

**MINUTES**  
**UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
Joint Board of Commissioners and West Umatilla Mosquito Control District Board of Trustees  
Meeting of April 30, 2012  
3:00 p.m., Board Room, West Umatilla Mosquito Control District Offices  
Hermiston, Oregon

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**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Larry Givens, Chair; Dennis Doherty, Vice Chair; Bill Elfering, Commissioner

**WUMCD BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Glen Chowning, Chairman; Bill Caplinger, Karen Hutchinson-Talaski; Marie Baldo; Genni Lehnert-Beers (ex officio)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Randy Gerard, WUMCD Manager; Connie Caplinger, Umatilla County Executive Assistant; Janie Cuellar, WUMCD Office Manager, Andrew Ross, WUMCD Technical Specialist

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**CALL TO ORDER**

The general meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. by Umatilla County Board of Commissioners Chair Larry Givens, who apologized for the delay of the start of the meeting and stated that the Umatilla Basin Water Commission meeting lasted longer than expected. He declared the meeting a public forum and after the boards were called to order that there would be a round of self-introductions.

**BUSINESS ON AGENDA**

**Reports:**

1. **Briefing from the WUMCD Board Chairman, Glen Chowning:** Chair Chowning reported that there were continuing goals carried over from 2011 to 2012 and that the district's ability to serve the area in terms of both prevention and eradication of mosquitos continued to improve along with the district's finances. The district was preparing to begin its annual aerial spraying, primarily to eradicate the insects in the larval stages. The area of greatest concern continued to be the area around Wanaket and the concerns expressed by the Tribes related to the chemicals used to eradicate the mosquitoes. The chemical used for the eradication of the larval stage mosquitoes was the only method acceptable by the Tribes for control.

Commissioner Elfering asked how the application of the chemicals was achieved. Randy Gerard replied that the district used two types of aircraft for the application, both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. The purpose of the helicopters was to ensure accuracy when spraying near certified organic field locations.

Glen Chowning added that the property inspection program would begin in late May to early June, dependent upon the beginning of the mosquito breeding season.

The district had begun using a barrier treatment program more often in response to the increase in organic

farming in the district boundaries and close to those boundaries.

The district was awaiting delivery on a shallow water capable boat to be used in the rivers and at Cold Springs where it was difficult to access mosquito breeding locations overland. Randy Gerard reported that the addition of the boat to the fleet would allow access to approximately 500 more acres. Glen Chowning added that the purpose of accessing the shallows was to make a pre-emptive attack on the insects before they became a greater problem. Genni Lehnert-Beers added that the entire project was focused on the pro-active approach, even with the outreach programs. The boat and, especially, the trailer were important in that process.

Glen Chowning emphasized that the past three years had been a transition and building period for the district. The board seemed to agree that the district achieved a smooth transition to the present. The district had progressed to setting up reserve funds for capital outlay and insecticides and the goal was to have two years of operating expenses in reserve with phasing out of the interim loan program. He noted that this process was aided by the brief overlap of the levies for the district and emphasized that any residual funds would be directed toward that goal of holding 2 years' operating costs in reserve.

Commissioner Givens asked about the operational status of the district. Glen Chowning responded that the district team was very effective. Karen Hutchinson-Talaski agreed and Bill Caplinger commented that the management team had the ability to address circumstances as they arose and that the board had confidence in the team's abilities.

Commissioner Doherty asked what made the barrier treatment program effective. Randy Gerard explained that it was targeted to a small location, but that the preferred method would be adulticide. Commissioner Doherty asked whether the mosquitoes were migratory. Randy Gerard replied that the species in the Wanaket area had a 20 mile range of travel.

Commissioner Doherty asked if the barrier treatment program was effective. Bill Caplinger replied that it was not particularly effective, but without Tribal cooperation, it was the only method available to the district in locations adjacent to and in Wanaket.

Commissioner Doherty asked if Morrow County coordinated with the district. Randy Gerard replied that the two districts coordinated their spraying program.

Commissioner Givens asked about coordination with Benton County, in Washington. Randy Gerard replied that the Benton County district was not covered to the county's southern border. Their district was focused on the Tri-Cities area. Therefore, the boundary was primarily a Corps of Engineers' issue.

Commissioner Givens asked if the Tribes' restriction from using adulticide, but allowing larvicide was the same as the Corps' restrictions. Randy Gerard stated that the district office received a call once a year from the corps related to their control preferences, but their preference remained ambiguous. Commissioner Givens asked if the district wanted county involvement with the Corps. There was some discussion of the boundary between the Corps' districts and how they overlapped into the control district. Randy Gerard established that the Walla Walla district constituted the property north of the I-82 bridge across the Columbia. That district did not press for any reports where the Portland district, south of the bridge, required health threat documentation before permitting any control action.

Commissioner Doherty asked whether the district had a shared well for its water or its own. Glen Chowning replied that the district installed its own well in the past year rather than share it with nearby businesses.

Commissioner Elfering asked why the difference between \$1.5 million and \$800,000. Glen Chowning replied that the difference represented the balance of the annual carryover.

Commissioner Givens asked how the district viewed the relations with the Tribes. Randy Gerard commented that the district staff had developed a relationship with the current wildlife manager and his staff and plan to maintain contact.

Commissioner Doherty commented that the district had come a long way, that there were no negative comments, the reports were good. Connie Caplinger announced that the Board of Commissioners were to appoint members to the district board at their meeting on the following day, May 1, 2013.

Commissioner Givens asked if the district had given thought to expanding. Bill Caplinger replied that since it seemed that the district would be required to disband and then re-start, the concept was shelved. Randy Gerard suggested that if there were ideas regarding the development of a district in the east part of the county that he would not think the district could take on that territory due to the geographical distance. However, the district would be happy to assist a new district in its development. Glen Chowning added that the district was currently small enough to retain its focus. Bill Elfering suggested that if a second district was developed, the two could cooperate.

Genni Lehnert-Beers reported that there was currently some lack of clarity regarding the process of collection of deceased birds for West Nile Virus testing. Depending upon where one looked, a permit was either required or not, creating the risk of running afoul of ODF&W.

Personnel matters were much more relaxed. Marie Baldo commented that the staff and board had lived through some bad times, but had developed into a good team. Commissioner Doherty noted that the district was still using the special districts association by-laws.

Commissioner Doherty took note of Andrew Ross and asked him to fill in the Board of Commissioners on his background, noting that Andrew Ross' family was from the area. Andrew Ross reported that he had worked for the district as a seasonal employee for about 5 years and, then after college, spent time working in pest control in New York City. He gained a variety of experiences there.

**Plan:**

Randy Gerard provided a brief overview of the appendices of the district's written plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year. The plan also produced a new set of emergency criteria. The discharge management plan was based in part on the MPDS permit. Commissioner Doherty commented that the plan seemed to be well balanced and that the passage of the levy conveyed that the district had established trust with the community. Marie Baldo stated that the management practices were well founded. Glen Chowning added that the district's equipment was state of the arte and well maintained and the data base program helped considerably with documentation of the practices and processes. Randy Gerard stated that the inspections were schedule driven.

Commissioner Givens commented that if the changes within the district offices had not taken place prior to

the levy vote, he felt that it would not have passed and attributed the passage to the improvements made in the district team. He asked if there were any problems with the EPA and DEQ's proposed changes and requested that the district let the commissioners know if anything related to those came up.

Connie Caplinger reminded the district staff and board that the next round of applications for the Echo Community Benefit Plan grants were due before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Other Discussion:** None.

**Public Input:** None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Headley  
Executive Secretary  
Umatilla County  
Board of Commissioners