

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held a regular Board Meeting, January 19, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Due to the absence of Chairman Hart, Vice-Chairman Ellis will preside over today's meeting. Commissioners George, T. Mann Jr., Bruce C. Scott, Ed Brantley, Secretary-Treasurer, Brian F. Farrar.

Visitors: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MINUTES APPROVAL – Vice-Chairman Ellis, presented the minutes from the December 2016 meeting for approval. Vice-Chairman Ellis asked if the Board had a chance to review the meeting minutes from December, which they had. With that said, Vice-Chairman Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the motion carried with no dissenting votes.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, Lee County Health Department reported a very quiet month thus far. There has been a new locally required case of Zika in Miami but a location of ongoing transmission has not been identified. Director Roth reported that the flu season is reaching peak right now. Numbers are going up for seasonal flu. The vaccine is a good match so far this year not as many people have been hospitalized. This shows that the vaccine is minimizing the severity of the illness.

SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL – Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer presented a list of items to be declared surplus property for disposal. The list is mainly autos. Typically, at this time of year, new vehicles are being purchased and those replaced have a substantial amount of miles. These items will be offered on GovDeals to all other Districts once they have been advertised by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). Commissioner Mann made the motion to approve the items for disposal. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion and the Board approved with no dissenting votes.

Hyacinth Control Presentation – Kevin Watts, Deputy Director of Lee County Hyacinth Control District (LCHCD), began the presentation with a map representing the work areas for the year 2016. As a reminder to the Board LCHCD jurisdiction is all of Lee County and the Caloosahatchee River up to Lake Okeechobee. Work was performed for the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) in Lehigh Acres. FGUA had some issues with *Mansonia* mosquitoes in the area with water lettuce and water hyacinth adjacent to the Ball Field. After LCHCD brought the vegetation under control FGUA was to hire a contractor to perform maintenance monthly. Other areas treated were Rosemary Creek, San Carlos Park region covered by an agreement to maintain the large water bodies in the area. It took about two months to obtain control. Lee County Department of Natural Resources reached out to LCHCD to ask if we could help remove spatterdock from the headwaters of Lakes Park filter marsh. The spatterdock was introduced on purpose and is a native species but can become invasive. The material was fairly thick but LCHCD did not attempt to eradicate it just create a controlled environment for the future. The work LCHCD performed at Rutenburg Park was a collaboration between Parks & Rec and the County Department of Transportation (DOT) to harvest spatterdock, which was taking over the water area. Half of the plant species treated was spatterdock. The canals in Cape Coral City limits cover roughly 400 miles. One of the problems there is the extreme water level fluctuations in the Cape, which is adding to the increasing amount of vegetation.

Jason Cull, Aquatic Field Supervisor, presented integrated management practices for controlling submerged vegetation in the canals of Cape Coral. He will also be presenting the same program at the Charlotte Harbor Estuary meeting coming up. Fish such as Grass Carp are stocked in areas that are enclosed by barriers so that the Carp cannot escape. Grass Carp help control vegetation in the system keeping LCHCD from spraying so often. As of 2015 there is approximately 40-50% urbanization of the land mass in Cape Coral. When plant life gets into the 80-100% range of coverage is when LCHCD receives most of their requests for vegetation removal. Plants are a navigation issue, inhibiting recreational use and blocking access, causing flood control problems and debris accumulation. The plant called Floating Tape Grass causes health concerns, clogs irrigation intakes, and has an adverse impact on the ecology of an area. LCHCD employs an integrated plant management plan combining chemicals, Grass Carp and mechanical removal with the harvester. They use Bioson which makes an echo sound map of the vegetation on the bottom of the water body. They received numbers back from the sounder which provides them the information needed to compute how many Grass Carp could be used to clear the area or if other methods could or should be used. These transects are taken twice a year and they have been using these over the last 5 years. This has allowed LCHCD to track species change, Grass Carp population and seasonal water level rise and fall to enable a balanced integrated plant management plan to evolve into an engineered system.

PROJECT UPDATE - Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet and Facilities reported that regarding the Woodstock Airport, we are attempting to finalize the contract. There will be a public hearing on Pine Island to present the project to them. Zoning for Buckingham Field is ongoing. The County has redefined the zoning to CF3. They have added the language of training and airport into that process. All of our properties should be complete and married together with two Public Hearings. The reason for this is that half of the property is in Buckingham and the other half is in Lehigh. These two meetings could be at the District because the Training Center is located in Buckingham and the Bailey Building is located in Lehigh.

There is a piece of property here that contains the cloth hangars. The property is actually under Hyacinth Control ownership but Mosquito Control shows on the title. We have done a quick claim deed to transfer ownership from Hyacinth Control to Mosquito Control to establish a proper record trail. The Strap Number is 22-44-26-03-00004-0010 see attached EXHIBIT 1. Motion was made by Commissioner Farrar to transfer property from Hyacinth Control to Mosquito Control, Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously.

The King Air is back, it took two days to get it here. Al reported a really good ride. We will begin work on the second aircraft out there now. We are attempting to get the second aircraft back a bit faster than the first one.

Carmen presented a photo of the gravel areas around the District he is seeking to have paved to decrease dust, dirt, and gravel maintenance as an extension of our existing paving contract for the runway. There have been savings in cost of some budgeted capital expenses that will provide the extra funding. Director Gale requested a budget amendment for the added expense. Vice-Chairman Ellis had to leave the meeting and turned the meeting over to Secretary-Treasurer Farrar at 10:49 a.m. Acting Chairman Farrar presented the motion for the budget amendment to the Board. Commissioner Mann made a motion, to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved.

Carmen reported that the update to the Lee County Radio 1-800 system is proceeding. Lee Hail, which is the official communications system during any type of disaster or emergency, will be installed. LCMCD/LCHCD has opted to put our own channel into the system.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Gale reminded the Commissioners to check their District e-mail accounts for meeting information and dates.

Executive Director advised the Commissioners that Dr. Johnathan Hornby, Deputy Director, Mosquito Control and Scientific Intelligence, will be retiring at the end of January 2017. Dr. Hornby, the creator of our current mosquito management data base system, has been working to move into a new data base management platform.

The annual Fly-In was held here last week. The United States Air Force (USAF) was here as well as individuals from around the country. The final headcount of attendees was 175 individuals. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave a presentation on regulations regarding drones and representatives from the EPA spoke about current pesticide reregistration issues.

Director will address the local legislative delegation this afternoon and request their support for Mosquito funding from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) as well as help with facilitating agreement of arthropod control plans (ACP) from State agencies. Director is going to Tallahassee on Monday of next week to meet with FWC regarding the ACP for Yucca Pens in north Cape Coral. We have been prohibited from aerial adulticiding there since it was declared as an environmentally sensitive and biologically highly productive area. If we cannot agree, we will proceed with whatever it takes to get the resolution that best covers protection of the public in that area. We have proposed a mile buffer inside the forest adjacent to populated areas which covers about 15% of their property.

The news from the Delegation meeting is that there is a Bill to consolidate the fire districts, which has created a lot of news.

The proposed name change from Homestead Road to T. Wainwright Miller Road is currently on hold. Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann's office phoned this week asking for a copy of the letter we sent the County regarding the name change and also asked if the residents along the road had been contacted. They indicated they would get back to us after speaking with their attorneys. One positive reason for a name change that affects the residents is there are two Homestead Roads in Lehigh Acres and that sometimes causes confusion with GPS coordinates. We will wait to hear back from Commissioner Mann's office.

There are some new rules regarding Lobbyists presenting things in the House of Representatives. Lobbyists representing government entities will have more stringent requirements for registration and representation. The Board has requested that this item be placed on the agenda for next month's Board meeting for discussion.

Executive Director gave the Board a list of the items that have been recently updated in the Employee Handbook. He asked the Board if they would prefer he bring each individual item to the board or will a once a year update suffice? They approved the new handbook last year and these are the changes that have happened since then. Some are time sensitive. Motion was made by Commissioner Mann to approve the updates presented and in future handle any updates semiannually. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion and the Board approved with no dissenting votes.

FISCAL REVIEW – Acting Chairman Farrar asked Chief Financial Officer, Russ Baker to address the Board regarding changes in our Accounting procedures. With updated systems in place, we are now working from a modified accrual basis of accounting. Acting Chairman Farrar read the motion made for LCMCD to accept the budget amendment and the 2017-2 and DACS budget 2017-2, and the financial statement for December 31, 2016. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

FISCAL REVIEW (Continued) - Acting Chairman Farrar then made the motion to approve the LCHCD financial statement for December 31, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion with Commissioner Scott seconding. The Board unanimously approved.

The Board was invited out to the tarmac to see the new airplane.

Acting Chairman Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The motion carried with no dissenting votes and the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.


Chairman

Secretary