MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

October 14, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lake County Vector Control District was called to order at 1:34 P.M. by President Giambruno.

Board Present: Rob Bostock, Curt Giambruno, Ron Nagy, and George Spurr.

Absent: Frank Lincoln (excused).

District Personnel: Jamesina J. Scott, Ph.D., District Manager and Research Director, and Julie Manick, Office Manager.

Guests: None.

Citizen's Input: None.

Agenda Additions and/or Deletions: None.

Approve Minutes of September 9, 2026 Regular Meeting with Corrections to the Check Numbers to Include Checks 24454 - 24473 Making the Total Expenditures for September 2026 $123,516.12.

Mr. Spurr moved to approve the Board Minutes of September 9, 2026 with corrections. Mr. Nagy seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of President of the Board of Trustees

Mr. Bostock nominated Mr. Spurr to serve as President of the Board of Trustees for the remainder of 2026. Mr. Spurr accepted the nomination. The nomination was confirmed by a vote of three ayes (Trustees Bostock, Giambruno, and Nagy) and one abstention (Trustee Spurr).

Research Report

Dr. Scott reported on arbovirus activity. Five mosquito samples and three sentinel chickens have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV) this year. Four of the positive-WNV mosquito samples were from Lower Lake and one was from Lakeport. Two of the WNV-positive sentinel chickens were from Lower Lake and one was from the Upper Lake flock.

For the rest of California, two hundred fifty-two cases of WNV illness have been reported in California residents. Of those, two hundred fifteen patients suffered from neuroinvasive disease, and nineteen cases were fatal. In addition, 3,839 positive mosquito pools from 29 counties have been reported, 702 positive dead birds from 25 counties have been reported, and 149 sentinel chickens from 11 counties have tested positive for antibodies to WNV. Fourteen horses have tested positive for WNV.

Ten St. Louis encephalitis virus (SLEV) positive mosquito samples have been reported from three California counties this year. One human case of SLEV has been reported in a San Diego County resident.

For the rest of the United States, there have been 1,172 human cases of West Nile virus illness reported from forty states and the District of Columbia. In addition, forty-two states and the District of Columbia have reported WNV in non-human species (mainly mosquitoes, but also includes veterinary cases, dead birds, and sentinel animals).

One human case of Jamestown Canyon virus (JCV) has been reported in a Wisconsin resident. Additionally, nine states have reported positive mosquito samples for JCV.

Nonhuman eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) activity has been reported in nine states. One human case has been reported in a Michigan resident this year.

Forty-three human cases of La Crosse encephalitis virus (LACV) have been reported from twelve states. Additionally, non-human LACV activity (mainly mosquitoes) has been detected in Ohio and New Jersey.

Four human cases of St. Louis encephalitis (SLEV) have been reported from Arizona, California, Texas, and Virginia this year. Five states have reported SLEV in mosquitoes.

Forty-five human cases of Powassan virus (POWV) have been reported from eleven states.

This year there have been 133 travel-associated cases of chikungunya (CHIK) virus disease, including five cases in California. One locally acquired case of CHIK was reported in Florida.

There have been five travel-associated cases of Zika (ZIK) virus reported in residents of five states this year. No locally acquired case of ZIK have been reported.

There have been two hundred forty-three cases of locally acquired dengue (DEN) virus infection reported in Florida and one in Virginia. Puerto Rico (911) and American Samoa (435) have reported locally acquired dengue cases as well. In addition, thirty-nine states and two US territories have reported 555 travel-associated dengue cases this year.

Dr. Scott reported on adult biting fly activity. The District set carbon-dioxide-baited traps in various locations around the county in September. The most abundant mosquito species was *Aedes melanimon* in the Hidden Valley Lake and Middletown area, largely due to a late summer brood from irrigated fields at an organic cattle ranch. Large numbers of *Culicoides* (biting black gnats) were collected as well.

The New Jersey Light Traps set in Clearlake and Upper Lake were sampled in September. The most abundant mosquito species collected were *Culex tarsalis* and *Anopheles franciscanus.*

The resting boxes set in Kelseyville, Lakeport and Upper lake were sampled in September. Seven mosquito species were collected, the most abundant being *Culex stigmatosoma*.

Dr. Scott reported on tick testing. Twenty-four ticks have been brought in for identification this season. Of those, sixteen *Ixodes pacificus* ticks that were submitted to the Sonoma County Public Health Laboratory for testing. All the samples were negative for *Borrelia* (the causative agent of Lyme disease).

Dr. Scott reported on the Clear Lake Gnat, Chironominae, and Tanypodinae Surveillance in Clear Lake. The Clear Lake gnat numbers increased from 0.08 larvae per dredge in August, to 0.11 larva per dredge in September. The Chironominae numbers increased from 6.85 larvae per dredge in August to 96.57 larvae per dredge in September, which is above the historical average of 13.82 larvae per dredge. The Tanypodinae numbers decreased slightly from 1.31 larvae per dredge in August to 1.25 larvae per dredge in September.

Operation Report

For the month of September, 0.15 inches of rain was recorded at the District. The total rainfall for the season is 22.31 inches.

The level of Clear Lake was at 3.22 feet on the Rumsey Gauge as of September 1 and declined to 2.28 feet by September 30.

The Vector Control Technicians responded to 58 mosquito service requests in September largely due to a late summer brood of *Aedes melanimon* (irrigated pasture mosquitoes) from an organic cattle ranch upwind from the community of Hidden Valley Lake. In addition, 11 technician-generated applications and 12 yellowjacket requests. Thirty-eight online service requests were submitted in September.

On September 18, the District participated in the Trucks on the Track event at the Lakeport Unified School District campus. This annual event gives the students a chance to learn about educational and employment opportunities available through college, vocational school, jobs, and military pathways. Both Lab and Vector Control Technicians participated in this event.

Dr. Scott and Office Manager Julie Manick continue to participate in the County Auditor-Controller's roughly biweekly meetings every other Friday to help the Special District's prepare for the changeover to their new financial software system, Workday, on October 1, 2026.

Dr. Scott and Office Manager Julie Manick are meeting weekly with VC3 to plan for our centralized domain, SharePoint, and multifactor authentication rollouts.

Dr. Scott submitted the District's Biological and Cultural Resource Assessment Reports to the City of Lakeport. At the end of September, they responded that they are refamiliarizing themselves with the District's General Plan Amendment and Rezoning application, originally submitted November 6, 2023.

Dr. Scott continues to meet with the District's Labor Negotiator, Austris Rungis, to discuss Operating Engineers 3 Health Coverage and other issues that may affect our District and employees.

Approve Checks for the Month of October 2026

Mr. Nagy moved to approve checks 24474-24557 in making the total expenditures for October 2026 $177,574.68. Mr. Giambruno seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Dr. Scott reminded the Board that the November Board Meeting will be Monday, November 16. The regular meeting date, the second Wednesday of the month, falls on Veterans Day, when the District offices will be closed.

Dr. Scott updated the Board on the Clearlake City Council's change to its trustee appointment process. During its October 1 meeting, the Clearlake City Council voted to alter its appointment process for the Vector Control Board of Trustees. The seat will now be held by a City Council member assigned by the Mayor, replacing the previous at-large public member format.

President Curt Giambruno's long-standing service as the City's appointee to the Lake County Vector Control District Board of Trustees will conclude at noon on Monday, January 4, 2027.

President Giambruno was appointed to the Board in February 1999 and has served continuously since that time. He was elected Board President in February 200 and has provided 22 years of leadership in that role. Over 27 years of service, President Giambruno attended all but six Board meetings, representing an attendance rate of more than 98 percent.

During his tenure, President Giambruno provided consistent leadership as the District responded to significant changes in the public health, operational, financial, and environmental landscape of Lake County. Among the major District initiatives and developments during his tenure were:

- Preparation for and response to the introduction of West Nile virus into Lake County in 2004, including subsequent expansion of surveillance and response capabilities.
- Successful community support for a benefit assessment in 2009, providing a stable funding mechanism to sustain high-quality, responsive vector control services and support improvements to District facilities and operations.
- Development of the District's Todd Road facilities, including the mosquitofish ponds, pesticide storage building, garage, and shop.

- Continued preparation for the potential introduction of invasive *Aedes* mosquitoes into Lake County and development of the capabilities necessary to respond should they become established locally.
- Leadership through major wildfires and their impacts on District operations, mosquito habitat, and vector surveillance.
- Modernization and expansion of surveillance data systems and other technologies supporting science-based mosquito and vector management.
- Operational and financial adjustments associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including the District's response to emerging public health needs.
- Incorporation of drones into mosquito treatment operations, expanding the District's ability to efficiently assess and treat difficult terrain.
- Expansion of partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies to strengthen surveillance, disease response, training, and resource sharing.
- Successful pursuit and administration of state and federal grants supporting responses to West Nile virus, COVID-19, and vectors of local public health importance.

During his time on this board, President Giambruno has been a strong advocate for the District's science-based integrated mosquito and vector management program and for maintaining the District's capacity to protect the public from mosquitoes and other vectors of disease. His 27 years of service have encompassed substantial changes in vector-borne disease threats, technology, funding, infrastructure, and public health priorities while maintaining a consistent focus on the District's mission and its responsibility to the citizens of Lake County.

The Board and District staff recognize President Giambruno's 27 years of dedicated service, his exceptional attendance, and his longstanding leadership and institutional knowledge provided to the District.

The District will recognize President Giambruno's outstanding 27 years of service with a commemorative plaque honoring his dedication to the residents of Lake County and his leadership on the Lake County Vector Control District Board at its December 2026 meeting.

The City of Clearlake plans to present President Giambruno with a Certificate of Appreciation at its January 2027 meeting to honor his service.

Announcement of Next Regular Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 1:30 PM on Monday, November 16, 2026 at the Lake County Vector Control District Office, 410 Esplanade Lakeport, CA 95453.

Mr. Giambruno moved to adjourn the meeting. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by President Spurr at 2:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Nagy
Secretary