

**North Fork Mosquito
Abatement District**



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Agenda Notes: February 16, 2015
Meeting at the Hive Bldg. NFMAD office
6:00 pm

6:00 pm: Call to Order
-Additions/Corrections to February 16, 2015 Agenda

-Treasurer's Report
-January Financials in Packet

There are two copies of the December financials for the Board to review at the meeting if you haven't seen the online posting.

-Vote on Exemption from Audit 2014
Approval of Exemption from Audit paperwork prepared by Robyn requires 3 board member signatures to file.

-\$5000 grant approval
Rain applied for a grant from the Planetary Heritage Foundation, which has been awarded in the amount of \$5000. The grant will be processed by the Western Slope Conservation Center, as in previous years. Rain has been in contact with Sarah Sauter by telephone and email to eliminate the delays experienced in the pass-through in the 2013 and 2014 seasons. This will likely be the last grant possible from PHF due to the foundation changing focus to oceanographic research grants.

-Worker's Compensation Insurance review

Unfortunately, the large reduction in Worker's Compensation insurance obtained by Robyn in 2013, has been obliterated by the increase in the 2015 premiums, due to reclassification of our crew as "irrigation and waterways" employees, rather than pest control. Rain has contacted American Family Insurance of Delta to explore a change of company. This will require ALL insurance (truck, building, liability, worker's comp, etc) being moved to a new company to achieve competitive pricing. Robyn has been unsuccessful negotiating with the current company's representative, and the immediate superior, enduring rude and nasty behavior!

**Note: In the certification of the mill levy, Robyn was informed that the Old River Trading Post and the Solar Energy Institute have been reclassified as "schools", therefore no mill levy for the District will be forthcoming. This further reduces the yearly budget and underlines the need for the towns and county to subsidize public parks, recreation areas, schools, and roadsides, particularly given that over 50% of the entire operating budget goes to mosquito abatement and control of these areas. The Delta county Fairgrounds alone cost between 8-10% of the operating budget.

-Ongoing Business

-Review of Possible Inclusions/filing/Map/Forms

Copies of proposed letters, and petition were included in the Board packet, as well as a copy of the mill levy amounts for each proposed property, prepared by Rain using the Delta County assessor records online.

Last week of March, the letters will be delivered to the proposed properties, followed up by a visit by Chris Tschinkel if the homeowner isn't available. A further visit to evaluate the site and add the data to the appropriate grid folder and ops plan will be made if necessary.

All petitions must be adopted in one resolution by the NFMAD board, then filed with the county assessor's office before May 1, 2015, so the entire process will take place between last week of March and the third week of April, before the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Language was added to the letter for possible donation of funds to the District, given that no mill levy will be received for these inclusion properties until year 2016.

-Review Physical mitigation hotspot areas map

A review of the physical mitigation list for spring of 2015 occurred and Zach added information about his own property, Carston's fields, Beck's property, and other lower Hotchkiss hotspots that can be mitigated using back and track hoe equipment.

-Trucks: R/M, Flood lights, auction

Mike Gillespie, owner of the The Living Farm café, has a well-maintained 1982 small pickup with bed cover for sale for \$2500 the Board has decided to purchase as a trapping truck.

-Insurance will be active on the fleet of trucks on April 1st, and maintenance will be scheduled for April. Flood lights will be installed on the trucks by Zach.

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-Operations Manual

Due to the new requirements for recordkeeping and filing with the state Public Health and Environment/water division annual report, Rain and Chris have been working to revamp all forms, data cards, etc., into an ongoing system on the office computer.

This is partially due to an email request for further information and mapping of treatments applied to each area of the District in 2014 by John Nielund, water division of CDPHE. Apparently, John had finally caught up to the PDMP and Compliance Certificate paperwork Rain filed in May 2014. The government oversight and reporting requirements have now changed as a result of the dozens

of "water quality and general permitting" meetings in Denver, many of which Rain attended by webinar.

The letters and emails of protest sent by Rain for the Board about the fee schedule that had been proposed for mosquito districts, apparently had at least some impact, since NFMAD will not be on the list of "revenue enhancement Districts"!!!

John Nielund informed Rain that the Compliance Certificate is now an Annual Report, due by 2/1/16, accompanied by copies of all areas treated with barrier, attractant baits, larval products, and adulticide. When John was made aware of the hundreds of sheets of paper this would require, he expressed surprise and dismay given that most districts file 2 pages....one map, one sheet of the adulticide products used.

Hence, a new folder structure, all data will be added to the site folder, cards can be scanned, and the entire annual report can be put onto a thumb drive or disk to send to Denver.

Manual for Operations and Procedures

Chris spent hours working with Jeremy Puckett, formerly of Delta Cty. Mapping office, consulting and learning the ARC GIS mapping software. All of the data from 2013 and 2014 seasons has been added to the grid maps, and Chris has compiled listings of ponds, irrigation ponds and channels, riverfront, natural springs, etc., with corresponding protocols for surveillance, analysis, and product application.

In addition, a physical mitigation list and map has been generated, including burn areas. Doug Fritz, the captain of the Hotchkiss Volunteer Fire department, has the list and a schedule of "watchful waiting" for late March/April for the opportune time to do the burning.

Any areas that would benefit from physical mitigation should be written up for Chris to add to the list and plans for spring and fall.

Also, in early April, Chris would like to meet with Shelley and tour the area where she lives, the RR, and the irrigation works.

A listing of ponds on Roger's Mesa, outside of the District, is being generated, for possible sale of briquette/ingot Altosid products.

Trap sites have been refined, routes mapped, and nights decided for 2015. The ID/counting team of Cedar Keshet and Lulu Volkhausen are coming back for the 2015 season, likely the end of May/early June depending on the weather...basically when trapping commences. If the inclusion process goes as planned, 1-2 additional trap sites may be necessary to keep surveillance information complete, although most of the sites are already served by a trap location.

Given the warm weather in February (geesh!), hopefully the predicted drop in temperatures, and rain/snow arrive on Monday as predicted!!!

Inventory Control/ Product Ordering

Chris has created a weekly inventory sheet, and revamped the stocking of the trucks, and signing out of product procedures due to confusion with two previous employees in 2014. This will give tighter control over product usage, and allow for specific ordering.

The leftover larval products in the county roadhouse will remain until May and nightly freezing is mostly past.

Crew/Payroll/Handbook

The rewrite of the employee handbook is almost complete, including a new non-disclosure of information and a zero tolerance form that all crew will be required to sign. This will cover posting on social media, or other websites, newspapers, bulletin boards, or casual conversation in public, about trap locations, counts, data, RAMP tests, etc. Basically, do not discuss the operations and procedures with non-crew members, and all trap and testing data is privileged and protected public health documentation.

Each crew member will also sign a "Grounds for Immediate Dismissal" zero tolerance form that covers drugs, alcohol, or any

other impairment of faculties, whether prescription or not. The Handbook now includes the guidelines for "behavior appropriate for an NFMAD representative".

Robyn has defined the payroll schedule for the 2015 season, and checks will once again be electronically deposited for all employees.

Website

Rain has concluded the transfer and backup of all website data, pages, agendas, minutes, financials, announcements, trap tables, etc. for the 2013 and 2014. Whew! A Dropbox free cloud account has been opened and all Board members and the Field Manager have been added to several shared files.

The new Divi theme has been downloaded, and the primary pages created by Rain, and porting of the website will happen by the end of February.

The new site will be responsive, so easily viewed on mobile devices and tablets, as well as desktop computers. Adding information to the ongoing trap tables, aduicide spraying announcements and notification, news and PR articles and images, will all be easy to add to the site.

-New Business

-West Central Mosquito Conference/ Jirik visit
WCMVC Conference Moab

On March 11/12, the WCMVC conference will take place at the Red Cliff Inn in Moab. Rain investigated the costs involved, basically totally to \$650 for fuel, room and board, conference fees, and attempted to find a schedule of lectures/presentations. Nothing is available for 2015, so she reviewed previous years, was not terribly impressed by what was offered for the money spent, and decided to forego.

Gale Jirik:

Rain had a telephone call with Gale, and he will be offering the OSHA training and testing for employees and Mosquito 101 training in surveillance/treatment, etc., in April, likely in Grand Junction. Also in late April or early May, Gale will come to Paonia and droplet test and calibrate all equipment, including the ATV-mounted sprayer at Zach's.

-Transparency/Annual Report/Certification 2016
**Under Ongoing Business

-2015 public event calendar/BOCC
Calendar of Events

Rain has made a calendar of events including Delta County Fairgrounds, Hotchkiss Willow Heights Park, downtown Hotchkiss, Paonia Town Park, Volunteer Park, Apple Valley Park, River Park, Rodeo grounds, all Delta county schools, and a few "off book" schools within the District. In addition, she also contacted Zephyros farms, Fresh and Wyld, Delicious Orchards, Orchard Valley Farms, The Living Farm, and the LF café, for a listing of any weddings, special music events, camps etc.,

We must approach the county commissioners for financial assistance with public spaces, parks, recreation, and schools! After tabulation of 2013, and 2014, it is significantly impacting NFMAD abilities to control mosquitoes, given that over 50% of the budget goes towards public venues, for which we receive nothing.

There has been an overall increase of about 18% in proposed public events at the library, parks, and public areas for 2015, which includes Ride the Rockies camping in all areas, including the high school playing fields.

-Announcements: Next Board meeting: March 16, 2015, 6pm

-no public present, so no comments

Adjournment was 9:03pm

Respectfully submitted by President Rain Klepper
