being unable to hire anyone, perhaps By increasing wages we may get interest. Time will tell. Additional changes to 2024 budget Are raising our insurance line, to try and be ahead of the upcoming increased costs. Also Increasing chemical line from \$125K to \$150K in preparation for an abundant mosquito season. Each member received a copy of the proposed budget to review. Bud will be attending the AMCA conference at the end of February. Dates February 27- thru March 3, 2023, being held in Reno.

Noted we had one person apply for our vacant board position, Beverly Smith. She will be Sworn in at February 9<sup>th</sup> County Commissioners meeting.

4.) **BILLS January 2023.**

Ed Moreda motioned to pay January 2023 bills in the amount of \$37,064.74. Second by Linda Romero. (Note: Purchase of new vehicle = \$37,13.74 of total bills.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AR', written over a horizontal line.

Alyce Reese, Secretary