

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held a regular Board meeting, June 15, 2017, at 10:01 a.m. in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Thomas <sup>B.</sup>W. 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, Ed Foley - Mosquito Control Biologist, Neil Wilkinson - Environmental Education Liaison Instructor, Eric Jackson - Education Resource Specialist, Kevin Watts - Deputy Director Hyacinth Control

**VISITORS:** Lance Wissinger - Lightmark Aerial, Kathy Mayo - League of Women Voters

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**MINUTES APPROVAL** - Chairman Hart asked if the Board they would like to postpone minutes approval in order to have time to review them as they had not received a copy of them in advance. The Board agreed unanimously to postpone the approval of the May minutes until the next meeting in July.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** - Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology advised the Board that there is nothing to report this month. There have been no travel related, imported cases or local cases or any advisory. There have been no locally acquired cases of Zika in the state in 2017. Carmen McKinney - Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, and Milton Sterling - Manager, Scientific Intelligence helped her this week with the filming of a video around the District about mosquito control that they made into a music video public service announcement. Once the film is finished, it will be shown to the Board at the following meeting. There is Yellow Fever in the tropics but there have been no cases so far this year here. The low quantity of Yellow Fever vaccine issue has been worked out with the FDA to trial the vaccine that has been approved in Europe to get it approved here to boost our supply. Miami and Lee County have been chosen to have the vaccine once approved to give those needing to travel. It is a lifetime vaccine and immunity lasts forever.

**LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY (FGCU) BUDGET PROPOSAL** - Shelly Redovan and Neil Wilkinson presented the update for both. Shelly reported this was a banner year for classes in both schools. There is more public interaction at events. We have now gotten back to a strong waiting list in our classes. Teachers feel it is so useful and are requesting the class be given to their students. They have modified the program to shorten the full week programs in order to accommodate the shortened weeks of testing. The schools still allow them in during their SFA testing time. Out of 50 elementary schools the program reaches 40. There is a waiting list at every level and growth in the schools. Commissioner Ellis feels this program should be under consideration over the next few years for expansion as it is highly valuable. Neil Wilkinson presented the budget proposal. Slides are included in the meeting minute file. The program is going into its 31<sup>st</sup> year in the fall. Neil pointed out the 5<sup>th</sup> grade program hits 80% of all schools, middle school program and Kindergarten program taught by FGCU. By the time they get to the Thursday discussion on mosquito control, the students have a very good idea about mosquitoes. August through December was all about Zika, explaining what makes LCMCD different is the fact that we do surveillance at a much bigger level. The fifth graders really eat up the graphs and charts discussion about how we do surveillance and how it pertains to larviciding and adulticiding. They cover handling mosquito control around their homes. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade program is going to be revamped shortly. They do a microscope lab looking at anatomy. High school is a biology lab and FGCU interns are used to prep all the necessary

equipment used. They also do an environmental science lab for high school chemistry classes teaching about chemicals and doing resistance tests. There were 13,000 students reached this year visiting each individual class at least 3 times. They are involved with the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) and the Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) they participate in every aspect. Dodd short courses the teachers are presenting all week long in all aspects of mosquito control. Website redesign handled by Eric Jackson is on Mosquitoed.com has been updated. They also present during outreach community events with booths, live animals, and interactive displays. Shelly asked that the Board approve the budget for the upcoming year. Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the FGCU and Lee County School Board mosquito education budgets for the coming year. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Chairman Hart asked if they would do Rotary presentations and Neil responded that they have never been asked to go in and speak about our education program. They are able and willing to present and will be happy to speak to a group. Commissioner Scott asked if there is a way to go through the school system and invite parents to a science night. The teachers are using Twitter much more and tweeting out to the school district and parents advising of a guest coming in. Waiting list size fluctuates but at the elementary level, it is 7-8 schools, middle school 3-4 and high school 3-4. Chairman Hart asked, does anyone else have a program like this one? Neil replied that California has a program but they do not use education professionals. One of Neil's students who has gone on to work with Pasco County Mosquito Control and Dennis Moore has begun to create a program similar to ours. They do not know of any other mosquito control that has actual employees that are also employees of the school system. The intern program has worked very well with about 10-20 students per semester. The contract with FGCU is not up for renewal until next year.

**AUDIT UPDATE** – Russ Baker introduced Chad Whetstone with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, who will present the audited financial statements for the year ended 9/30/16. Chad thanked Russ and Sean O'Neil for responding and working with them to provide information. Russ reminded the Board that the District has a 3-year contract with Carr, with the option to continue for two more years. Russ asked if the Board would allow him and Director Gale to meet with them to obtain an engagement letter for the next two years. Chairman Hart requested approval by the Board to continue with them. The Board approved unanimously.

Chad then presented their opinions for both Mosquito Control and Hyacinth Control. In their opinion, the financial statements referred to in the reports present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of the Lee County Mosquito Control District and the Hyacinth Control District as of September 30, 2106, and the respective changes in financial position, and the respective budgetary comparison of the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Upon completion of the report, the motion was made by Commissioner Farrar to accept and approve both Mosquito Control and Hyacinth Control audits for the year ending 9/30/16. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**PAID TIME OFF POLICY (PTO)** – Director Gale advised the Board that the plan was for them to have time to review the document, which they did not have so this item will be postponed until the next board meeting on July 27.

**PROJECT UPDATE** – Carmen McKinney, advised the Board the rezoning of the Buckingham base is proceeding along and the vote needs to be taken and a minor adjustment to the survey submitted. This will go to the hearing there are no issues at this point. We are still seeking the CF Zoning for Pine Island and there will be a Community Meeting June 27 at the Pine Island Fire Department to provide information to the community and obtain their input. The hearing officer should be here in September to finalize everything with the Board and the close out date is tentatively set for October. There has been some push back from the community and we are trying to educate them

and answer any inaccurate information via phone calls. The community hearing should resolve those issues. The King Air 1 is in the hanger and Embry Riddle is still working on that. King Air 2 is scheduled to leave Arizona on June 26 and be home on June 29 or 30<sup>th</sup> work will begin immediately. Chairman Hart asked what kind of value each one would have once completed. Carmen advised that they would exceed \$600,000. We are going to discuss part of that in the transition plan but long story short it is difficult to get those specific aircraft is up to \$500,000 right now. The savings in cost of operations will provide us with a significant savings.

Paving the parking lot still waiting on Limited Development Order (LDO) the CAD drawing is slowing things down.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Executive Director Gale presented that we are very busy. Weather patterns are following those of 2011 drought conditions are almost identical. Mosquito service requests are going up dramatically. Hyacinth Control has been in the news lately about Cape Coral canals with tape grass and debris clogging up the canals. Kevin Watts, Deputy Director Hyacinth Control is working with city to arrange for them to collect the trash and we will meet them half way and provide the harvester to remove plant material. They need to provide a truck as access is an issue our harvester cannot offload material over sea walls onto private properties. Salt marsh problems out on the island is significant there are large numbers of resident complaints.

Good news is we have negotiated our first approval of an arthropod control plan to do limited spraying not with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) but with Fish & Wildlife over the Yucca Pens in North Fort Myers. The land has been declared environmentally sensitive and biologically productive. There are residential areas immediately adjacent to the forest and because the forest is inaccessible, treatment must be by air, during the progress our Tallahassee Attorney has worked at the highest level, and we have agreed to pursue larvicide activity. We agreed that if they will allow us to we would attempt to larvicide the edges to control mosquitoes coming out of there. We want to do a good job with this one making this our first step and create a template for future approvals. The area is located from Burnt Store east going into Charlotte County.

The Board would like the Director to do a transition plan for the District. The Director advised that he is developing a strategic five year plan and will present that to them at the next meeting. If any of them would like to come in and sit down with Rick O'Neil, Aviation Manager, he will give each of them the aviation plan presentation.

Director Gale will be in Puerto Rico in July discussing a vector control unit grant being created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). He is on the technical advisory board. Director just got back from the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) meeting and reported that there is not much happening in the Legislature now. The last item is we have been working on the CF Zoning for Buckingham and we have discussed it quite a bit and the Board agreed but the County needs a vote by the Board to indicate that we want to move forward. There is no vote recorded at this time. What is holding up the assignment they cannot present any further until they secure the vote. Director Gale requested that the Board approve it today and have a resolution for formal request next month.

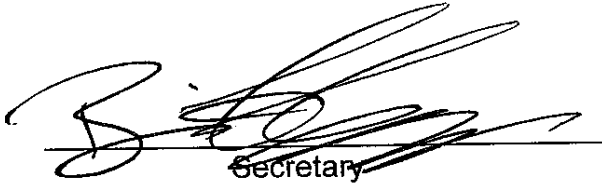
The Board approved the request to proceed in obtaining CF zoning for the Buckingham Facilities. In addition, the Board further approves giving the Executive Director approval for CF Zoning of the Buckingham Air Field. Commissioner Farrar made the motion and Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved. Motion was also made by Commissioner Farrar for CF Zoning of the Pine Island, Woodstock Airport. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

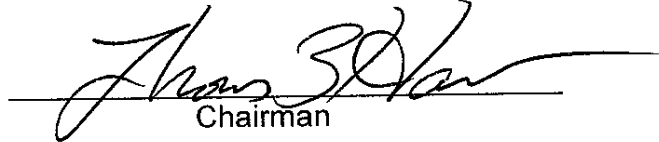
**FISCAL REVIEW** – Secretary-Treasurer Farrar reviewed the financial summary with the Board starting with Mosquito Control. Motion to approve the Mosquito Control report was made by Commissioner Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Mann. The Board

approved unanimously. Commissioner Farrar then presented the Hyacinth Control financial statement. Commissioner Farrar made the motion and Commissioner Scott seconded to approve the Hyacinth Control report as presented. The Board approved with no dissenting votes.

There being no further business Commissioner Farrar made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.



Secretary



Chairman