

**Crook County Vector Control Board**  
**Minutes from 01-07-20 Meeting**

Present: Ken Fahlgren, Tom Teaford, Tom Green, Cliff Kiser, Bob Hindman, and Jeff Benkosky

Ken called the meeting to order.

Meeting minutes from 09-04-19 were approved unanimously.

Vehicles

At our last meeting on 09-04-19:

- the Board authorized Cliff to spend up to \$13,000 for a new 4x4 to add an additional vehicle to our fleet (a 6x6 was preferable but no longer made), and
- Purchase a new motor for the 2016 Polaris side-by-side.

Vehicle Update

*New 4x4:*

Instead of buying a new 4x4, a used 2014 (?) Polaris 6x6 in very good condition was found and purchased for \$13,750.

*New motor:*

Cliff purchased a new motor from John Day Polaris and has started the motor replacement process.

GPS Update

Our current distributor, Frontier Precision, no longer supports our current hand-held system and we will have to update our software and equipment to the next generation. The new system, called *Field Seeker*, is also being bought/used by vector control districts. We have had our existing system for 6-7 years and the time has come to update. Cliff wants to implement the new system ASAP. Estimated costs are as follows:

• Office software	\$1,500.00
• Mobile software	1,000.00
• GIS Online Creator	500.00
• Arc GIS license	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$3,500.00

There is also an additional annual \$700 service fee. Cliff said new hardware will also be required, but he does not yet have its cost.

Tom Green made a motion to authorize \$3,500.00 for the above itemized costs. Bob seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Rather than call a special meeting just to discuss/approve purchase of the new hardware, there was consensus that Cliff will text/email Board Members to propose purchasing the new hardware as soon as he has the costs and the Board will act on the proposal via text or email.

## Convention News

The National Association of Mosquito Control (NAMC) will have their annual conference this year in Portland. There is no agenda yet, but conference will be at the Oregon Convention Center March 16-20. There will be multiple presentations throughout the week. Cliff will be attending the entire conference and volunteering to help the NAMC put on the convention. Registration for Cliff is \$400 +/- and for one person per day is \$160. Ken suggested some of the Board members should attend a few days if possible. Right now, we are waiting for the agenda to see which presentations we might want to attend. Cliff will monitor [www.amca.org](http://www.amca.org) for the agenda and will let Board members know when it is available.

## Drones

Cliff provided an update on the feasibility of using drones for mosquito control. An earlier model said to be capable of carrying and distributing chemical payload has not worked out. Cliff said current model, capable of carrying/distributing 35 lbs of chemical may work better, but suggested that \$40,000 is too expensive for the CCVCD and the Board concurred.

## West Nile Virus (WNV)

Cliff learned about the case of a local horse contracting WNV after the mosquito season. Cliff said he checked the two areas (Paulina and an area in the north Crooked River valley) where a horse had contracted WNV this past summer. He found mosquito habitat and confirmed the areas were not inside CCVCD. No additional action was warranted or taken at that time, although Emilio Debess of the Oregon State Health Department has asked for some surveillance this next season in order to attempt to locate the origin and provide advanced warning in the future.

Tom Green suggested developing some type of handout on how to avoid mosquito infestations. Cliff said there is a fair amount of literature already available. He added that he had prepared a power point presentation titled "Irrigation and Mosquito Management" and advertised 3 or 4 presentations to irrigators within the District. He received almost no response. Cliff said his best success at mosquito management education remains face-to-face meetings with individual irrigators.

## New Board Member

Jeff Benkosky is now an official Board member. A copy of his Certificate of Appointment from the Crook County Clerk is included in these notes as an attachment.

## Future meetings

There was discussion about moving our dinner meetings to a possible conference area at the Sandwich Factory. Cliff will follow up on this.

The meeting was adjourned.

## Attachment

Certificate of Appointment for Jeff Benkosky (1 page)

