

South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District

Board Meeting Minutes

September 8th, 2025 at 2:00 pm

The Board of Trustees of the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District (SSLVMAD), Salt Lake County, State of Utah, met in a board meeting at the District offices at 7308 Airport Road, West Jordan, Utah and via Zoom with an anchor location established at the District offices.

The following board members were present Tarrah Anderson (Herriman), Jeff Bossard (Brighton), Ty Brewer (Holladay), Tish Buroker (Riverton), Silvia Catten (Millcreek), Don Christensen (West Valley), Brad Gilson (Draper), Paul Glover (Midvale), Kelvin Green (West Jordan), Kathie Johnson (South Jordan), Kristie Overson (Taylorsville), Linda Price (White City), Florence Reynolds (Sandy), Ilene Risk (Salt Lake County), Laverne Snow (Murray), and Greg Wilding (Bluffdale).

The following board members were absent: Ellen Birrell (Cottonwood Heights), and Natalie Pinkney (South Salt Lake).

Also attending were Dan McBride (District Manager), Scott Sommer (Assistant Manager), Eric Gardner (Assistant Board Clerk), and resident Gene Drake.

1. **Welcome.** Catten conducted the meeting and duly called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 2:00 pm.
2. **Citizen Comments.** No citizens commented.
3. **Board Conflicts of Interest Disclosures.** No board members disclosed any conflicts of interest.
4. **Approve Minutes.** Snow moved to approve the minutes of the July Board meeting. Risk seconded the motion, and the motion carried with all in favor, Brewer and Buroker were absent for the vote.
5. **New Board Member Oath of Office**
No new board members were present
6. **West Nile Review/Integrated Pest Management Discussion**

McBride described the history and current state of West Nile virus (WNV) generally and at SSLVMAD specifically. He noted that while a warm, dry summer may have contributed to fairly low mosquito numbers in the District in 2025, WNV activity was high, a phenomenon observed at other times and places as well. McBride described several hypotheses to explain that paradox.

- A congregation theory suggests that both birds and mosquitoes congregate near fewer remaining water sources in seasons of drought concentrating those populations in certain areas and thereby facilitating transmission of WNV.

- A drought-induced stress hypothesis suggests that birds experiencing drought stress may be more susceptible to WNV and that more virus in the bird population may lead to a greater number of infected mosquitoes.
- Birds unable to find suitable habitat in rural or undeveloped settings may move into habitat nearer developed areas that coincides with areas containing preferred habitat for WNV vector mosquito species and with human activity, thereby also facilitating disease transfer from birds to mosquitoes and potentially to humans.
- Mosquito amplification through concentrated breeding, whereby higher densities of mosquitoes in remaining suitable habitat can keep mosquito numbers high even in drought conditions.
- Dehydration-induced blood meal feeding may result in mosquitoes taking relatively more blood meals during drought stress and therefore may increase WNV transmission.
- Mosquito larval and pupal incubation times decrease as temperatures increase resulting in more generations of mosquitoes and more opportunities for potentially advantageous mutations or adaptations.
- Jevons' paradox suggests that increases in efficiency may not lead to excess resources. For example, water saved through some conservation efforts may be used elsewhere thereby shifting but not necessarily reducing mosquito habitat.
- Increased accessibility of outdoor spaces because of weather conducive to outdoor activities, development of recreation areas, etc. may increase human exposure to mosquitoes and potentially to WNV or other mosquito-borne diseases.

McBride also described the history and current state of integrated pest management generally and at SSLVMAD specifically. He described the District's multi-faceted approach to mitigating mosquito problems including through education, prevention, source reduction, biological control, and, as a last resort, chemical control using the lowest effective application rate. McBride noted that chemical control efforts at SSLVMAD are implemented in response to current local larval and adult mosquito surveillance and products are selected and applied in a way to minimize impact on non-target species. He also noted that the District monitors mosquito resistance to pesticides and can use that information to make informed decisions about product selection.

In response to questions from Catten and Price, McBride indicated that private pest control companies likely follow similar programs, but communication between the District and such companies is limited. In response to a question from Snow about arboviruses other than WNV and different mosquito species, McBride explained that the District does have an invasive mosquito plan that could be implemented in response to detection of novel mosquito species or diseases. In response to a question from Catten, McBride explained that mosquito surveillance ends by early October when mosquito activity dramatically declines due in part to reduced temperatures and reduced duration of daylight.

7. Public Notice/Updated Tax Numbers

A notice of proposed tax increase for the South Salt Lake Valley Mosquito Abatement District was presented and discussed. McBride noted that under the proposed increase the tax on a residence valued at \$600,000 would increase by \$0.77 per year and the tax on a \$600,000 business would increase by \$1.40 per year resulting in an increase in revenue for the District of \$320,000. McBride indicated that he will be presenting that information to some city councils in October or November and will retrieve minutes from those meetings and from council meetings in which board members presented the information in other municipalities.

Green moved to approve the notice of proposed tax increase; Johnson seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor. Brewer was absent for the vote.

8. Conditions of the District

McBride explained that West Nile virus has been observed throughout the District and mitigation efforts are ongoing, though at times limited by weather conditions. He noted that mosquito numbers have been fairly low and pointed out that an increase in numbers in the northern part of the District is expected to be temporary.

The District engaged in public relations events at libraries in West Jordan, Daybreak, Sandy, and South Jordan and anticipates participation at a Get to the River Event in Riverton, the Segolily Gardens Fall Festival in Sandy, and displays at Riverton, Taylorsville, and Herriman libraries. Presentations at elementary schools will begin in October.

Risk asked about the presence of St. Louis Encephalitis virus (SLEV) in the District and McBride explained observations of SLEV positive mosquito pools near the northern boundary of the District. In response to questions from Reynolds, McBride indicated that public health officials handle most messaging about arboviruses. Risk and McBride noted that non-severe cases of arboviruses are likely under-reported.

McBride reported 65 WNV positive mosquito pools at SSLVMAD, 152 in Salt Lake County, and 325 in Utah. Two human cases have been reported in SSLVMAD, a total of 3 in Salt Lake County, and 19 in Utah. He also reported that 4 SLEV positive mosquito pools have been detected at SSLVMAD and 14 in Salt Lake County. No human cases of SLEV have been reported in Utah. McBride will continue to participate in bi-weekly Utah arboviral phone calls organized through the Department of Health and Human Services, and arbovirus surveillance at SSLVMAD will continue through September and into October if necessary.

McBride further reported that the total acres treated at SSLVMAD is below average, as is the number of mosquitoes in surveillance traps, and the number of service requests received.

Upcoming conferences include the annual meeting of the Utah Mosquito Abatement Association in October and the annual meeting of the Utah Association of Special Districts in November.

Safety goals since the last board meeting were met and 2 incidents were reported and are under investigation.

9. **Board Meeting Items for October 13th Meeting**

McBride noted that the fraud risk assessment should be completed in time for presentation at the October 13th meeting.

10. **Approve Bills.** Overson moved to approve the bills; Bossard seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor; Brewer was absent for the vote.

11. **Adjourn.** Wilding moved to adjourn the meeting, Gilson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm.

DRAFT