MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

SOUTHLAKE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

**MINUTES**

# July 13, 2015

1**. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Barbara Struthers. Trustees Larry Feder, Susan Levy, Roger Simonson and Tony Billoti were present. District Attorney Robert Masini and George Balis of Clarke were also in attendance. Also in attendance were Bob Stanley, a resident of Hybernia, a friend of Mr. Stanley, and Ms. Marietta Hance of Lake Bluff a new trustee on the Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District.

2**. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Stanley introduced himself as a resident of Hybernia and an environmentalist. He stated that he hoped Clarke, the Board’s contractor, uses the most environmentally sensitive types of chemicals and appropriate amounts. He expressed some concern about the extensive advertising and offers coming from smaller companies for residential mosquito control. Trustee Levy said that the District’s integrated pest management program is very environmentally sensitive. She said that the trustees had received a couple of questions on the small scale residential mosquito services and they will discuss this later in the meeting.

Ms. Hance introduced herself as a new trustee on the Lake Bluff Mosquito Abatement District. She said she had come to the meeting to see how things work at this District. She said she had several questions about the District’s web site: how it came together, how effective is it and how is the effectiveness measured. President Struthers pointed out that she expected that Ms. Hance was interested in the public education programs.

3**. MINUTES**

The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the May 11, 2015 regular meeting. Motion by Trustee Simonson, seconded by Trustee Feder to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 regular meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

4**. TREASURER’S REPORT**

A. Trustee Levy reviewed the April, May and June reports with the Trustees. She concluded by pointing out that at the end of June the District has assets of $1,073,235 available. Motion by Trustee Simonson to accept, as presented, the Treasurer’s Reports for April, May and June 2015. Seconded by Trustee Feder. All in favor. Motion Passed.

B. Trustee Levy then reviewed the Annual Financial Report for 2014-2105. The year started with $1,190,782 on May 1, 2014. The District spent $495,152 dollars during the year. The year ended on April 30, 2015 with $959,563. Trustee Levy pointed out that the trustees’ objective to reduce the surplus had been successful. She also estimates that it will be reduced further because of the weather conditions so far this season.

Trustee Struthers explained how the need for an aerial treatment at about $60,000 can be a big blow to the District’s reserves. The trustees briefly discussed the year’s expenses.

Motion by Trustee Feder to accept the Annual Financial Report for the District as presented. Seconded by Trustee Simonson. All in favor.

5**. BILLS**

The Trustees then considered the following bills:

1. Diver, Grach, Quade & Masini, LLP - $2,681.25 for legal services (plus a cost reimbursement of $300.89);
2. Clarke Mosquito Control - $39,465.90 – for adult control, harborage treatments and backpack strip applications.
3. Clarke Mosquito Control - $123,688.00 –3rd and 4th contract installments.
4. David Data Inc. - $510.00 -Web site maintenance.
5. 22nd Century Media - $570.87- production of the educational pieces.
6. Village of Bannockburn - $109.95- reimbursement for the cost of inserting the mosquito pamphlets in the mailer.
7. Smith Accounting Services - $350.00-Accounting services.
8. Barbara Struthers – 279.90-reimbursement for expenses for public education materials and activities.
9. AMCA - $300.00-annual dues for five trustees.
10. West’s Insurance Agency-$500.00- fidelity bond for Trustee Struthers.
11. Chicago Tribune - $485.40- harge for publication of annual budget and appropriation ordinance.

Mr. Balis explained, in response to Trustee Billoti’s questions, the core program services and those that are purchased outside of the contract, such as adult control and barrier treatments. Trustee Simonson moved that the bills be paid as presented. Trustee Levy seconded. Roll Call. Ayes: Levy, Struthers, Billoti, Feder, and Simonson. Nays: None.

6**. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

7**. NEW BUSINESS**

The trustees engaged in an extensive discussion of the activities of the small “skeeter-beater” operations and a recent article concerning Anderson Pest Solutions services in the Chicago area. The Anderson article listed the top ten suburban communities where they provided the greatest amount of mosquito control services. The trustees found that no communities within the District were among the top ten. This is significant because the District’s activities are part of a carefully structured integrated pest management program. Trustee Feder pointed out that the District has a record of what and where Clarke works and the type and amount of any chemicals used.

Trustee Struthers pointed out that mosquitoes do not respect municipal boundaries and that the “top ten” customer communities in Anderson’s list provide little or no mosquito control programs. Mr. Balis said that the type of programs run by the “skeeter-beater” services are mostly barrier treatments usually using the chemicals licensed by Illinois Department of Agriculture for consumer use and sold by places such as Home Depot. Trustee Levy stated that the communities where these treatments are performed do not know what is being used nor do they have any record of the treatments. This is not surprising because all is taking place on private property. The District has been WNV free through the years. The District’s contractor, Clarke, is used by the CDC when they need natural biodegradable products. Clarke’s adult control application uses ½ oz. of a natural pyrethrin per acre. The chemical has 4-8 hour life.

The trustees commented on the fact that the District received complaints last year that the District was not performing adult treatments. In fact, Clarke was spraying with an electric system that was very quiet. Clarke does its treatments after 10 p.m. and only if weather conditions permit. The work of the “skeeter-beaters” is performed during the day.

Trustee Levy reported that she spoke about the “skeeter-beater” companies with a Highland Park City Council person. It was made clear to her that the City Council is not interested in licensing such services. Mr. Balis said that the services are licensed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Trustee Billoti asked if the District could coordinate with the municipalities to control or license the services. Trustee Levy said there is communication and cooperation with the municipalities and she cited the swimming pool inspection program as an example. However, she said the City was not interested in licensing. Attorney Masini said the District has no legal authority to regulate such services.

At Trustee Feder’s request, Mr. Balis reviewed the work performed by the District in Hybernia. Trustee Levy then read to the other trustees the draft answer to the “skeeter-beater” question from State Representative Drury’s office. The trustees concurred. It was agreed to send it out and to include on the District’s website.

Ms. Hance asked whether the District could recommend Clarke to its residents for the residential services. The trustees said they could not. However, the District makes clear in its education materials the quality of services and awards received by Clarke. Trustee Levy said there is no one else available to provide the prevention services that Clarke provides. The company is a world-wide leader.

Ms. Hance asked if the Lake County Health Department could do something to promote mosquito abatement. Trustee Levy said they could not.

Mr. Stanley’s friend expressed concern over the proliferation of “skeeter-beater’s” and asked if any control could be applied to them. Mr. Balis said there is no supervisory component over such services once they are licensed by the State, other they can only use USDA authorized chemicals.

8. **Reports**

A. Trustee Reports on recent public education mailings and events. President Struthers reported that the last of the mailings is going out with the next batch of Deerfield water bills.

The Trustees reported that the Deerfield and Riverwoods events went well. The “water in tire” demonstration worked well with the kids.

President Struthers said that the new District stationary is prepared and available. Trustee Feder suggested that business cards be ordered for Trustee Billoti. He also reminded everyone of the public appearance set for July 22 in Highwood.

B. Clarke Monthly Report – Mr. Balis distributed the monthly written report to the trustees. He said the wetter and cooler weather has resulted in minimal risk currently from WNV. Culex mosquitoes are present in the area but not in large numbers. All the Gravid traps are negative thus far. He said that one person was added to the notification list and 17 reports of standing water had been received.

At 8:50 Trustee Simonson had to leave the meeting.

Trustee Billoti asked what the Ravinia Festival does for mosquito control. Mr. Balis advised that Ravinia has used Clarke for the 20+ years that he has been with the company. Ravinia uses a barrier application in its bushes and ULV pyrethrin in both bushes and tents. Larvaciding is also used in the drains.

Trustee Levy moved that the District reimburse Trustee Simonson $11.86 for the administrative materials he purchased. Seconded by Trustee Billoti. Roll Call. Ayes: Levy, Bilotti, Feder and Struthers. Nays: None. Motion passed.

9. **Adjournment**.

Trustee Levy moved that the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Trustee Billoti. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Roger Simonson

Roger Simonson, Secretary

Southlake Mosquito Abatement District