

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held their regular scheduled meeting April 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, FL.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman Ed Brantley, Commissioners Brian Farrar, Thomas B. Hart, George "Pat" Mann, Bruce C. Scott.

**STAFF:** Assistant Director - Dr. David Hoel, Russ Baker - Chief Financial Officer, Rick Pardo - Risk Manager, Eric Jackson - Public Information Officer, Carmen McKinney - Deputy Director Aviation Fleet & Facilities, Kevin Watts - Deputy Director Hyacinth Control District

**VISITORS:**

Vice-Chairman Brantley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology reported that there are no infectious diseases at this time. Levy County is under a mosquito alert for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). We have some minor Zika impact involving imported cases from Cuba.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Vice-Chairman Brantley requested Board approval for the March meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar made the motion and Commissioner Mann seconded motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved.

**EDUCATION PROGRAM:** Eric Jackson introduced new educators for our outreach team. Wendy Samz has been teaching over 13 years and actually took over the Junior High and High School programs from Brian Murphy who will be retiring this summer.

**SURPLUS PROPERTY:** Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer presented to the Board the list of surplus items for the month.

**PROJECT UPDATES** – Dr. Hoel, reported the following:

- We received our third AirBus helicopter last week and the fourth one is in transit today. It should be here at any time. On or about the 24<sup>th</sup> we are expecting to get the next one and another one on May 8. Attachment of spray tanks and weather issues have delayed these deliveries. If the Board wishes to go up for a flight today they are welcome to do so.
- The Micron Spinners arrived yesterday, we will be able to test them for swath width, and discussions are ongoing for a swath width of 60 feet total.
- A minor wiring issue is being worked on.
- The electric motor for spraying is mounted flat; we would prefer it to be on a slant. Our mechanics are working on this to make certain the motor will stay up out of water during takeoff or landing. Airbus is providing outstanding service and working alongside our personnel here on site. We will have continued support from them once we are in operation.
- These tanks really do change out from granular to spray system within an hour. Our down time will be reduced once our mechanics are more familiar with the switch out operation.
- Commissioner Mann asked where the helicopters would be stored during inclement weather. If we are going to be moving aircraft to storage, the King Airs will go in the helicopter hangar and the Airbus will go over to the Gun Range.
- Regarding Sterile Insect Technology (SIT), Dr. Hoel offered for Board to view the new Lab area that is coming along nicely. We will soon order specialty lights to simulate sunrise/sunset to help with rearing mosquitoes, and an X-ray machine was ordered yesterday. Accountant Russ Baker received 5% discount on this item for us. We are getting spare canisters for insulation in the chamber, a calibrating system for the machine on order to map radiation. For us to publish results from this work we will need to have accurate readings. Radio Chromatic reader and the machine will absorb radiation and tell us how much. We can also measure radiation leakage outside the machine to ensure safety. The X-ray radiation is equal to a one hour commercial aircraft flight. There will be a training session provided by the company who are building and installing it for us. They will bring their technicians who will give our people the training. The chiller will be on the outside of the building with cooling pipes going through the walls. Both the companies know each other and will work in collaboration. This chiller will be here within the next few weeks. We have a small quantity of mosquitoes hatching from Captiva Island which we have sent to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and University of Florida for pesticide resistance and colony testing.
- Rachel Morreale, Eric Jackson and Dr. Hoel gave a presentation on Captiva Island with the Community Panel there and they asked very good questions concerning whether this system

generates radioactive mosquitoes or any radioactivity escaping. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the same presentation will be given to the Sanibel City Council.

- Current work here at the District campus consists of having a nonslip flooring material installed in the Pesticide loading room south of the compound. The cost is approximately \$20,000 and should be completed around May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Woodstock decision is still awaiting comments from the Judge. It was supposed to be out no later than April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Hart asked if we have identified the staff that will be operating the SIT radiation equipment. The SIT team will consist of a main supervisor and two technicians working with Rachel Morreale. One technical position has been filled and the other two are still open because there would not be much for them to do at this point. Commissioner Hart asked how many hours per day will this machine operate. Dr. Hoel said it would run between 5 and 15 minutes per sterilization run. The actual time will depend upon what is learned going forward with radiation dose and the number of mosquitoes we can rear. The configuration is about the same as that of a dental x-ray machine. This process will likely begin around July or August. Dr. Hahn from the University of Florida has been working on the protocols for validating the equipment and machine setup will be a part of what we are purchasing. We are going to have to test mosquitoes and make sure that we can validate active males for ability to mate, fly, and longevity. There is also field testing that will be done on Captiva Island. Documentation of test results will likely be published later and we have all the equipment to make certain that we can get predefined protocols. The Board will be able to read these in advance of publication.
- Brian Farrar commented on the variables and that we are only working with one mosquito species, *Aedes aegypti*.
- Director Gale responded that there is no place where we can get this information; we are really the groundbreaking location for this process. Commissioner Brantley wants to make certain that there is complete documentation of every step of the validation process.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Executive Director Gale advised that John Noland was requested to be here but he had a prior engagement and was not able to come. We have not heard anything on the zoning issue with Woodstock airport. We have been receiving a number of record requests. Leo Amos has made a number of public record requests through our Attorney John Noland. As a part of this process, he has alleged that our website is out of compliance and he has contacted folks in Tallahassee and Representative Rodrigues. Resulting in this we are being reviewed and have been made aware of our website not being in compliance on a document called a Facilities Report. Every special taxing district is supposed to respond to these requests; ours is not there and we are working on getting it on there. Mr. Amos made a public records request for a special meeting held on June 29, 2016. Those minutes are in their packet and he was correct, they were not posted. He made a meeting request for the meeting notification and the unsigned draft of those meetings. Mr. Amos has the draft minutes copy. The original version has an error in that \$271,000 is on the wrong line. Director has reviewed them and this is the edited version. These are not on the website. The Board could at their discretion approve them and go ahead and put them on the website. Commissioner Hart would like to put this on the agenda for the next meeting and those missing today will be available to look back and see whatever notes they may have and put it on the web as a draft. At the time this was done it was not required that it be posted. However, shortly thereafter in the fall of 2016, it became a requirement. With regard to this, Eric Jackson and Director Gale have talked to Tallahassee and Representative Rodriguez's office to show them where it is on our website. We have issued an RFP to redo our entire website and we plan to have a tab related to documents on it.

Director advised the Board that next month's meeting would need to be changed from May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 24 if possible. Commissioners Brantley and Farrar are both unavailable. After discussion, the Board members are comfortable moving the meeting to May 10<sup>th</sup> even though the Financial Statements, which would normally be presented, will be unavailable and have to be presented at the meeting in June. Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve the change and the Board approved unanimously.

Director advised that the next Board meeting would be Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet and Facilities last Board meeting before retirement. Susan Merris, Deputy Director of Human Resources will also be leaving in June as her family is moving to Kansas City. The advertisement has gone out for her replacement.

Russ provided surplus items reports for this month. The first form is the regular monthly report for the Board to declare that the items presented on this report are available for disposal. Predominantly the report consists of vehicles to be offered to other mosquito control districts on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) website. The districts may purchase from DACS with the minimum bid prior to our posting them on GovDeals. We do well on GovDeals; an example is a 2002 4-wheel drive 2500 truck that was auctioned and sold for \$7,000. We will put the items on DACS for 10 days; if they do not sell, we will put them on GovDeals. The equipment remaining is old spray equipment in our back warehouse and as part of the review of old items we have determined that the

ones on the Capital Asset list be declared surplus for disposal. Commissioner Farrar made the motion to sell them. Commissioner Mann asked whether he would be able to purchase something. Anyone is available to go on GovDeals to bid and purchase these items. Anyone can buy on the national site. The Board unanimously approved.

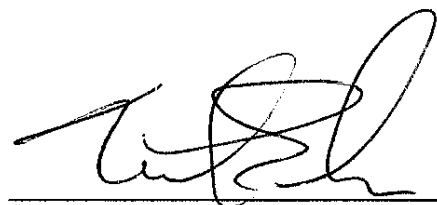
The second list is more extensive. Chris Gates, our Purchasing Agent, is in charge of the department temporarily. He has inventoried and assessed two of our warehouses to update inventory and possibly dispose of items. We will be able to make decisions on items beyond economical repair to sell on GovDeals, sell to other districts or sell for scrap. The assets that used these items are beginning to be removed from inventory and these items need to be disposed of as well. Motion to add these items to the disposed item list was made by Commissioner Farrar and seconded, by Commissioner Mann. The Board unanimously approved the disposal of the items.

**FISCAL REVIEW** – Secretary-Treasurer Farrar reported on the Hyacinth Control review and report ended March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018. Motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Mann, Scott to approve the Mosquito Control financial reports as presented. The Board approved unanimously.

Secretary/Treasurer Farrar then presented the LCMCD Control financial reports for the month and made a motion to approve as submitted. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the Board approved with no dissenting votes.

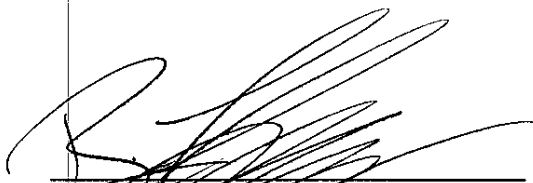
Commissioner Hart asked about pretreating salt marsh. Director Gale advised that we have had our annual meetings with Fish & Wildlife and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding state and federal lands. We have a dispute currently with DEP parks folks regarding aerial spraying over state lands. In the approval, they exempted Cayo Costa and when asked why they denied our request, the response given was “we need to keep something (unsprayed)”. When pressed as to what animals are endangered or threatened on Cayo Costa from adulticide spray, they replied that they do not know. The rules were suspended last year after Hurricane Irma and the only place we were allowed to spray was Cayo Costa and we told them we needed to treat and we sprayed accordingly. They do not realized that the mosquitoes on Cayo Costa go everywhere- they go to Cape Coral, the Islands and do not just stay on Cayo Costa. Pretreating is expensive, but we might have to increase the pretreating on Cayo Costa as a preventative. The amount of insecticide we is budget is dependent on the forecasted spray estimates from prior years. Pretreatment cost could be as much as \$2 million which is a onetime 30-40 day treatment. Do we have aircraft ready to go? We were told they were all going to arrive turnkey and ready to spray, but touchup worked is needed. We have our existing fleet intact and will not sell or dispose of older aircraft until the new ones are up and running. We currently have 16 helicopters of which ten will eventually be disposed of. We will have more than enough to cover us this spray season. Once the Airbuses are ready, we will sell the others. There is interest in the Bell 407's; we are wanting to sale soon. Carmen recommends that we can put them on the Gun Range. The Hueys have never gone in there, we can use the Quad for storing the fixed wing aircraft. This will be a temporary emergency storage site, in event of bad weather. The Gun range is a Category 5 rated structure.

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Brantley requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion which the Board unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.



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Chairman



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Secretary