

Regular Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District Meeting held May 13, 2026

Members Present: Andy Haymond, Hank Irick, Assistant Secretary Bruce Johnson, Vice President Dr. Larry Kirk, Steve Ostling, President Sheppard, Member Schuster, and Eric Smith.

Members Excused: Darlene Fredericks, Philip LaRocca, and Carl Starkey.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: District Manager Matt Ball, Assistant Manager Aaron Lumsden, Administrative Manager Maritza Sandoval, and Vector Ecologist/Fish Biologist Ryan Rothenwander.

1. The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District held on May 13, 2026, at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.
2. The May 13, 2026, Butte County Mosquito and Vector Control District regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 PM by President Sheppard.
3. Seeing and hearing no persons wishing to address the Board on items not on the agenda, President Sheppard proceeded to request approval of the minutes.
4. After review, it was then moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Ostling, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays with President Sheppard and Member Schuster abstaining due to their excused absence to approve the minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting held April 8, 2026, as written.
5. No persons wishing to address the Board on closed session matters.
6. No closed session matters needing legal counsel.
7. The District Manager introduced new Trustee, Hank Irick who was appointed by the County of Glenn.
8. Public Hearing: Pursuant to AB 2561, Government Code 3502.3. (a) (1) A public agency shall present the status of vacancies and recruitment and retention efforts during a public hearing before the governing board at least once per fiscal year. (2) If the governing board will be adopting an annual or multiyear budget during the fiscal year, the presentation shall be made prior to the adoption of the final budget. (3) During the hearing, the public agency shall identify any necessary changes to policies, procedures, and recruitment activities that may lead to obstacles in the hiring process.

The Board President opened the public hearing at 4:05 PM. The District Manager reported no vacancies.

The Board President closed the public hearing at 4:06 PM.

9. Reports (9.1 – 9.2)
 - 9.1 Under item 9.1 of reports, On April 9, 2026, the District Manager reported that the District completed the monthly management meeting, staff meeting, and all vehicle inspections. The District's Safety Committee held their monthly meeting as well as management. District management also attended a webinar presented by Civic Plus on the new ways the District can change the homepage of the District's website.

On April 10, 2026, the District Manager attended the biweekly Legislative Regulatory Committee call. MVCAC lobbyists and committee members reviewed legislation and current regulatory issues.

On April 13, 2026, District management met to review and discuss the District's current data collection software and formulate a consensus for what is liked, needed, and desired as to provide the best possible direction to CSU Chico regarding the project between the District and CSU Chico.

On April 14, 2026, the District Manager attended the monthly MVCAC Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting. Topics discussed were cannabis, Pollinator Protection Act, storm water recapture, the Monarch butterfly, and the new draft of the NPDES Permit.

On April 16, 2026, District management attended the Butte County Special Districts Association meeting held at Chico. The association is still trying to regain its strength in numbers and trying to again be a notable and recognized chapter.

During the week of April 20, 2026, District management met with and interviewed prospective applicants for the open Mosquito and Vector Control Specialist I position.

On April 21, 2026, the District Manager attended the MVCAC Budget Reviewing meeting held remotely.

On April 23, 2026, District management attended the Sac Valley Region meeting. The meeting covered the upcoming MVCAC Board meeting including the MVCAC annual budget, heard reports from MVCAC committees, the VCJPA, CDPH, industry, and MVCD regions.

On April 24, 2026, the District Manager attended the biweekly Legislative Regulatory Committee call. MVCAC lobbyists and committee members reviewed legislation and current regulatory issues throughout the state.

On April 28, 2026, the District Manager provide newly appointed Trustee, Hank Irick, a tour of the District.

On April 29, 2026, the District management team had their biannual management meeting. The team discussed and reviewed the off-season projects that were currently being worked on and completed, reviewed staffing for the upcoming mosquito season, reviewed surveillance and control strategies, and discussed the budget.

On April 30, 2026, District management attended CSDA's Disaster Recovery webinar.

On May 5, 2026, the District Manager met with representatives of Valent Biosciences to discuss the future.

On May 6, 2026, District management attended a webinar on incident investigation. The District Manager also met with representatives of VC3 to learn more about information technology options for the District.

On May 8, 2026, the District Manager attended the biweekly Legislative Regulatory Committee call. MVCAC lobbyists and committee members reviewed legislation and current regulatory issues.

On May 11, 2026, the District Manager attended the monthly WNV Task Force meeting.

On May 12, 2026, the District Manager attended the monthly MVCAC Regulatory Affairs Committee meeting. Topics discussed were cannabis, Pollinator Protection Act, storm water recapture, the Monarch butterfly, and the new draft of the NPDES Permit.

9.2 Under item 9.2 of reports, the Assistant Manager reported that tick surveillance has concluded for the season. A total of 95 tick pools have been submitted for testing; the District is still waiting for results. Areas where pools were collected include Bidwell Park, Lime Saddle, Lake Wyandotte, and Loafer Creek. The District's New Jersey light traps and gravid traps were deployed on April 20, 2026. All traps are operational and have begun collecting mosquitoes. Mosquito populations are on par with previous years, except for *Culex pipiens* populations which have spiked recently. The increase in populations is likely due to very high March temperatures and inclement weather over the past month. CO2 trapping will commence in the week of May 18.

No West Nile virus (WNV) activity has been reported within the District's service area. At the time the report was created WNV had been identified in 3 dead birds in California.

The District's four indoor fish tanks continue to operate normally and produced 16,499 fry for the month of April. The Vector Ecologist / Fish Biologist is maintaining the stock in each rearing tank and is preparing to conduct annual maintenance on the system as soon as our ponds are fully operational for the year. The District is planning to place the public fish tanks in the field no later than June 4th. Currently, the District ponds look healthy and loaded with fish.

Mosquito and Vector Control Specialists (Specialists) have continued with winter/spring mosquito surveillance and treatments in rock pits, dredger pits, flood water areas, agricultural, ditches, drains and urban sources. Specialists have also continued with annual training, calibration, maintenance, required annual reading, and winter compound projects. Most recently all District buildings were painted in Oroville and Chico. Service requests for inspections, fish, and treatments have increased, with a total of 38 requests taken in the month of April. Spray request opened on May 4, 2026.

Under Air Operations, annual maintenance on all District aircraft has been completed for the year with a few technical adjustments being made. Air Operations have also been busy with characterizing the aircraft and training flights to ensure all equipment is operating within the normal limits. No aerial treatments have been made thus far for the year.

The Public Relations (PR) Department reported the District's public service announcements began in May on newspapers, radio, television, digital advertising, billboards, bus stop shelters, and on buses. The Public Relations Department continues to review and update the District's website, brochures, photo and video files, and other informational documents as needed. The District attended the Chico Home and Garden Show on April 18th and 19th, the Gold Nugget Craft Fair on April 25th and 26th, Annual Kid's Fishing Day on May 9th, and will be attending the Red Suspenders Day Parade on May 16th.

After this final item of reports, President Sheppard asked the District Manager to proceed to policy matters.

10. Policy matters (10.1 – 10.3)

- 10.1 Under item 10.1 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider reviewing the Hamilton City Benefit Assessment. It was the recommendation of the District Manager to maintain the current level of service provided to Hamilton City based on previous discussions with a representative from Hamilton City and having no complaints from the residents of Hamilton City. It was then moved by Member Schuster, seconded by Member Johnson, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to continue the same level of service provided to Hamilton City.
- 10.2 Under item 10.2 of policy matters, the Board was asked to consider approving and the adoption of a new Personnel Policy, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Policy 7228, as recommended by the VCJPA, CSDA, legal, and the District's third-party technical support firm. After a discussion, it was then moved by Member Irick, seconded by Member Johnson, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to adopt new Personnel Policy, Artificial Intelligence (AI) 7228 policy with an amendment as discussed and recommended by the Board.
- 10.3 Under item 10.3 of policy matters, the Board was asked to declare various items on the District's asset list surplus to need and authorize the pieces to be disposed of. It was then moved by Member Schuster, seconded by Member Johnson, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes and 0 nays to declare various items on the District's asset list surplus to need and authorize the pieces to be disposed of.
11. Under topic of the month, the Vector Ecologist/Fish Biologist gave a presentation on dengue fever.
12. After reviewing the demands made upon the District for the past month, it was then moved by Member Johnson, seconded by Member Ostling, and passed unanimously with a vote of 8 ayes 0 nays to authorize checks numbered 56914 through 57027 be signed and distributed. Expenditures for the month totaled \$585,264.41.
13. Under personnel, the District Manager reported that on April 9, 2026, MVCS III, Aaron Goff announced that he intended to resign on April 9, 2026. On May 4, 2026, Erin Carmichael commenced employment with the District as a MVCS I.
14. Under correspondence, the District Manager reviewed with the Board a letter from Glenn County Board of Supervisors.
15. No other business to report.
16. No persons wishing to address the Board pertaining to closed session matters.
17. No closed session item to report.
18. President Sheppard announced adjournment at 5:09 PM and concluded by stating that the next regular meeting of the BCMVCD Board of Trustees would meet at 4:00 PM on June 10, 2026, at the Chico Substation's Board Room at 444 Otterson Drive, Chico, CA 95928.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Schuster,
Secretary