Regular Meeting **MEETING MINUTES** **December 10, 2015**

The Board of Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMCD/LCHCD) held its regular scheduled meeting December 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at Districts headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman George "Pat" Mann, Commissioners Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Brian F. Farrar, Thomas B. Hart, Richard Paul and Director T. Wayne Gale.

VISITORS: Dave Hutter of Gulf Coast Auto Crossers, Becky Rash also of Gulf Coast Auto Crossers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: – None

MINUTES APPROVAL – Chairman Mann asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on November 5, 2015. Commissioner Ellis made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion the Board approved the minutes as read with no dissenting votes.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, reported that there have been no locally acquired mosquito borne disease cases in Lee County. The closest county that has reportable disease is Manatee with cases of West Nile. There are 10 northern counties reporting West Nile. Jennifer introduced the new Health Department Director for Lee County, Angela Swartzman.

PROJECT UPDATES – Director reported on the Hyacinth Water Lab Certification. The water lab aids in control of aquatic weeds by analyzing water nutrient levels and the program helps homeowners learn and help prevent problems in their own waterways. The District has had our Water Lab certified for many years and the license was provided through the State Health Department and recertification was done by them as well. That has all changed. The Health Department has contracted out the certification/recertification through private vendors the downside is that we have to pay those vendors. There really isn't a need for us to have the license because we are not doing forensic work. It was nice to have the license but really is not necessary for our work to continue. The process this year ended up costing the District $10,000, this is money that does not need to be spent. The District is planning to institute quality assurance policies and procedures and we are going to appoint our Safety Compliance Officer to monitor the Lab. That will involve bringing in unknown samples and analyzing them to insure our accuracy Instituting internal procedures will insure that the quality of work stays high. Director advised that this is his plan and he just wanted to make the Board aware of the direction he has decided to go. The Lee County Health Department has offered to be our Certified Lab if we should happen to need them in the future. Commissioner Ellis made the motion to follow the Director's plan, Commissioner Paul seconded the motion and the Board approved with no dissenting votes.

RISK MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL – We have discussed our insurance issues in past meetings. The District is no longer self-insured and it is not costing the District any more at this time for changing to a fully insured program. This last year we approached another agent to see if they would work for us not as a salesman but as a reviewer to tell us if they felt we were doing the right things for insurance and risk mitigation. They agreed to act as a reviewer but were uncomfortable in doing that. The reviewer recommended a professional company that will look at our risks and make recommendations with regards to insurance and safety. The District has a proposal from them which amounts to $48,000 a year or $4,000 per month. The proposal is that they could potentially save us that much money in the first year. Then after the first year they will actually start making money. The reviewer has yet to bill us for his services. The Board would like to do a request for proposal (RFP) to obtain other companies input but they agree that this is a good idea. The Director will obtain the proposal and RFP and get back to the Board.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION – Director Gale commended Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer, Susan Merris, Director of Human Resources and Shelley Dew, General Accountant for their work on the Drug Free Workplace and the Worker's Compensation policies. The Board recently approved the Drug Free Workplace policy and by providing the information to our Workers Comp carrier we received a credit for $9,661.00

Director Gale gave the Board a map showing a photo of a lot for sale attached to a parcel we already own off the end of the runway. The lot is part of the long range plan to purchase lots to protect the end of the runway and it is now for sale for $5,000. Commissioner Hart moved that we purchase the lot not to exceed $5,000. The lots provide an opportunity to have a buffer off the end of the runway and possibly in the future to extend the runway. We have had to shorten the South Runway approach because there were houses built so close to the end of it. The District is planning to extend both ends of the runway as part of this year's budget to have a longer take off distance for the King Air fully loaded. The Runways will be extended 400' on the north and 120' on the south in a lollypop shape. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. There were five (5) yes votes and one (1) no vote. The District will work with Lee County Lands as our representative and also check out the corner lot for possibility of purchasing that as well.

Director Gale advised the Board that Gulf Coast Auto Crossers use the South Runway for their monthly driver training. They have been here using the runway for about 20 years now. Part of the risk assessment that was conducted is that a hold harmless agreement should be signed with the organization. The District has insurance and they provide insurance and we are included on their insurance. Our attorney has been asked to draw up a hold harmless agreement. Auto Cross is the only non-government entity that uses our runway. They are ready to schedule their yearly events and Director Gale will have them sign the hold harmless agreement. Years ago there were noise complaints but lately not so much. The last noise issues were two this year of car noise on the weekend. The biggest noise complaint we receive is the sirens that are on government equipment when they are out there during the weekdays training. David Hutter, one of the founders of Gulf Coast Auto Crossers reported that they train on an obstacle course for Autocross drivers going through a timed course one at a time. This is a safe event because the objective is to learn to be a better driver not the fastest driver. Noise control is managed by human ear. They have found that they can manage to hold the sound level down better by human ear than use of the DB meters. Autocross does their best to operate under our rules as well as rules of their own to maintain their relationship with us. It is a club activity not a competition between the members. There are approximately 100+ individuals during a weekend event. Saturday is a schooling day for new members to become more proficient at driving at normal highway speeds. Cars begin their runs at around 10:00 a.m. on their weekends. The District does not allow any other entity here because the liability is huge and the track record for those groups is unknown. Autocross has been here for a long time and they have a safe history with us. Director plans to continue to allow the group to meet here with this additional safety level unless the Board tells him otherwise.

Director reported that he met last week in Tallahassee with the new Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Secretary, Gary Clark. Mr. Clark listened to information on aerial adulticiding on state managed lands and indicated he could support what we are proposing but needed some indication that other groups would agree with us. He is new and cautious in suggesting our request to change the policy without other support. It makes a big difference if it is a DEP policy or a trustee recommendation. If it is DEP he has the ability to change it. He suggested if we can find someone else or other organization to also agree with the proposal it would help. Babcock Ranch has declared their land environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive and they don't want us to do aerial spraying on their land.

Their land is mostly cow pasture. That entire property will soon fall under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) not FWC. Director spoke with Lisa Conti, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture and she will help us meet with Forestry. The District will work through all this and present to them the data and information to show what we are doing and plan to do will not harm their lands or flora and fauna. If we can get Forestry to agree we will then have someone at a high level on our side to shore up the DEP Deputy Secretary's position. The District will then have support and are attempting to get people on board at this time.

Hyacinth Control has had a couple of requests from the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to do some aquatic weed control in Glades and Hendry Counties. FWC has a contractor doing weed control in Lake Okeechobee. Our enabling act gives us the ability to do aquatic weed control along the river in the oxbows and canals all the way to Lake Okeechobee. Director Gale's current policy is to do that since these are weeds that float down the river and eventually end up in Lee County. This is the first time since Director Gale has been here that they have asked for us to help. We will keep track of the cost and acres treated for future analysis.

Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet and Facilities reported that if the aircraft that are out west are not moved in three weeks the District will go move them ourselves to get them here. The runway extension permitting process has begun and we will go into an RFP situation and bid it out. The Coast Guard boat will be advertised next week for sale on GovDeals. There will be a minimum bid posted for the vessel.

RUSS BAKER REPORT – The CFO and Director Gale met with Preferred Community Bank to discuss fund investments. The District will invest them the best way possible while also limiting the type of investment to protect the Districts The District finds the best rates to make certain that our funds are earning the most that is possible. In our long-term investments with them the last Certificate of Deposit (CD) that matures this month will give us 70 basis points or 7/10 of a percent. The money market rate will be 25 basis points and any CD that will go out will follow the interest rates. It is not a lot of money but we are trying to be good stewards of the money that we do have. Every 90 days a CD matures and the District is only committed for two years on those.

FISCAL REVIEW – Commissioner Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve both Mosquito and Hyacinth financial statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dortch. The Board unanimously approved the report.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS – Chairman Mann facilitated the election of new officers for the coming calendar year. Commissioner Hart made a motion to elect Commissioner Brian Farrar to the Chairmanship for 2016. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved. Commissioner Ellis made a motion for Commissioner Thomas Hart to become the Vice Chair for 2016. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved. Commissioner Farrar made the motion for Commissioner Mike Ellis to continue as Secretary-Treasurer for 2016. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion. The vote was five (5) yes votes and one (1) no vote. Commissioner Ellis continues as Secretary-Treasurer.

NEW BUSINESS – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mann at 11:27 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary