

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held its regular scheduled meeting January 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** George "Pat" Mann, Commissioners Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Vice-Chair Thomas B. Hart, Richard Paul, Bruce Scott and Director T. Wayne Gale.

**VISITORS:** Reverend Israel Suarez

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** – Reverend Israel Suarez gave his respects to each Commissioner and Director Gale. He complimented the wonderful facility here. He is here due to the passing of T. Wayne Miller, the first Executive Director of LCMCD/LCHCD who was such a respected part of the Lee County community. He stated that individuals would be surprised how many people are doing well because Mr. Miller did something to help them. For many years Mr. Miller helped with the Prayer Breakfast. Mr. Miller told Reverend Suarez his medical condition and that he could not make the prayer breakfast and was in tears. The City has plans to continue it. Reverend Suarez came to the Board today to see if it would be possible to name the street in front of the District after Mr. Miller. He feels recognition should be done before someone dies but now he wants to dedicate something to Miller posthumously as a sign of respect for his contributions to Lee County. Vice-Chair Hart agreed with Reverend Suarez. LCMCD/LCHCD has one building dedicated to Mr. Miller. Commissioner Mann mentioned Homestead Road is confusing as there are two sections of Homestead that do not connect. It would be helpful if we could change it. There was general consensus of the Board, they will have the Director Gale investigate this possible name change with Lee County.

**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 Mann 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. Only four counties are still under mosquito borne advisory and Hillsborough has a mosquito borne alert. Trends from last year, the State went above average. Flu is low. The peak is usually January but it looks to be lower this year than last.

**MEETING DATES** – Director Gale presented a list of meeting dates to be published. The meeting dates are the First Thursday after the first Monday of the month. Several months out of the year meetings are very early in the month, it would be better to have the meeting the second Thursday of the month closer to the middle of the month. The only month that this would not work would be September due to the budget hearings that month. Commissioner Ellis suggested we wait for a few months. Commissioner Mann planned on being out of the County in June. July is when we publish our new set of dates. Commissioner Ellis asked if we could send him what it looks like changing the dates in July. Meeting dates for February 4<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup> will remain the same. Commissioner Dortch moved to approve the current dates and Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion.

**PROJECT UPDATE** – Carmen McKinney reported that the King Airs continue to have logistics problems in Arizona. Right now we will have the museum move them for us. The runway extension project is progressing. There is a property purchase still in the works through Lee County before we can proceed further.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Just completed a couple weeks of down time. We had 268 service requests in December and crews were in treating with trucks during the down time. Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) Tallahassee Days are February 22-23 for any of the Commissioners who would like to attend. A couple of Bills have come

to light for Special Districts. One has to do with website legislation. The District is already in compliance with that one. Also a bill regarding elections, for cities and municipalities outside of normal elections has been presented. It is Director Gale's understanding that Special Districts were removed but he will watch that. If it happens it would be very costly as the District would have to pay to run the elections. It would be an expense that we do not have presently. Commissioner Ellis asked an approximate cost. Vice-Chair Hart said it depends on who else would be on that ballot. January 26th is the Commissioner and Director Caucus at Dodd. Director Gale will go from the Director caucus to Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) Tallahassee days on the 27th.

The District attorney has prepared a document covering treatment of State Lands. It should begin moving through the process fairly soon. They want Legislators involved. Representative Matt Caldwell is currently working on a Parks Bill so he would be an appropriate Legislator to contact.

The Hyacinth District has been requested to treat 30 acres behind Lehigh Acres Hospital owned by FGUA that is completely covered with water hyacinth and water lettuce that raises *Mansonia* mosquitoes. They are active right at dusk and generating many service requests. The 30 acres are not accessible by boat so application will be done by aerial application by helicopter. The District is trying to get them to create a ramp to launch an airboat so that we can maintain it in the future. Commissioner Mann asked about going over land, Director Gale responded it is too heavy. Vice-Chair Hart asked why this water? Director Gale responded it is a mosquito issue. Commissioner Ellis mentioned it may be more expensive to treat the mosquitoes. There is potentially a long-term chance of savings.

Commissioner Hart said we had to bring people in for the holidays. What was the mosquito issue? Director Gale replied that there were some *Mansonia* but we had a rain and it gave us flood water mosquitoes. Commissioner Hart wondered if it was backyard homegrown mosquitoes. Commissioner Dortch asked has it the problem has dropped off yet? Director Gale said "yes" the cooler weather slows them down. Commissioner Ellis mentioned we should have a wet winter. Director Gale replied that could be a good thing. We have our biggest problem when it dries up and gives flood water mosquitoes area to lay eggs.

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

Commissioner Mann said he felt he could speak for the T. Wayne Miller family and say they appreciate the support.

Did we sell our boat? It just got on the auction yesterday and we already have one bid on it.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

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

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Chairman

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Secretary