Minutes
Zoom Meeting

Present

AMCA Board Members in Attendance
President Dr. Ary Faraji
President-Elect Dr. Mark Breidenbaugh
Vice President Mr. Dennis Wallette
Past President Mr. Jason Kinley
Treasurer Mr. Gary Hatch
Industry Director Dr. Broox Boze
International Director Dr. Catalina Alfonso-Parra
North Atlantic Director Mrs. Priscilla Matton
South Atlantic Director Mr. Christopher Lesser
West Central Director Dr. Lee Cohnstaedt
South Central Director Mr. Herff Jones
North Central Director Dr. Mark Clifton
North Pacific Director Mr. Gregory Barron
South Pacific Director Mr. Gary Goodman

Absences
Mid-Atlantic Director Dr. Brian Byrd

Staff in Attendance
Megan MacNee, Executive Director; Natalie Perry, Events Manager; Nito Goolan, Accounting Manager, Evan Wise, Membership Manager

Guests in Attendance
Angela Beehler, Chair, Legislative and Regulatory Committee
David Brown, AMCA Technical Advisor
Dr. Kristen Healy, AMCA Vice President-Elect

Call to Order/Agenda/Minutes

Meeting was called to order by President Ary Faraji at 10:03 am. Dr. Faraji welcomed Dr. Healy to the call.

• Motion to approve the agenda was moved, seconded, and carried. (Mr. Wallette/ Mr. Goodman)
• Motion to approve the minutes was moved, seconded, and carried. (Mr. Goodman/Ms. Matton).

Membership Update

Mr. Wise provided an update on the membership renewals to date. Overall, we have exceeded the 2020-21 membership goal and continue to receive new memberships/renewals daily. This includes an expected returning sustaining government member who has not renewed in recent years.
American Mosquito Control Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, 28 January 2021

Treasurer’s Report

November 2020 Financial Reports

Treasurer Gary Hatch reviewed the November 2020 Financial Report. Mr. Hatch highlighted the membership revenue exceeding the budget, and the publications revenue falling behind and expenses exceeding budget, particularly in regard to JAMCA. Additionally, Mr. Hatch highlighted that the Legislative Advocacy funds are currently over budget in revenues and under on expenses.

While many expenses will continue to accrue, we are currently in a good position with $31,000 net income reported in the draft December 2020 financial statement.

Discussion followed regarding the line item “Bank and Credit Card Fees”. Staff clarified that these are merchant fees for processing credit card payments. The board expressed interest in assuring that the association is not unnecessarily absorbing these fees and directed the finance committee to analyze the issue and propose any needed adjustments to how we invoice, charge various fees, or the rate of fees.

- Action Item: Treasurer, Finance Committee, and staff to gather data on fees and assess next steps.

Discussion regarding the state of the current budget and need for a formal revision to be reflected in our financial statements due to the significant changes regarding in-person vs. virtual events. The board directed staff to prioritize a revised budget and financial statements and for a 2021-22 Budget Draft to be presented in April/May.

- Action Item: Staff to develop a budget revision to reflect virtual Annual Meeting and Washington Days event to be reviewed by leadership and presented/approved at the March board meeting.

Discussion regarding JAMCA expenses and revenue. Ms. MacNee provided an update on the new process for managing page charges, the timeline of upcoming JAMCA issues, and the impact the CDC special edition had on financials.

AMCA Financial Reports Schedule

Ms. Goolan provided an update on the schedule for AMCA financial reports. The current target date of the 26th of each month does not match well with the Executive Committee or Board of Directors Meetings. Staff is recommending adjusting this schedule for a target date of the 18th. This should allow the Treasurer time to review and approve the financials prior to board meetings.

The board directed the staff to move forward with this adjustment.

- Action Item: Staff to make necessary adjustments to begin new target date for financial reports in early Q2.

Events Report

Annual Meeting Update
Natalie Perry provided an update on the status of the upcoming virtual annual meeting. This included updates on registration numbers, currently at 48% of budget, and exhibitor/sponsor commitments currently at 120% of budget.

Ms. Perry updated the board on the CEU approval process including that we are currently approved by five states and will continue to gain approval in as many as realistically possible. Ms. Perry has been working to prepare speakers for the event and gather all presentations.

Ms. Perry updated the board on the success of the complimentary bags so far, and that the online marketing is going well so far. She thanked the board members and committee chairs who submitted videos for the effort.

Additionally, Ms. Perry presented the board with the current financials for the virtual meeting. This included current expenses of $53,000 (43% of budget), and revenue at $144,402 (70% of budget). While there are additional expenses that will be accrued, we will remain significantly under budget. With estimated expenses and revenues that continue to grow, we anticipate to not only meeting but exceeding the project profit.

**Washington Days Update**

Ms. Perry reviewed the plan to hold a virtual Washington Days event for the AMCA membership the week of May 10th. This will include a day of content and three days of legislative/agency meetings. We will be working to curate the content and schedule during the Annual Meeting.

**Technical Advisor Report**

David Brown provided his report as Technical Advisor. He reported that the Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program is showing a strong interest in funding for a national campaign for mosquito outreach. He is working with the PESP Committee Chair to pursue this and will keep the board updated. President Faraji has tasked Mr. Brown with looking into possibilities for a national campaign to educate the public about mosquito control and what we actually do. But running a national campaign similar to the “Buckle Up for Safety” or “Anti-Smoking” campaigns will be expensive, and partnerships will go a long way.

Mr. Brown updated the board that the PFAS issue brought up as a result of an adult mosquito control intervention in Massachusetts has been moving along smoothly. Industry is stepping up nicely and we think that this will be handled in our favor rather quickly. The pesticide manufacturers, notably Clarke Mosquito Control, has issued a statement and will be replacing any pesticides in plastic containers at no cost for the mosquito control districts.

Mr. Brown shared that the AGO Trap developed by CDC (also known as the Ovi Catch) received an award from the Federal Lab Consortium. Stan Cope, an AMCA Past President, was instrumental in doing the field work and trials that helped bring this technology to market.

Additionally, Mr. Brown informed the board that Breanna Ball has resigned from the social media coordinator position as she is leaving the industry. We have updated the position and are advertising. Mr. Kinley shared that he has received one nomination so far.
American Mosquito Control Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, 28 January 2021

A side discussion took place regarding whether nominations and applications for positions should continue to go through the Past President and Nominations and Awards Committee Chair or if AMG should be more involved. No change was recommended at this time.

Legislative & Regulatory Committee Report

Angela Beehler provided a report to the board. Members of the L&R Committee met with US Fish and Wildlife Service on Jan. 11th regarding the Endangered Species Act. This is Phase 1 of the plan approved by the board, contracting with Compliance Services, Inc. Our ultimate goal is to come up with universal label language that will satisfy EPA and the Services’ requirements for species and habitat protections, or at least minimizing the number of species of concern, leaving us, the end users, with workable, nationwide, Best Management Practices for mosquito control, so our members will be in full compliance with the Endangered Species Act, limiting their potential legal liability.

Mrs. Beehler reported that the meeting went much better than the one we had with EPA in September. Next steps will be meeting with registrants and NMFS. FWS specified they would not discuss their malathion Biological Opinion, which we expect to come out in March 2021.

There will be a significant amount of time for the Endangered Species Act during the L&R Symposium at the Annual Meeting, anticipating that position papers for the Washington Conference will be centered around mosquito control funding and Endangered Species Act considerations.

L&R will need to have conversations with public health partners in the next few months, but we expect our message will be—“mosquito control is important, we have seen what emerging diseases can do to our country, public health infrastructure has been lacking for many years, if Congress invests in the preauthorized SMASH Act now, we have a concrete plan to ‘fix’ some of the vector-borne disease issues.”

We need buy-in from the Administration in order to get bipartisan support for our proposed action items, and with the current focus on public health that should be within reach.

Mrs. Beehler updated the board that Ed Ruckert, Council to AMCA, retired from McDermott, Will and Emery at the end of 2020, and has agreed to stay on as a private contractor to guide the AMCA through current regulatory issues.

Mrs. Beehler recommend the smoothest path forward and least costly move for the Association is to maintain our contract with MWE, so they can assist in the planning of the Washington Conference, but also contract with Ed Ruckert, to get us through the FIFRA, PRIA, ESA, and PFAS attacks that are sure to come. Mr. Ruckert is proposing $3000 per month retainer through May.

A discussion took place regarding the financial impact of both contracts and whether it is better to have one firm manage all aspects, the L&R timeline, and our need to be ready to act immediately. The board requested additional clarifications on what services would be provided by both Mr. Ruckert and specify the financial commitment.

- Action Item: Mrs. Beehler and staff to work to clarify both potential contracts, provide board with financial impact, and consider other options. Will come back to the board with a formal recommendation ASAP to meet timeline of L&R work.
Mrs. Beehler provided an update on the Washington Conference. She noted a virtual conference will take a lot of work, but we cannot afford to sit out another year. AMCA needs to put in time with EPA, USDA, FAA, and the Services to work out the issues that will briefly be covered during the Annual Meeting, which is why we need to invest time and resources in planning a successful Washington Conference.

**Diversity and Inclusivity Subcommittee Update**

*Code of Conduct / Code of Ethics Update*

Herff Jones provided an update on the status of the Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct. The Bylaws Committee has circulated a draft of the COE/COC, including with members of Diversity and Inclusivity Subcommittee. Plan is to have a draft to present to the board.

*Committee Membership*

Discussion on committee membership and how to add and update membership was undertaken. Staff directed any committee chairs or board members to send recommended additions for committees to Ms. MacNee who will document and secure approval by the President.

**CDC Grant Update**

Gary Goodman provided an update to the board on the CDC Grant. An RFP for the consultant to develop the BMP Manual has been published. Additionally, Dave Brown is beginning the process to identify regional experts for the expert panel. The team had their first meeting with the CDC last week which went well.

The next step is approving the expansions to both AMG and Dave Brown’s contracts. No discussion on the contracts.

- **Motion** to approve the expansion of the AMG and Technical Advisor contracts was moved, seconded, and carried. (Mr. Kinley/Mr. Jones).

Dr. Faraji and Mr. Kinley noted potential candidates have asked regarding an extension of the deadline. Ms. MacNee noted they should submit a formal request through the application process, and that staff will extend the deadline by a week.

**Upcoming Board Schedule**

Ms. MacNee presented the schedule of the upcoming board meetings at the Annual Meeting included in the board materials and that calendar invites will be sent to the board.

**New Business**

*Membership Survey Summary*

Dr. Faraji updated the board that AMG has been developing a summary of the Members Survey Report. It will be finalized and distributed soon.

*Recognizing the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases (NEVBD)*
Dr. Faraji noted that we have been informed that the Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases (NEVBD) has been supporting various regional/local associations by providing free access to a meeting platform. He will work with staff to find an appropriate way to recognize them.

Memorandum of Understanding with Pan-African Mosquito Control Association

Dr. Faraji updated the board that he is working on a memorandum of understanding between the AMCA and the Pan-African Mosquito Control Association. Will provide updates as it takes shape. He does not expect it to have a financial component, but is more symbolic in nature at this time.

2025 Annual Meeting RFP Update

Ms. Perry provided an update on the process, that she has been in contact with all three destinations and has calls with Charleston and Puerto Rico next week. Will begin working to tentatively schedule site visits. Additionally, she noted that we are still comfortably ahead of schedule for the typical booking timeline for events of our size. Our expanded timeline has given us plenty of extra time in our current situation, but we may want to revisit our booking timeline to give us a better competitive advantage.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Faraji at 10:51 am.

- The motion to adjourn was moved, seconded, and carried. (Dr. Breidenbaugh/Mr. Jones)