

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held a regular Board Meeting, May 25, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman Thomas ^BW. 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

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MINUTES APPROVAL — Chairman Hart asked if the Board had an opportunity to review the meeting minutes from last month, which they had. Commissioner Mann made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT - Brianna Powell, Biological Scientist on Staff at the Health Department was here to provide the report for this month. Week 5/14-20 there have been no human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV), Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), Chikungunya (ChicV) and there are no sentinels showing positive. One travel related Dengue case was identified in a traveler from Guatemala. One Zika travel related case was reported. There have been 46 travel related cases for the year in the state. No arbovirus cases have been reported for 2017 so far. Commissioner Mann asked what mosquito in Brazil carries yellow fever. The response was *Aedes aegypti*.

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE TRUST FUND - Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided some background for the last couple of years wherein the District has been working on moving toward the Trust Fund to manage the retiree health insurance benefit. There was a meeting of the Trust Fund Board on May 8. At that time, they made the decision to finish the Trust Fund document and start paying the Trust Fund benefit. The fund has made \$153,000 since inception and it has surpassed the goal each year over the last two years. With the document switch over on 10/1/17, the Trust becomes responsible for managing the fund. The District will stop paying administrative expenses related to the Trust. Currently the liability is shown on the District financial statements. Russ pointed out that the implicit liability states that it is LCM/LCHCD's task to pay retirees health care benefits. The explicit liability is the liability that the District pays which now moves over to the Trust. As of 10/1/17 the District will no longer pay the benefit. There is a technical issue now that the Trust has the management of the entire fund, the District has the task of creating a written policy relating to what the LCM/LCHCD Board will do in regard to the Trust. Commissioner Farrar reiterated the following, which he feels, puts the District in a very good position. The District has budgeted \$2 million in this year's budget and now the Trust Board knows that it is budgeted and ready to go and will be moved into the Trust which will give it \$4,153,000.00 in the Fund. The Trust will be making the Trust Fund payments. In order for the fund to sustain itself, it will need \$21 million to provide for both Districts. The Trust Fund Board now authorizes the contribution to the Trust the LCM/LCHCD Board has no access to the Trust Fund money. Executive Director Gale, is Fund President, LCM/LCHCD CFO Russell Baker is Fund Chief Financial Officer, with the following being members of the Trust Fund Board: LCM/LCHCD Commissioner Farrar, Ken Sonne, Current LCHCD employee, George Wichterman, LCMCD Retiree. There is no vested benefit for the employees in OPEB. Burgess Chambers is our investment company. LCM/LCHCD will see a savings of approximately \$55,000-60,000 per year in maintenance costs of the Trust Fund.

PROJECT UPDATE — Executive Director Gale presented that things are moving along on the aircraft in Arizona. District personnel are there working on finishing things.

Carmen is still working on the zoning of the Pine Island Woodstock Airport and should have a result shortly on that. There have been a lot of rumors on the island about the proposed use of the airport extending far beyond what we will actually be doing with it.

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Commissioner Mann asked about what is happening with the C47's. Director responded that in June there would be an aircraft plan presented to the Board for the future. The feeling is that there is a much more efficient way to handle the aircraft here and reduce the fleet significantly. The diversity in aircraft makes piloting and training costs extremely expensive. We are looking at ways to make improvements and have asked the Pilots, Carmen McKinney and Rick O'Neil to create a more logical plan. The plan is to end up with two platforms one helicopter and one fixed wing. There will be some transition costs but in the end, it will be a more efficient operation. Our plan is to introduce Drones as another component of the new plan. The fleet will then consist of six helicopters and three airplanes. We are now at 11 and 6. We currently have one small underwater photography drone and one other. All our pilots have been trained and licensed to operate drones.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Executive Director Gale presented that we have salt marsh mosquitoes and the media has been here twice already. Our extremely dry season hatches any mosquitoes in the soil wherever we get rain or tide and the weather is preventing us from treating because it is too windy. Mosquitoes will get much worse before we can get everything treated. There are a significant number of sites that we pretreat with a slow release material, which lasts a longer, but is very expensive. By waiting if the weather does not cooperate, we cannot get that material out there. We are treating for larval control before the wind and rain gets ahead of us. We are waiting to hear from the State regarding aerial spraying of state lands. Little Pine is too big to pretreat and causes us a great deal of difficulty. We will have mosquitoes coming off and once they start near people complaints will be increasing. Director reported that we are still in the waiting period for Zika to begin showing up.

Director advised that we would be rolling something out soon regarding use of Sterile Mosquitoes (SM) and need to speak with the public about our intent to use Sterile Mosquitoes. We have spoken to groups on Sanibel. IAEA is concerned about how we roll this information out and provide correct full disclosure information. First, we are developing a presentation and talk with City Manager, Judy Zimomra on Sanibel to use when presenting the sterile mosquito information to the residents there. Commissioner Ellis made the request that a list of talking points be created for the Board as this process goes along. The presentation will be ready by the next Board meeting. Commissioner Farrar made a request for a separate website providing all information and a separate individual to manage phone calls for this. Target date of the program is next summer. Director will be working on obtaining funding to pay for all of this rather than the District covering costs. We need to do testing first and we are collaborating with groups as they become available. Funding needs to be done from either outside sources or by LCMCD. We need to validate here with good sound science. The SIT science is old hat in Florida as we have used sterile technology with fruit fly and screwworm management.

Director mentioned he had a successful meeting in Washington he met with all appointments feedback was positive. It remains to be seen what happens with the legislation in the works. If we are ever going to prevail with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting this is the time. During the Fish & Wildlife meeting, six delegates met with them over the new mosquito control manual they are getting ready to put out. It was last dealt with in 2007 about policy on refuge mosquito control and we were successful then to curtail their plan. The policy was pushed to the side and 10 years later, they have a manual recommending how to conduct mosquito control on refuges as a guide for managers. They asked us to provide feedback. The manual is not much different from the original policy. The sticking issues is the definition of mosquitoes as a public health issue. They are requiring disease on a refuge before

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The Florida Association meeting is in Orlando the 12-15 of June if anyone is planning on attending. Rooms are sold out but the sessions are good for things concerning Commissioners. Director is recommending that they attend. Agenda is on line on the website and day sessions are available. Director will be attending.

Susan Merris, Human Resources Director and Russ Baker, CFO have been working on a new Paid Time Off (PTO) policy trying to figure out how to transition into a PTO Policy. We have a number of time off designations, sick, personal, vacation, etc., which are valued differently and recognized differently by the District and the Florida Retirement System (FRS). Sick time does not count for FRS purposes. Sick is only valued at 25% for our purposes when it comes to payout. We will send the information to the Board this month so that it can be discussed at the next meeting. We are attempting to be fair to employees and not cost the District money. We have employees with significant savings in sick leave and we are going to make all that go away being fair to both parties. Asking if the Board will agree to the approach for switching now from the current system and going to PTO system. Leave is capped at 500 hours now, sick leave has no cap. Essentially, we had retirees leaving here with a year's pay and that is what we want to stop. We do not want to transition it in we want everything to go into effect on a specific date.

Director was involved on a conference call with Puerto Rico Vector Control (PRVC); the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has funded the vector control program for Puerto Rico including everything except for the aircraft. As President of the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) Director Gale is on the PRVC technical advisory board. Director will be going to Puerto Rico in July for the Florida Entomology meeting and will try to tour the facility/laboratory then.

Commissioner Ellis mentioned to the Board that the Director's evaluation is due and the Board would like to discuss the succession plan for his position at that time. A workshop was scheduled for Board meeting day on August 17 the time to be 8:00 a.m.

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 Ellis 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 Mann seconded to approve the Hyacinth Control report as presented. The Board approved with no dissenting votes.

CFO Baker presented the list of Surplus Items. These items are going to be advertised and auctioned on GovDeals. Motion was made by Commissioner Farrar to approve the items for auction. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

There being no further business Chairman Hart made the motion to adjourn today's meeting. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion, the Board agreed to adjourn at 11:13 a.m.



Secretary



Chairman