

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held their regular scheduled meeting May 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Brian F. Farrar, Commissioners George "Pat" Mann, Melissa Dortch, Thomas B. Hart, Richard Paul, Bruce C. Scott and Director T. Wayne Gale.

**VISITORS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** – None

**MINUTES APPROVAL** – Chairman Farrar asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on April 7, 2016. Commissioner Dortch made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes with no dissenting votes.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology gave the following report. Not much to report other than Zika with four imported cases in Lee County. They are testing 2-3 people per week. There are 102 imported cases in the state. There are 17 counties involved in the 102 cases. They are working on improving their laboratory to handle the workload. The Zika death in Puerto Rico was a person in his 70's who was immuno compromised from other diseases.

**LCMCD/LCHCD EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK APPROVAL** – Director Gale asked for Board approval of the newly completed Employee Handbook. Commissioner Paul commented on how well put together the handbook is. A motion to approve the updated handbook was made by Commissioner Mann. Commissioner Paul seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**CAPITAL ASSETS DISPOSAL** – Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer asked the Board to declare the list of presented capital assets as surplus to be sold on the GovDeals auction website. The list is mostly vehicles being replaced this year. The travel trailer that appears on the list we were going to sell, but some things have changed and we would like to remove it from surplus. It is a Jayco Jayflight travel trailer. If the Board approves the rest of the list it will go on GovDeals to be sold. Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve these items for sale. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mann unanimously approved.

**AUDIT UPDATE** – CFO Baker will provide an update on progress of the 2015 audit. Field work has been completed and the financial statement schedules and footnotes are completed. The Auditors are in the final stages there should be no repeats of last year's comments. Improvements have been made on inventory and capital assets and it is expected their report next month will be smooth.

**PROJECT UPDATE** – Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, reported that progress is being made in the King Air program.

The limited development order (LDO) is still in progress, the first phase has passed and they are moving on to the next phase. The runway construction project has hit a couple of snags. The State has objected to some of the painting that has been done and we are working through it.

The aircraft in Arizona are coming along, all the work is being done out there before moving them here. We are starting the tank design for those aircraft already.

The other thing we are working on is a lease agreement on the Department of Transportation (DOT) building and Sheriff's hangar here. We have been talking to the County about land on the north side of the river for a helistop. There is a 49-acre tract that we would like to lease. The county is reviewing it. The parcel is mostly wetland and does have a hard surface road already. The DOT building has been paid for and the Sheriff's hangar is on a 40-year lease with a 20 year renewal. Anything we put structurally on that north bank area will be considered a permanent structure. We are looking at the possibility of putting in a boat dock with the capability to pull the boat up out of the water. Carmen will present a more formal presentation of leasing about 4 acres with the right of way to the road. The boat dock is 3.5 miles from the marina to the east. The approach for the helicopter is easier for us. Even though we have left the marina they were charging \$300 for the boat slip and now they want to charge us to land and use their property. The aviation buffer protection Carmen is working on with the County will cover all present and future helistops. The zoning issue out here is a residential zoning and two agencies are not communicating and we have already determined that on residential property we can have a helistop, it is in County Code. One part of the building department is unaware of that ordinance and they will study that to make sure that we are correct. The zoning issue is the one discussed during the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting on site here at the District.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Director reported that this has been an interesting month. Zika is first on the list, our testing system for Zika is outdated and we need to replace our laboratory equipment. Our current equipment will only test for one thing at a time. We need a new multiplex rPCR machine which costs \$30,000 and we have not budgeted for this. Director has ordered the machine as a contingency item. He has also submitted a funding request to pay for that machine and a request for 550 pounds of Vectobac WDG for a Zika outbreak locally and these are items that we would not normally request. \$56,000 has been requested. He has not bought the extra pesticides but had ordered the rPCR machine. The intent right now is for us to do that as a budget amendment at the end of the year. There is no idea when Zika assistance money will be released by the State. There are not many other districts that have submitted requests for funds so far. The machine is on order but we are uncertain as to when we will receive it. There will be no additional staffing costs to operate this new equipment at this time. But we will need to be ready for additional requests as they arise. As an idea we have these two airplanes from the Federal Government and the first will be done this year and the next one not until the next year so we might even be able to ask for them to pay for it. We will not need additional Laboratory staffing our only need in that area will be for "boots on the ground" personnel. BTI is slightly limited in effectiveness based on quantity of mosquitoes, rain, etc. We concentrate on the one square mile around the individual case and give it everything we have to effectively manage the short travel distances of one square mile. With the purchase of this material we would have enough to cover 3 separate cases at 1 square mile each. The drone idea is still very experimental but there are some applications that it may benefit

We have the States' biggest tire pile here in Lehigh and we have been looking at the company and they have done this before. They get tires delivered and charges \$1.00 instead of \$2.00. They then pile these things up and don't dispose of them. There are 250,000 tires on a one acre spot and it is growing *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* like crazy. We are controlling them somewhat by putting ULV trucks out around the perimeter right now. The owner is supposed to maintain those tires in a mosquito free manner and he is not doing that. The Department of Environmental Protection has them under an consent order of to dispose of 20,000 per month and a year to complete the removal. They have not complied as of yet. They can take them to the incinerator and they charge \$80.00 per ton which will cost the owner money. DEP is attempting to negotiate a better price with the incinerator people. The DEP's concern is that he will walk away from the mess and the DEP will be left to clean it up. This is another area to ask for Zika funding. It will be part of the package that we are asking for in Washington for sanitary nuisance abatement.

Last Thursday we received a call from the Governor's office asking us to meet with him on Friday morning with Jennifer Roth and Angela Swartzman from Lee County Health Department, Mayor Randy Henderson, Board of County Commissioners Chair Brian Hamman, and Dr. Celeste Phillip, State Health Office. He wanted to know what we were doing for Zika prep and what the state could do to help us. It was our opportunity to share some of this information. He was going to Washington and we gave him the appointment date we had with Congressman Clawson and he said he may be there at the same time and we might get to have a joint meeting with both of them next week.

We have had a number of workshops this month, FMCA had a regional workshop on the 26<sup>th</sup> having to do with arbovirus surveillance history in Florida and what is going on now. We had a meeting yesterday sponsored by the Department of Agriculture for anyone to roundtable and talk about regional preparedness, Jennifer Roth and Director Gale were both in attendance. We also have a call every week with the Department of Agriculture on what is happening statewide with all the Mosquito Directors and Zika issues.

There was an aircraft crash in St. Tammy Parish, Louisiana this month and there were two mosquito pilots lost. They crashed after completing a nighttime mosquito spray mission. They had both attended Fly-Ins here at the District. They were on approach when they crashed post mission.

We have had a number of retirements and are taking advantage of that. We have an auto mechanic retiring unexpectedly. Rather than hiring a new mechanic we have been speaking with George McDaniels, Assistant Director of Fort Myers Technical College, about their Externship Program which gives us the possibility of bringing students in here for work/training. They have visited our facilities and we have what they like as a scope of operation. They are interested and we have the opportunity to utilize basically free labor on a work/learn arrangement rather than hiring a mechanic and pay salary and benefits.

We have had our annual meetings with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and U.S. Fish & Wildlife on how to best work together for the upcoming season. DEP still has not done a controlled burn on the marshes like they need to but have completed control of the exotics which was required prior to burning. Most of the exotic work is finished so hopefully we can convince them to burn some of the marshes which makes it easier for our pesticides to get into the water.

We met with a software company, Leading Edge, to discuss the data base system replacement as it is self-built by Dr. Hornby and maintained by a person who was hired a few years ago and has since left District's employment, that didn't work out well. We did get Hyacinth on a new system and they are operating well but our programmer found a better job and didn't finish the Mosquito side. Johnathan will be retiring probably in January 2017. There are a couple of companies that have platforms we can use.

Leading Edge only does mosquito control they have everything you can possibly think of. We covered our operations with them from all angles and have even discussed marrying this into our Administrative Systems as well. It will not be cheap, running several hundred thousand dollars. We will need to discuss this and we are running out of time to solve this issue before Johnathan leaves. We are awaiting their proposal and this is just a heads up that the impact will be coming. There is no alternate solution at this time because of our requirement for keeping data for state reporting and NPDES reporting. All that reporting could be done through this new system. We do have a person on site as a programmer to help them with the system. We will need to decide if we want to include Hyacinth into this new system. Director says we will have a proposal and a number by next meeting.

We are buying long term time release materials that will last 30-40 days in the environment and is expensive up front but savings on returning to spray reduces the number of adulticiding missions and saves money in the long run. We are exploring more opportunities for Public Service Announcements (PSA's) to be created to disseminate Zika information. The Governor has chosen to treat this like a hurricane is coming and this is the first time that a public health emergency to be declared and gives us opportunities to take advantage of some of this. We are in a unique situation under that declaration.

We would like to show the Commissioners the site in North Fort Myers, the tire pile and anything else they would like to visit on their annual flight. Also another thing there is an airport for sale on Pine Island and potential future long term money saving opportunity. This one is offering a 35 acre licensed airport at \$1.5 million. We have worked this out and most of the time issue is ferry time from Lehigh Acres out to the spray areas. If there was a facility stationed with aircraft out there we could have employees report to work directly there and potentially save \$100,000 over time in ferry costs. The owner told us he is in no hurry but would like to give us first right of refusal so we can take our time and study everything before fully presenting it to the Board. This is a big money item up front but could pay for itself over time.

Last year's Open House was discussed and wondered if we were going to do it again this year. No but we are thinking of doing it again on a different date next year sometime. It does not work well if we are busy killing mosquitoes.


**FISCAL REVIEW** – Due to Commissioner Ellis being out of town Russ Baker presented the Treasurer's report for April. Russ requested a motion to approve the report as read. Commissioner Dortch made the motion to approve both Mosquito and Hyacinth reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paul and the Board unanimously approved the reports.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Commissioner Paul requested more user friendly spray information on the web site. There is a way of looking at a map to show where we have sprayed and the day we are spraying the polygon will show up on the date we are going to spray or any other past sprays. Could there be a hot button that will take the user right to it? This is a program we are using that is handled by the company we are looking at and these are thing that could be upgraded or fixed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Farrar at 11:10 a.m.



Secretary



Chairman