

Commissioner Brantley called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMCD/LCHCD) on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:58 a.m. in the William Opp Training Center at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:**

- Seat 1- Commissioner Ed Brantley, Chair
- Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar, Secretary/Treasurer, Absent
- Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis
- Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen
- Seat 5- Commissioner George T. Mann, Jr., Absent
- Seat 6- Commissioner T. Hart
- Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, Absent

Legal Counsel – Not Present

**STAFF:**

Executive Director, Dr. David Hoel	Deputy Director, PIO, Eric Jackson	HR Director, Jackie Small
Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd	Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District, Kevin Watts	Manager of Aircraft Maintenance, Al Bennett
Executive Administrative Assistant, Summer De La Cruz	Accounts Payable, Sabina Vilarchao	Purchasing Manager, Chris Gates
	Risk Management, Rick Pardo	Manager, Scientific Intelligence, Milton Sterling

**VISITORS:**

- Kathy Mayo, League of Woman Voters
- Bill Smith, News-Press

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The following citizens addressed the Board:  
None

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Commissioner Brantley requested board approval for the month of April 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The board unanimously approved.*

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Lee County Health Department representative did not attend this month's meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA REPORT TOPICS:**

Senecio Mosquito Sex Separator

*Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The board unanimously approved.*

**AGENDA ITEM REPORT TOPICS:**

- Embry-Riddle spray tank project update- Al Bennett addressed the Board that a belly scan from Creative Composites and Geometrics is currently being finished.
- Auditor selection process & update in Florida statues- CFO, Russ Baker addressed the Board of LCMCD/LCHCD about the changes on selections of auditors. LCMHCD has a current RFP out requesting proposals for Auditing Services. The new statue begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and the current RFP ends on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Russ Baker recommended to reconstruct the Audit Committee before the statue takes effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. This discussion has been tabled until the return of Commissioner Farrar.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTRACT:** HR Director, Jacquelyn R. Small asked the Board to extend the contract discussion until June's Board meeting.

*Commissioner Hart made a motion to wait until the June Board meeting to discuss the Executive Director contract. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion; the Board approved unanimously.*

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Executive Director Dr. David Hoel:

- Dr. Hoel introduced Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth new Assistant Director Aaron Lloyd. Aaron has seven years' experience as the Assistant Director with personal management and mosquito control operations at Pasco County Mosquito Control, three years' experience in research entomology with the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence in Jacksonville Florida and ten years' experience in entomology field research for USDA's Center of Medical, Agricultural & Veterinary Entomology. Aaron also holds B.S and M.S. Entomology degrees from the University of Florida and is currently on the DODD committee of the FMCA as well as the research advisory panel for FDACS.
- Three District Employees and the Executive Director of Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts attended the annual American Mosquito Control Association's Washington Days to discuss issues with legislators important to mosquito control operations in Florida and the U.S. including the SMASH Act, support to CDC-DVBD, the REDTAPE Act, and the Endangered Species Act Reform. The offices of Representatives Rooney, Crist, Spano, and Hastings were visited as was Senator Scott's office.

**Facilities and actives report:**

1. Scheduling of IAEA workshop, 10-12 Sept., has been postponed until February or March. The workshop will include 22 participants from 12 countries. We will show & tell our SIT facility and discuss their SIT activities according to country or group.
2. IAEA has offered to fund a full-time worker, as a consultant. Danilo Carvalho did his PhD under an *Aedes* control project in Brazil where he was involved mainly in mass rearing, genetics, SIT releases, public relations, and trapping and evaluation. The position is for one year beginning July 2019, however, this will be delayed due to visa requirements, other administrative necessities.
3. LAMSID ribbon cutting event occurred at Blackstone Preservation, Lehigh Acres on April 24. This was part of the Lehigh Acres Headwater Initiative Meeting: Moving Water South Phase II: Blackstone Preserve Project, put in place to control flooding, recharge groundwater, and to remove excess nitrogen from said water.
4. Linda Walstrum retired from the Hyacinth District on April 30<sup>th</sup> after 25 years of service.
5. Ed Foley, Kevin Watts, Rita Maiss and other attended a nation-wide phone conference to discuss insecticide and herbicide applications by drone and how they might relate to EPA labeling requirements.
6. The gate by the duplex on the south runway has been replaced with a keypad-operated electric gate to facilitate entry by EMS and LCSO.
7. The Districts (LCMHCD) have been working on a collaborative project to reduce the reoccurring problem of *Mansonia* mosquitoes associated with the overabundance of invasive water hyacinth at the Cow Slough Pond/Deep Lagoon Preserve area adjacent to the Kelly Soccer Fields. This pond was treated with herbicide and a series of drone pictures were taken to show progress made with killing the aquatic plants.
8. Waste area on the south runway was extensively cleaned. Two waste sheds were removed, hundreds of wooden pallets sold to a recycling center, waste tires were turned in to the recycling center, and a dumpster is in place to collect other waste material.
9. Thank you letters and news articles.
  - FFVA
  - Pine Island Eagle
  - Amateur Radio Club

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019



Eric Jackson and Katie Baker  
Lee County Mosquito Control District  
15191 Homestead Road  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

April 24, 2019

Dear Eric and Katie:

Dealing with the continuing barrage of mosquito and aquatic weed management confrontations while at the same time trying to manage water issues, exposure issues, worker related issues, endangered species issues and other environmental issues that are associated with controlling mosquitoes and aquatic weeds in Florida, no doubt leads to day-to-day frustrations and much aggravation. Uphill battles seem to be the norm with almost each one of these influential yet unavoidable components, and these challenges are particularly relevant with respect to such aspects in the mosquito and aquatic weed management arenas. The registrant groups, the regulatory community, the seemingly impossible sets of standards, and the concerns over the risks associated with the uncertainties of most mosquito control practices some days force us to ask the question, "Where do the complexities end?"

Your contribution to this year's Florida Spring Regulatory Tour was immeasurable in the impact on the regulatory personnel involved. Entirely new and eye-opening perspectives were presented to Tour participants and your involvement in the Tour will pay you and the mosquito and aquatic weed control sectors as a whole dividends in the future because of the open dialogue and the resulting educational experiences the participants took away with them. Participants were impressed with the knowledge, professionalism and efficiency in which our systems are run in Florida. Following the visit to your facility, we received unscripted comments back from participants such as, "The LCMCD is an incredibly impressive organization and seeing the work that they do was extremely educational. It was also very interesting to hear how regulations, such as pesticide labels, are impactful." And, "Multifaceted and multi-sensory. Fascinating both for mosquito and aquatic weed controls." And, "OMG, better than expected! Very impressive work to control mosquitoes/hyacinths." And, "It was an informative experience. I learned a lot of new information about mosquitoes and I am happy to know tax money is hard at work." Sounds like your messages and processes were soaked up and comprehended.

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Because of these types of participant responses, we truly believe that the openness and candor of discussions was fantastic and will go a long way toward making a better level of understanding that will be necessary to effect meaningful change. Overall, the Tour was a resounding success due in large part to cooperation and support of our site leads such as you. We know how disruptive these events can be and just how much effort is involved in setting up a field visit for a group such as this, and we want you to know how much your help is appreciated. The willingness to open up your operation to a diverse group of inquisitive regulatory personnel is an indication of the confidence in the professional efforts shown by your entire organization. You have a remarkable ability of driving pertinent points home in a proficient and compelling manner. Please accept our personal thanks for all your assistance in this year's Tour, and we encourage you to keep up the good work. Please do not hesitate if there is any matter in which we might be of service or be able to return the favor.

Again, many thanks for the support and cooperation, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

*Mike*

Michael J. Acris  
Director, Science and Regulatory Affairs

May 2, 2019,

Mr. Eric Jackson  
Deputy Director  
Lee County Mosquito Hyacinth Control Dist  
15191 Homestead Rd  
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

Dear Mr. Gale,

The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club members would like to thank you and your staff for allowing us to run our Special Event during the days of March 25, thru 28th. We commemorated the 76 years of the Buckingham Gunner Army Airfield. It was a great success and a great exercise for us. In times of disasters, we are affiliated with Lee County Emergency Management and make contacts between them and Red Cross, Local police, the utility companies, the press, Fire dept. EMS, etc... The exercise you allow us to do helps us greatly with this task.

The total contacts we made by UHF/VHF/FM CW and SDR were 474. Propagation was not with us this year. We made contacts with about 15 countries not counting Canada. The furthest being South Africa. We had a total of 106 participants, and one Mascot. Again, we made contacts with folks that had family members who actually worked or graduated from the air field between 1942 and 1945. We had one Gunner come to our event which was a great surprise. So just imagine his age. We put a lot of emphasis on the great job you all are doing with mosquito control and research for Southwest Florida.

Again, we all thank you and look forward for your allowing us to do our Special Event next year.

Sincerely,

*Ms Stella J Gurka*

FMARC  
Ms Stella J Gurka WB2FAU  
Special Event Chairperson



**FISCAL REVIEW:** CFO, Russell Baker presented the District Treasurers report for April 2019. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the board approved unanimously.

CFO, Russell Baker presented the Hyacinth Control District Treasurers report for April 2019. Motion to approve the Hyacinth financials was made by Commissioner Scott, and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hart; the board approved unanimously.

There being no further business, Commissioner Brantley moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

*Ed Brantley*

Commissioner Ed Brantley, Chair  
Term: December 2016 – November 2020

*Brian Farrar*

Commissioner Brian Farrar  
Term: November 2018 – November 2022