

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held a regular Board meeting, August 17, 2017, at 10:05 a.m. in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Thomas B. Hart, Vice-Chairman William M. Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer Brian F. Farrar, Commissioners Ed Brantley, George T. Mann, Jr., Bruce C. Scott

**STAFF:** Russ Baker - Chief Financial Officer, Shelly Redovan - Deputy Director Communication & Education, Susan Merris - Deputy Director Human Resources, Kevin Watts – Deputy Director Hyacinth Control

**VISITORS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MINUTES APPROVAL** – Chairman Hart requested Board approval for the July meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minute as presented.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Brianna Powell, Biological Scientist for the Health Department advised the Board that there is nothing to report this month. There have been no locally acquired cases of Dengue, Chikungunya or Zika in Lee County. Three travel associated cases of malaria have been reported in Lee County. No other arbovirus cases reported in Lee County so far this year.

**FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM SPECIAL RISK FOR PILOTS (FRS)** – Executive Director Gale, reported that the District has attempted in the past get Mosquito Control pilots placed into the special risk category for retirement benefits. There is extreme resistance to having additional jobs added to this category but we feel strongly that the Mosquito Pilots should be in this category. Director Gale is asking the Board for approval to pursue this again. We would like to hire a Lobbyist, Carey Roth who is very familiar with the issue and worked on it with us before to work on our behalf to accomplish this. Representative Matt Caldwell has agreed to work on it with us as well. We don't know the cost at this time but would like to begin the process with the Board's approval. Motion was made by Commissioner Mann to pursue this, Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion and the Board gave unanimous approval to proceed.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – Director Gale advised that it has been an extremely busy season. It is still wet and there are issues in the Cape concerning canals that are weed bound. The Hyacinth Department is attempting to work with the Cape staff to come up with some long-range plans for the future. Director has a lot of travel during the next couple of months. He is leaving today to go to the AMCA Meeting in St. Augustine then on to the AMCA Board meeting in Kansas City. There will be several trips after this to Utah for the Mosquito Abatement Association, Northwest Mosquito Association Meeting in Whitefish, MT, National Pest Management in Baltimore, MD, South Carolina Mosquito Control Association. These trips would have been made last year but they could not be done. He is attempting to make these up before February 2018 when he will no longer be the President of AMCA. From November 2016 through January 2017, he will simultaneously hold office as FMCA President and AMCA President.

Chairman Hart asked the Director to speak about why everything was so expensive and busy for this season. Director's response was that with our very dry winter with some drought conditions mainly in Lehigh and loss of natural predators when water dries up they die and dry conditions makes them prey for predators. The other predators like dragonfly die as well and takes them several months to regenerate. Fish take much longer and are just now back to where they normally are located. As long as it stays wet and does not dry back, we will get help from the fish in controlling mosquitoes. About the end of August things start to stabilize the water is set, fish are helping us out, marshes

become less saline and are more fresh and we also get Culex Mosquitoes as opposed to Salt Marsh for which there is no concrete explanation. Everyone is wondering why it has been such an unusual year not just in Lee County. As long as it stays wet, the birds are dispersed away from where the mosquitoes are and helps keep the two separated. Culex can be anywhere in the county causing us to treat numerous times over the entire county.

**PROJECT UPDATE** – Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet and Facilities advised the board that our pilots will be picking up the King Air this Sunday and should have it on the ramp here within the week. The limited development order (LDO) for the paving project will be submitted sometime in October. Buckingham zoning change hearing is September 19. Woodstock airport issue is still with the county and they tell him there should be a hearing date set sometime in October. Emory Riddle tank engineering is moving slowly. They are using the current tank system to attempt to change it over.

**FISCAL REVIEW** – Secretary-Treasurer Farrar reviewed the financial summary with the Board starting with Mosquito Control. Motion to approve the Mosquito Control report was made by Commissioner Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Scott. The Board approved unanimously. Commissioner Farrar then presented the Hyacinth Control financial statement. Commissioner Farrar made the motion and Commissioner Ellis seconded to approve the Hyacinth Control report as presented. The Board approved with no dissenting votes.

There being no further business Chairman Hart made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion, the Board agreed to adjourn at 10:29 a.m.

  
Chairman

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Secretary