

North Fork Mosquito Abatement District

Regular Board Meeting – Hotchkiss Town Hall

April 21, 2014

Present: President/Chair – Rain Klepper, Secretary Treasurer - Tom Wills, and Glenn Austin. Absent: Vice-Chair – Dee Dee Durrance and Zach Hotchkiss. Also present: District accountant – Robyn Reinhardt.

Chair Rain Klepper called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. The minutes of the March 17 meeting in Hotchkiss were approved as written. There was some discussion about the minutes that are usually posted on the website as soon as they are written and preliminarily reviewed being identified as “draft” minutes.

Treasurer’s Report:

The District accountant, Robyn Reinhardt, presented a written report listing total cash on hand as of March 31, 2014 of \$35,087.94 including \$3,811.30 in the TABOR account. The District received larger payments of property taxes/SPO tax of \$28,985.57 during March. Total income for the year to date is \$32,453.47. Expenses for the month of March were \$2,648.24, with \$9,579.95 for the year to date. Tax receipts will continue flowing in at a similar rate over the next few months.

A \$10,000 materials order has been submitted and will be paid on May 10.

The new ATV mounted sprayer will need to be ordered by the first of May.

Payroll period officially begins on April 21.

Operations:

Rain Klepper reported that NFMAD will move into the new office space at The Hive (old TDS building) in Paonia on May 1. Only Chris, Rain, and Robyn will have direct access to the office. The RAMP, and other lab equipment as well as records and computers will be put in place. Volunteer, Dave Weber, will set up the computer systems as well as working on the website.

There was a successful burn-off of cattails east of Coal Road that will allow more effective treatment of the swamp area that is a large producer of mosquitos in Hotchkiss. Thanks go out to property owner Andrea Robinsong and the Hotchkiss Fire Department and Chief Doug Fritz.

Also due to diligent early surveillance by Manager Chris Tschinkel, it was determined that, despite cooler temperatures at times, mosquitoes were developing by mid-April, particularly at Pumpkin Hollow and at the Hotchkiss Fairgrounds. Operations Committee recommends that in future that the payroll season be extended to April 1 (from April 21) to September 30. Employees Lee Owlsley and Richie Sanchez have been working with Chris and treated the early hotspots with larvacide, which should slow things down when the steady warm weather really hits in May. A sudden hatch of adult mosquitos near the river in Hotchkiss was eliminated by the return of colder temperatures.

Kudos to Tschinkel from both the Board and public at large. Tschinkel has been engaged in many hours of early PR education of residents along with coordinating mitigation efforts. Improvement should be seen particularly in the Pumpkin Hollow area when some residents have, with Tschinkel's help, become more pro-active and aware.

Thanks also to Delta County for moving decisively to install pipe and drain ditch at the Fairgrounds in Hotchkiss and hopefully move excess tail water off the Maloney part of the property to the river. The area seems to be the canary in the coal mine as far as local mosquito breeding goes and will be monitored closely through the season. There will still be considerable expense in the treating other portions of the Fairgrounds area and donations will be sought from Fair Board and the Commissioners to mitigate that somewhat.

Ads have been placed in the Merchant Herald and Shopper for additional field techs as the season heats up.

Some sprayer maintenance training and droplet testing on the two truck-mounted units took place on April 17 in Grand Junction. There will be a personnel training session with Gale Jerik of Adaptco on May 20. Jerik will also calibrate all District spray equipment when he is here.

Board vacancy: A vacancy on the board will be declared as of the May 19 meeting. Any adult resident of the district or property owner within the district is eligible to apply for the appointment. Tom Wills is leaving the board but will remain as a volunteer coordinating the writing of a long term strategic plan for the District. Wills is now serving once again on the Hotchkiss Town Council.

The next regular board meeting will take place at Hotchkiss Town Hall on Monday, May 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Wills – NFMAD secretary/treasurer