

apparent that there is a considerable potential for mosquito transmission of various disease organisms to man at all levels on the mountain.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT.** The writers would like to express their appreciation to the three field technicians who participated in these studies. Without the patient work of Mr. Samarn Manewongsee, Mr. Inkan Inlao and Mr. Preesha Ruangvija it would not have been possible to accumulate these biting data.

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## TRUSTEES AND COMMISSIONERS SESSION

*In the oral presentation of the papers in this section, the speakers could eliminate or condense parts where there may have been overlapping coverage. In order to achieve a similar continuity and directness in the written versions, the editor has taken the liberty of making changes at appropriate points in the assembled manuscripts.*

## THE ROLE OF THE TRUSTEES IN ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR A MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

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Members of governing boards of mosquito control organizations agree, when they accept the position, that they will serve as trustees to insure that all operations of the district including the expenditure of funds will be in the best interests of mosquito control. This places the board member in a position of considerable responsibility to the public that provides the funds for mosquito control programs. The operations in an efficient, modern mosquito abatement district are very complex, quite different from the early programs in which a few

men were employed by a district to find and treat with oil, small mosquito producing sites, in or near communities within the district.

In the operation of a modern mosquito control program it is essential that technical support be established and maintained and that it becomes an active part of the control program. Technical assistance in mosquito control is required in many special fields, such as entomology, engineering, public health, law, business management, and public relations, to name only a few. Although in

some of these fields technical assistance is required only periodically or occasionally, in other fields, such as entomology, engineering, and business management in some of the larger districts it may be essential to employ full time experts. The responsibility of the governing board is to provide this technical help and the question now becomes where and how it can be established and maintained.

The first and most essential step a governing board can take in establishing technical support for a mosquito control program is the appointment of a manager who has the knowledge and ability needed to operate a successful mosquito control district and to obtain the technical services required.

The manager must be aware of and well informed on current developments in the field of mosquito control. To acquire the needed background he must attend meetings where mosquito control problems are discussed. He must also read the available literature on mosquito control and be able to select applicable information. It is not difficult to persuade managers to attend national and local mosquito control meetings but at times it is difficult, after they return, to get them to present to the Board the pertinent information that was presented. The Board should expect this of a manager in order to keep both parties better informed on current happenings in mosquito control programs.

When feasible, Board members should also attend meetings of mosquito control groups such as AMCA, where they not only have an opportunity to obtain first-hand information about mosquito control, but also share the enthusiasm of others.

Keeping up with the voluminous current literature in the field of mosquito control may seem like a very difficult task, particularly for managers and board members in more remote districts. However, they can find help in *Mosquito News*, the official publication of the AMCA, which is available to every manager and board member. Naturally, this

publication does not contain all of the articles published in mosquito control but it does contain many such, and also a very complete bibliography. The manager, with these references, can usually obtain a copy of any article listed by writing to the author for a reprint.

Board members should subscribe to *Mosquito News*, examine the contents of each issue, and read the articles that might assist in obtaining a better understanding of mosquitoes and mosquito control problems in their district.

The source, quality and amount of technical assistance not provided by trained personnel employed by the district will depend in part upon the location of the district in relation to a place where such support is available. Some of the best and most effective technical information and support essential for mosquito control programs can be obtained from state and private universities and colleges. Technical assistance of this type has been established in most of the states where mosquito abatement districts are in operation. The major difference in the states where mosquito control work is in progress has been in the amount of assistance received by the districts from these institutions. In some states such as New Jersey, California and Utah, universities have played a major role in developing the mosquito control programs. Universities and colleges usually have available or will obtain the necessary technical assistance required if they are called upon for this support by mosquito control organizations. Assistance of this type is generally of high quality, locally available, and costs much less than it does from private consulting agencies. Other state agencies such as departments of public health, agricultural extension services, and state operated research laboratories and bureaus are doing a remarkable job in many states, such as in Florida and California, in providing technical support for mosquito control operations.

Excellent technical assistance can also be obtained by request from federal agencies such as the Department of Agricul-

ture, Entomology Research Division, and The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, in the Public Health programs of this agency, particularly through the Communicable Disease Center. These departments of the federal government have been leaders in the development of mosquito control work in this country and abroad.

In order to have available at all times the technical support which is necessary for the operation of an efficient mosquito control program, all available sources providing such technical advice should be consulted, and a very close association, especially with the local sources, should be established.

## DUTIES AND ATTITUDES OF A RESPONSIBLE TRUSTEE

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It is a great privilege to address this outstanding group of Trustees and Commissioners who are fundamentally responsible for the very existence of organized mosquito control in a large part of the United States. I say this in all sincerity since you directly represent the public interest whether that public interest be an individual resident, rancher, or a multi-million dollar corporation.

It follows that our responsibilities as Trustees and Commissioners involve protection of this interest in every respect. It is our duty to provide policy support and direction to the operational phases of mosquito control programs, always keeping in mind that every action must serve the public who support the control activities. This means that every essential function must be adequately performed, yet without frill or meaningless effort or "empire building."

I feel it is essential to discuss our individual duties and attitudes as they affect Board of Trustees or Commissioner's actions.

*First*, do we provide proper policy direction, carefully documented as Board policy? For instance, have we firmly established policy so that all Board members as well as all employees are aware what this policy is? I cite an example that will illustrate this point.

We have a Board of twenty-three mem-

bers. When a new member comes on the Board, he is given a packet of material telling about the District. In this packet is a summary of every policy decision that has been made showing the date and meeting of its adoption. Vacation periods, military leaves, overtime pay, leave, sick leave, insurance benefits and other fringe benefits are carefully established, legally documented and are not subject to ambiguous interpretation that may leave employees frustrated, the taxpayers unjustly taxed or the Board officers liable for damages or legal suits.

*Second*, from the legislative aspect are we protecting the public interest? By this I mean, are we initiating and/or supporting responsible mosquito control legislation that will be of essential benefit to the public? On the other hand, are we constructively opposing undesirable legislation that may be penny wise and pound foolish thereby harming the essential public interest? We as trustees or Commissioners are usually in the best position to do good positively either way. The very fact that we have been appointed as Trustees indicates our interest in the public welfare and the confidence of the appointing governmental bodies. By virtue of our participation in public affairs, we are in a role strongly oriented with legislative bodies, local, regional state and federal. We as good trustees must make