

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held their regular scheduled meeting June 29, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, FL.

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

**STAFF:** Executive Director — T. Wayne Gale, Assistant Director - Dr. David Hoel, Russ Baker - Chief Financial Officer, Rick Pardo - Risk Manager, Kevin Watts - Deputy Director Hyacinth Control District

**VISITORS:** Jamie Saunders of St. James City, FL; James "JJ" Johnson of Raytheon Company, Washington, D.C. and Tyler Woodby of Lehigh Acres, FL.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jamie Saunders spoke to the Board regarding the Woodstock Airport.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Vice-Chairman Brantley requested Board approval for the May meeting minutes. One correction needs to be made changing Commissioner Hart from the Chair for that meeting to Secretary Treasurer Farrar. Commissioner Mann made the motion and Commissioner Scott seconded motion to approve the minutes once revised. The Board unanimously approved.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, updated the Board regarding an increase in cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) around the state. Cases of EEE usually peak in June/July but we are having an above average year this year. Cases in humans are very rare. Commissioner Mann asked about news reports regarding cases of Keystone Mosquito Disease in Florida. Director Roth said that the State is looking into it but have found nothing to report thus far and are continuing to monitor.

**AUDIT UPDATE:** Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer, provided the update on the fiscal year ended September 30, 2017. Generally, the audit process is conducted in late April thru May. The Audit report has not been completed due to a change in the method of accounting for the Pension Plans. There is one outstanding issue, which should be completed in the first part of July and will be reported on during the July meeting. Russ will notify the Auditor General today after the meeting that we are going to be late.

**LAND PURCHASE:** Executive Director Gale provided an update on litigation regarding the purchase of Woodstock Airport. He advised that there has been an appeal to the judge's decision regarding use of the property as an airport. The Board has scheduled a meeting at 10:30 am to discuss.

**UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM INTEGRATION PILOT PROGRAM:** - Executive Director Gale advised the Board that Lee County Mosquito Control District was selected by the FAA to participate in a program for integrating unmanned aircraft systems (Drones) into our airspace. We did file a plan to participate, there were several hundred plans filed by other organizations. Our reason for filing is drones are already being integrated into airspace that presents difficulties sharing airspace with our conventional aircraft. The District is concerned about how rules and regulations are going to be written in the future. Safety for our fleet and pilots is such a huge consideration for us we want to participate in this discussion. We perceive some advantages in using drones; we are currently using them in the Hyacinth Department for locating algae and weeds in Cape Coral and are surveying areas for where pesticide applications will be conducted in the future. We are looking at using them in the future in our Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) program to release sterile mosquitoes in remote areas. Nothing that we are going to be doing would be less safe than what we are currently doing and potentially will be safer. The key component of this discussion is safety. We are going to make sure that tests are conducted in a manner that will not place anyone in harm's way. We proposed using a small drone to fly outside of the line of site. This will help establish line of site infrastructure. There will be a requirement to do that so other aircraft can identify drones in flight. The small drone can do a surveillance mission and fly for 4-5 hours without coming back. We do not have battery power at this time to do a mission of this length. The long end of project goal will be to fly a larger drone carrying a

payload and deliver it safely. As a group we are unsure if any of this can be done. These are the kind of things that the FAA is looking for partners to help with. We are working with Navmar who has

experience with those drones. Navmar will work with, supply equipment for us to fly, as well as train our people in using these drones. We have put \$350,000 in our budget in order to start this project. We are looking at a 3-year lease to purchase the larger drone. It is a 2.5-year project and will cost more than \$1 million over the next three years. Exact figures are not available. There are others interested such as Florida Power & Light (FPL) for surveillance of power lines. They are interested in the drone we would be using. They may want to collaborate with us and the Sheriff's Department is also interested. We are in the very early stages; the aircraft transition, SIT release facility, etc. are all on our agenda at this time. Executive Director Gale has signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which is a non-binding agreement and we can back out if the Board does not wish to approve it. He needs the Board's approval; they have received the e-mail of the MOA as well as a paper copy today. Director is not asking for any additional funding this year and as they move into next year, they will have a more clear idea of cost. The project is a valuable thing to make sure we are involved in rule making for drone space we are going to be flying in every day. FAA is expecting from us an analysis of how we are going to save money by using this aircraft. We are not near to having that information for them. We are pleased to be a part of the FAA's program. Director needs approval of the MOA at this time. We have not yet gone public due to the lack of Board approval for moving forward with this MOA. Commissioner Mann mentioned he would like to be involved because of flying at night with drones and over people. Our flights are nighttime in the 300' range and the drones will be occupying airspace close to our aircraft.

Commissioner Brantley asked what our comfort level is with current resources. Director stated that we are having some Pilot transitions happening this year and we may need to negotiate with the FAA regarding how quickly they want things done and how quickly we can comply.

Motion made by Secretary-Treasurer Farrar to approve the memorandum of agreement. Chairman Brantley seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

Land Purchase: Acting Chairman Brantley requested John Agnew of Henderson Franklin instruct the Board on the process for the Shade Meeting.

John Agnew and Ed Canterbury of Henderson Franklin presented the process for the Shade Meeting. This request concerns Case #17CA3777 formerly pending which is now on appeal to the Second District Court of Appeal, Sec.286.11. They are here to request a closed meeting with the Board. Chair must announce commencement and the length of said meeting and names of those who will be attending. He asked that Chairman explain the underlying lease and agreement to purchase to keep all items in the Sunshine. Chair advised the Board to remember the District contract signed December 2016 is still pending and the \$250,000 deposit in escrow is being held by Henderson Franklin Law Firm. Amendment number five signed in January 2018 called for a lease of the property, which the district is currently leasing on a six-month term pre occupancy for \$60,000. Term is due to expire at the end of June 2018 and has been renewed through December 2018. We have one remaining option to extend for another 6 months.

The time being 10:30 a.m. Chairman Brantley read the Board member names of Brantley, Farrar, Hart, Mann and Scott and gave the estimated time for the Shade Meeting as 30 minutes. Motion to temporarily close the Board Meeting was made by Commissioner Hart and seconded by Commissioner Mann and the Board unanimously approved.

Vice Chair Brantley reconvened the meeting at 11 a.m. the closed session is over and reopened the session by calling the meeting to order. He presented the Board's instructions to Henderson Franklin will fight the appeal with oral arguments and has opened the session to the Director and Board to share further comment. Director sees three options to purchase property; we have exercised the 6 months and another 6-month option up to a year from now at a cost of \$10,000 per month while the litigation is pending. There is no guarantee that the litigation will be completed within the year. The option to move forward with purchase and continue to defend the obligation and not spend any more money for leasing six months or another year. Option two continue to move forward with it and appeal property and lease through that point. Option three, retreat from the agreement because there is current litigation our contract allows us to withdraw. Current closing date is either expiration date of current lease term or December 31, 2018 or lawsuit resolution. We have ability to advance closing with 15 days' notice. If litigation is still pending, we have ability to terminate the contract. We do forfeit any rents already paid but not using that portion is forfeit but we would receive or \$250,000 deposit back. With close of the discussion Executive Director Gale, recommend to move

forward with the purchase. Commissioner Scott asked what basis is there for this recommendation. Executive Director Gale believes the property is necessary for operations, we have a good chance of prevailing and does he not want to spend another \$120,000 waiting to know if lawsuit is finished. We have very limited use right now, we land out there and normally use it. We have taken people out there recently, the FAA just yesterday. Commissioner Hart would like to see us use it right now in the middle of this season. The purchase includes consolidating St. James and Pine Island Center that would require moving structures and things, which we do not have time to do during season. Commissioner Hart does not understand what the resident complaint is about us bullying them. Executive Director is unaware of bullying of any type. Our pilots landing for lunch has been a practice for decades and they land on Pine Island routinely in fields across from eateries so they could get a meal. However, because it is becoming an issue for Pine Island residents that our Pilots will not be landing that way anymore they will land at the Helistops and we have stationed vehicles at the Helistops so they will take them to lunch and park the helicopters.

Commissioner Hart requested information about the road closure issue; Executive Director Gale is aware of some easement questions across the runway but has not heard about closing roads. Dr. Hoel advised that there is an easement people can use for walking or driving. He does not know of any use by LCMCD of that easement. The current owner says it is not being used at this time and he does not use it. Is District planning to do anything with roads or easements? Henderson Law says that there is a reference to a North/South easement and there is some thought to whether that easement would be valid or not. The consensus is that if it is a valid easement it will not affect our operations due to our approach being from East/West..

Commissioner Hart made a motion that we maintain the status quo and do nothing at this time. Secretary-Treasurer Farrar seconded. Commissioner Scott would like to proceed with closing on the property. He feels that we have a good chance of the appeal being struck down. He was the inspector out there years ago and 60-70% of our spraying is done there. Commissioner Scott abstains from the vote, which the remaining Board members approved. The motion passed.

PUBLIC FACILITIES REPORT: Executive Director Gale advised that one of the items coming out of our public scrutiny regarding Woodstock is that we have not provided a Public Facilities Report to the County. He was unaware and it is a requirement for it to be on our Website. We have developed the plan and provided it to the Board. The report contains all information necessary as well as plans for future use. The Board does not need to approve it this was just for their information.

PROJECTS UPDATE: Dr. David Hoel, Assistant Director, advised the Board that a number of things have happened since last month. The last Isolair tanks have arrived they were ordered in conjunction with the helicopters. The only thing tacking is the ultra-low volume (ULV) spray system that is coming. Modifications are needed as we are only getting 50' swath width with them and we need 60'. Blowers are not operating as they should so modification are being made here on site. We feel as though the problem is on its way to being resolved. We are using the liquid systems, pilots are happy with them, and performance is good. We had an FAA registration issue on one of the 200's from Conroe of a misplaced registration and that is being resolved. King Air 90's have spray tanks and molds are still a work in progress for the King Air 200's. The Chiller and X-ray machine for our SIT project will be delivered soon. We should have them up and running by our next meeting. SIT Building is moving along for the rearing rooms for larvae. All mechanicals are in progress right now. We have Selina Yaghoubi, a University of Florida Undergrad on fellowship here provided by CDC working on larval diets for rearing and we will have her expertise for the next few weeks. Some of the sheds at heliports are being replaced, they have been out there for years as offices and insecticide storage. Replacement trailers are around \$1500 each and we are working on this. The leaning palm trees on Homestead Road are being removed and ground up to prevent any incidents. The duplex at the south end of the Runway and a gravel road toward it is being renovated for the Sheriff and EMS to use as classroom space. We are still looking at bids for the work. Boca Grande heliport fence was torn up by the hurricane. The fence will be replaced to secure that area at a cost of \$16,000.

Washington Days was well attended the group visited Senator Nelson, Congressman Rooney and Representative Ross. There were meetings concerning pesticide laws and CDC funding which has been slashed over the years.

Lee County has asked if we are going forward with the Debris Staging Agreement with the county. The agreement allows them to use the same area as they did after Hurricane Irma. Acting Chairman Brantley requested Board approval for the Staging Agreement, Commissioner Mann seconded and the Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director Gale attended the Florida Association of Special Districts meeting. During the meeting they surprised him with the Award for Special District of the Year in Florida. It is unknown who nominated us for this.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Executive Director Gale advised that the District is having significant employee turnover at present. Educators Neil Wilkinson and Brian Murphy have retired, Eric Jackson has replaced Shelly Redovan who retired as Public Information Officer, we have three new teachers added to our education program, Jim McKeever, Chief Pilot is retiring this month, and Lisa Hunt, Biologist is retiring at the end of August, Susan Merris Director of Human Resources is leaving at the end of July. This is a lot of moving and transitioning for this time of year. We have enough applicants and are in the process of hiring. Commissioner Mann asked about the reorganization of the pilot area with the release of our seasonal pilots. Director advised that we have not been utilizing them and we just performed the administrative task of removing them from our list for record keeping purposes.

Executive Director mentioned that we are in the process of transitioning aircraft and selling them. We have sold the Cherokee 6 for \$75,000 with the fee for the agent we cleared \$72,500. We spent \$20,000 on the aircraft originally, installed a new engine for \$30,000 and over the years spent another \$60,000 on various parts so we basically broke even on the sale. We have bids on the 407 's, Manatee Mosquito Control is interested in purchasing and Anastasia Mosquito Control has put a bid on one of our 206's. We are not releasing these aircraft until we know that our current fleet is capable.

FISCAL REVIEW — Secretary-Treasurer Farrar reviewed with the Board the April and May monthly financial statements for both the Districts.

After review motion to approve the April Mosquito Control report was made by Secretary-Treasurer Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Scott. The Board approved the report unanimously.

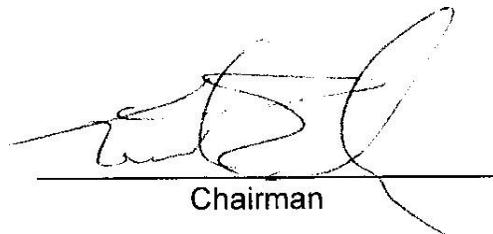
The April Hyacinth Control report review was presented by the Secretary-Treasurer who then made the motion to approve the report. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

With the review completed motion to approve the May Mosquito Control report was made by Secretary-Treasurer Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Hart. The Board approved unanimously.

The May Hyacinth Control report was presented for approval by Secretary-Treasurer Farrar and seconded by Commissioner Mann. The Board approved with no dissenting votes.

Executive Director advised the Board that Secretary-Treasurer Farrar has won his bid for re-election. There are three candidates running for the open seat and Commissioner Hart is running for his seat.

There being no further business Vice-Chairman Brantley requested a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11 am.



Chairman