



Rancho Murieta Association Memorandum

To: Ad Hoc Midge Fly Committee
From: Larry Shelton, Committee Chair
Date: May 6, 2016
Subject: Meeting

There will be a meeting of the Ad Hoc Midge Fly Committee on:
Monday, May 9, 2016 at 10 a.m.
RMA Building, 7191 Murieta Parkway

1. Call to Order.
2. Approval of Minutes (action required)
3. Develop Focus Statement
4. Flyer Distribution
5. Pesticide Control (action required)
 - a. Weighted Liquid
 - b. Granules
6. Fountain Pumps (action required)
 - a. Acquiring CSD pumps
 - b. Purchase of new pumps
7. Stocking Lake (action required)
8. Financing
9. Open Discussion
10. Adjournment

**Rancho Murieta Association
Ad Hoc Committee – Midge Fly Issue
Minutes for Meeting of April 25, 2016**

Present

Larry Shelton, RMA Board Member
Betty Ferrero, CSD Board Member
Jane Hall, MTI Board Member
Bill Ossolinski
Faye Lunsford

Staff

Rod Hart, Maintenance Manager
April Mattice, Administrative Asst.
Paul Siebensohn, CSD Staff

Guest

Kim Perotti, Resident
Tony Avampato, Resident

The Ad Hoc Committee for the midge fly issue was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Betty Ferrero.

Approval of Notes

M/S/C: to approve the notes from March 28, 2016, as presented.

Vote: 5 – Yes; 0 – No; 0 – Abstention

M/S/C: to approve the notes from April 11, 2016, as presented.

Vote: 5 – Yes; 0 – No; 0 – Abstention

Update of Tasks

1. Granular Seeding

Paul Siebensohn updated the Committee regarding using granular form vs. the liquid form of insecticide that CSD currently uses for the midge flies. He said he talked to a pest control advisor who suggested adding a mixing agent to the liquid which might help it settle to the bottom and bind to the bottom vegetation where the midge fly larvae live and feed. If this method works, the granular insecticide wouldn't be required. The Committee asked Mr. Siebensohn if the insecticide company would be willing to use Laguna Joaquin as a test lake to try this method. He said he would check and report back.

2. Aerating Fountains

Mr. Siebensohn and Mr. Hart said they had discussed the pumps that CSD currently has in inventory but is not using. Mr. Siebensohn said that CSD is trying to determine the value of the pumps but he doesn't feel that the addition of the fountains in Laguna Joaquin will help with the midge flies since they survive in both low and high oxygenated environments. The Committee disagreed adding that a healthy body of water will aid in the elimination of the larvae. Mr. Hart said he is also checking into the cost of new pumps since the pumps being offered by CSD are about nine year old and may not be as energy efficient as new ones. Mr. Hart also mentioned that several years ago, as he recalled, CSD was willing to give the pumps to RMA but RMA declined due to having to change the electrical services. He will check old records to see if he can locate any information on the prior discussion.

3. Restocking Lakes

Bill Ossolinski suggested adding catfish and carp, both bottom feeding fish, to Laguna Joaquin to feed on the larvae. He also favored using mosquito fish and shiners but the Committee didn't think that would work as they are small and top feeders and would just feed the larger fish already in the lake. The Committee prioritized which species of fish should be added to Laguna Joaquin first to help control the midge fly larvae. It was decided that 300 - 12" catfish and 200 carp should be introduced first since they are both bottom feeders. A price of \$6.00 per catfish had been quoted to Mr. Siebensohn which included delivery but the price for carp was still to be determined since the quote he received was for 2" to 3" carp at \$1.00 each. The Committee discussed adding bass and bluegill at a later time. Mr. Siebensohn said he could possibly take \$500 of his overall budget of \$5,000 for Laguna Joaquin and put it toward the purchase of fish.

4. Financing

Mr. Shelton presented a cost estimate that included replacement of the fountains, switching from liquid to granular insecticide, restocking the lake with fish, and publishing a fact sheet for public awareness. Mr. Shelton's proposal also included costs being split between RMA and CSD. Mr. Siebensohn and Ms. Ferrero told Mr. Shelton that the CSD budget of \$5,000 had already been set for 2017 and was sent out to the public therefore increasing their budget was not possible. Jane Hall said MTI has considered giving a one-time contribution of \$1,000 upon review of where the money will be spent. Ms. Ferrero, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Shelton will all go back to their Boards with proposed cost estimates.

5. Financing - Treatments

Mr. Siebensohn would like to see only the liquid insecticide used rather than the granules because of the higher cost of the granules. He explained that CSD had budgeted for two more treatments 2015-16 (\$2,500) and four treatments for 2016-17 (\$5,000). He said if a solution can be reached, as discussed earlier in the meeting, to get the liquid to the bottom of the lake, then the granules are not necessary since this should achieve the same results. Mr. Shelton agreed that if the liquid treatments can get to the bottom of the lake they would probably be more effective.

Paul Siebensohn left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

7. Public Awareness Flyer

The Committee reviewed the most recent copy of the flyer designed to educate residents about midge flies. They discussed an earlier email sent out by Mr. Siebensohn, dated April 22, 2016, saying that CSD had committed to providing 200 color copies of the flyer for residents in the area. Ms. Lunsford, Ms. Hall and resident Tony Avampato volunteered to distribute the flyer to residents surrounding the lake as well as local merchants. Ms. Ferrero said CSD had some changes to include on the flyer. Ms. Ferrero and Ms. Hall also volunteered to talk to the residents of the Village since many of them walk around the lake.

8. Open Discussion

Ms. Ferrero told Mr. Shelton that she will need a statement from the RMA Board to present to the CSD Board showing their commitment to this project in order to ask for any additional

funding from CSD. Mr. Avampato suggested fundraising to help cover costs of fighting the midge flies. He said he would willing to help with this.

The Committee would like to revisit granular seeding vs. liquid applications, water quality, changing out the fountains, and the primary of each Board of Directors regarding the midge fly problem. The next meeting will be May 9, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully,

Larry Shelton

Date

RANCHO MURIETA MIDGE FLY COMMITTEE FOCUS STATEMENT

Laguna Joaquin Lake and other areas within Rancho Murieta have a significant problem with midges during the summer months. This problem exists primarily in lakes with standing water when the water temperature rises in the summer and oxygen levels decrease due to stagnant water or contaminated conditions. This has become a particular problem for residents living on or near our lakes. The presence of midge flies indicate an unhealthy body of water.

A joint Committee from RMA, CSD, MTI and residents will address the midge fly problem. The focus of this Committee will be to minimize the effects on the lifestyle of Rancho Murieta residents imposed by the midge flies. Below are the main focal points which will be addressed by this Committee.

- 1. Improve the use of insecticides to control midge fly larvae development.** Midge fly larvae develop and hatch in the lake bottom. The hatched adults rise through the water, lay eggs on the surface, then swarm and die in a few days. The eggs fall to the bottom and hatch into new larvae. Using granular pellets allow the larvacide to sink to the bottom where the larvae are developing, as opposed to surface spraying, of insecticides, which has been only marginally effective. This will improve the insecticide application to being proactive (attacking the larvae before hatching) instead of reactive (spraying the adults).
- 2. Increase the oxygen level in the lake to aid in improving the water quality.** The current pumps are ineffective in increasing oxygen levels in the lake. The lake struggles to maintain an adequate oxygen level to sustain normal, healthy, active aquatic populations. A healthy lake will increase the existence of midge fly larvae predators. The solution is to change the existing pumps to a diffused aeration system.
- 3. Restock the lake with native fish.** Catfish, carp, blue gill, and bass are bottom feeders and known to feed on midge fly and mosquito larvae. They will aid in returning the lake to a healthy ecosystem.
- 4. Maintaining an adequate amount of fresh water to the lake during the summer months.** Develop a schedule to add additional water either weekly, monthly, or when water drops to a specific level.
- 5. Educating residents on prevention techniques.** Prepare a facts sheet to assist residents in minimizing the effect of midge flies on their everyday life. This would include methods to avoid attraction, decreasing exposure, and aiding in removal.