

Commissioner Farrar called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 12/16/2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the William Opp Training Center at the Districts' headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971.

PRESENT:

Seat 1- Commissioner Ed Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer

Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Vice Chairman

Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart

Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present

Legal Counsel- John Agnew

STAFF:

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel, not present

Assistant Director- Aaron Lloyd

Deputy Director, Public Information and Education - Eric Jackson

Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District - Kevin Watts

Chief Financial Officer- Sean O'Neill

Human Resources Director- Jackie Small

IT Director- Keith Lowe

Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso

Network Support Technician- Joel Canova

Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler

Executive Administrative Assistant- Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

Shelley Dew– Retiree

OATH OF OFFICE: Legal Counsel, John Agnew administered the oath of office for the LCMHCD reelected officials.

Seats 2, 4 and 6 reelected officials sworn in at 10:05 a.m.; Brian Farrar, Stephen Bowen and Thomas Hart

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Legal Counsel, John Agnew

Nomination for Chairman

Brian Farrar nominated William Burke as Chairman, the Board unanimously approved.

Nomination for Vice Chairman

Mike Ellis nominated Thomas Hart as Vice Chairman, the Board unanimously approved.

Nomination for Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Ellis nominated Stephen Bowen as Secretary/Treasurer, the Board unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board:
None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the 11/17/2022 LCMHCD 10169 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the 11/17/2022 minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Arielle Ghanem, Biological Administrator of Communicable Diseases, Director, provided an update:

https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/_documents/2022-week50-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf

Commissioner Ellis asked "Arielle, how are we doing with Flu and COVID in Lee County?" Arielle responded "The most recent report for COVID is showing positivity rates at around 11%. Flu currently is high in general. The most recent flu reports indicated that our levels in Lee County have plateaued. It is that time of the year, and we are encouraging flu vaccines".

CONSENT AGENDA:

10170_ Surplus

Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the consent agenda item. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS: Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd presented the proposal for collaboration with Forrest Innovations LTD. Forest Innovations Ltd contacted LCMCD and requested assistance in the development of their fully autonomous SIT-based device for suppressing populations of *Culex* spp mosquitoes. Both parties shall jointly perform laboratory and field evaluation aimed at verifying the safety, efficacy, and scalability of the Product, in accordance with their applicable responsibility allocation under the Pilot Program Plan. We are seeking approval from the board in participating in Forrest Innovation's proposal.

10171_ Forrest Innovations Proposal

Commissioner Burke asked "It sounds like they're moving towards chemical sterilization. This mechanism they're using will it be out in the field, and mosquitoes will fly into it? Once they depart the unit they become sterilized?" Aaron responded "Yes, that is correct."

Commissioner Burke commented "I'm concerned about the waste product being tipped over by the community, flood water, or rain water diluting it. Is this the latest proposal?" Aaron responded "Yes, it is."

Commissioner Burke asked "How many staff members would you anticipate to hire?" Aaron responded "It will be 2 to 3 staff members."

Commissioner Burke asked "Regarding the new technology, it sounds like we're sharing some of the patents or some of the IP?" Aaron responded "It would be a collaboration project and they're also interested in applying for a DARPA grant, if we

decide to move forward.

Commissioner Ellis commented "I'm not inspired and not fond of the technology for genetically altered mosquitoes. Plus having the District pay for this project originally. I'm not supportive of this project at the moment. I would like to see the outcome with a different organization, before we get involved."

Commissioner Hart commented "I'm equally skeptical as I was under the impression that staff wasn't 100% sure about moving forward."

Commissioner Farrar commented "I agree with the other commissioners. The information is lacking detail on the proposal, and I feel the cost would be too much for the district."

Commissioner Bowen commented "I saw a lot of concerns within the proposal, and the expense for this project is too much for the district."

Commissioner Ellis commented "I would move to table this recommendation until we know more about it financially and scientifically."

Commissioner Burke commented "I agree with the other commissioners. I like the technology and find it interesting. However, the financial burden on the District is very significant."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to table the 10171 Forrest Innovations proposal for LCMCD until March 2023 board meeting. Commissioner Bowen made the motion. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

10172_ Release of Easement Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd provided an update. We are seeking approval from the board in release of easement for Del Webb Oak Creek. Tract B, North Fort Myers, FL.

Commissioner Burke asked "Do we know the last time we utilized the ditches or the roads? Aaron responded, "No, I spoke to our staff and supervisors nobody had any recollection of it."

Commissioner Bowen asked "Was the easement allowing to gain access to the property that is now part of a new development? There's no need for the District to have this easement since its going into a gated community. If we need to provide treatment, their HOA will allow us access to do so, is that correct?" Aaron responded "Yes, we can provide mosquito control to their community."

Commissioner Brantley asked "Should we consider asking them to pay the District for the release?"

Commissioner Farrar asked "Is there a value to it?" Legal Counsel Agnew responded "I'm certain there is a value, however from what it sounds like we haven't done anything with it in decades. There certainly could be a request for compensation, I suspect they can force the issue for non-payment due to abandonment."

Commissioner Bowen commented "I would have concerns getting the District involved in a litigious issue. If we haven't used it, and have no record when the last time we did anything, the development could easily argue and say it was abandoned years ago."

Commissioner Hart commented "It doesn't matter it's not going to affect us in anyway. I'm not in favor for requesting compensation".

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve 10172_Release of Easement for both LCMCD/LCHCD. Commissioner Brantley made the motion. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

OPERATIONS & FACILITIES REPORT: Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd, updated the Board.

Operations report – The storm has extended our efforts out in the community. There are still plenty of different mosquito

species present. We decided to extend our trap truck program which usually ends in October to continue surveillance to see what the community is dealing with. In addition, we are getting requests for no-see-ums and gnats which is caused by all the debris from the storm. We have been working really hard answering all service requests to help the residents. We have developed a plan as we enter into our two-week holiday break. There will be limited staff available on standby in the event there are service requests seeking immediate attention.

Commissioner Ellis asked "In regards to the gnats, do any of our entomologists have any suggestions on how to get rid of them? Aaron responded "It would be to remove the debris."

Commissioner Farrar asked "In reference to the no-see-ums, how can we eliminate them? Aaron responded "Mosquito control will kill some, but our treatments are not effective at providing suppression".

Commissioner Hart commented "From my understanding we can't target no-see-ums, but we hope to when we spray for mosquitoes. Commissioner Hart asked "Do we control midge flies? Aaron responded "We don't control them even with our normal control efforts. The best way to control non-biting midge flies is an aquatic type treatment that's directed specifically at their larvae".

Facilities report –We are currently reviewing estimates on permanent repairs for our roofs, and rebuilding three of our heliports. This is a very slow process, and we don't anticipate the heliports being ready for the season. Our plan for the season is to have tankers staged at the heliports. This will allow us to continue mosquito control but we just won't have permanent facilities.

Commissioner Hart asked "Why are we having trouble getting the heliports up to par"? Aaron responded "It's the timing, supply issue, and getting the contractors lined up".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd, updated the Board.

Aircraft update- LCMCD has one aircraft that's in inspection, all others are in full operation. We are very satisfied where we're at with our aircraft.

Review of FMCA financial documents – The Board was advised that we were looking to get back into FMCA as a sustaining member. However, all of us, the Board, and the staff wanted confirmation that the financial records were good to go. LCMCD requested the records which we received for our CFO, Sean O'Neill to review.

Commissioner Ellis asked "What would your recommendation be, and should we wait until they receive their 501C status again?" Aaron responded "If the board is concerned with the tax exempt status, my recommendation would be to continue as non-members and to move forward participating in meetings. This will be the most cost effective for LCMCD and allow us to participate fully in all trainings and meetings".

Commissioner Hart asked "The individuals who were leading FMCA are they still in charge? Aaron responded "Yes, they are still with FMCA."

Commissioner Farrar commented "My recommendation would be continue as a non-member, and allow the staff to participate with getting their CEUs (Continuing Education Units)."

Commissioner Burke commented "I agree to move forward as a non-member."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to support staff's position to remain non-members for FMCA. Commissioner Farrar made the motion. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

University of Florida graduate student presentation – The Executive Director, Dr. David Hoel, was invited to the University of Florida to give a presentation on his career as part of a panel discussion with graduate students. The presentation was well received and gave good advice to the students'.

SIT projects review at Anastasia MCD – The Executive and Assistant Director for LCMCD and SIT Supervisor Steven

Stenhouse were invited to Anastasia Mosquito Control to participate on a panel regarding SIT. The SIT program is moving along nicely as we're thinking of moving it to Fort Myers.

AIG letters to Retirees, Appointments – AIG which operates under the company name Corebridge Financial. LCMHCD is now fully converted over to this organization.

Award ceremony today after board meeting – Will be held today at 11:00 a.m.

FISCAL REVIEW;

10173_ LCMCD

10174_ LCHCD

Commissioner Brantley presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for November 2022. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10173_ LCMCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Commissioner Brantley presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for November 2022. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10174_ LCHCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burke asked "In regards to our SIT project, when are we planning to start at Edison Park?" Aaron responded "The trapping portion to get a baseline of the mosquito activity has started, but no releases have occurred in the area."

Commissioner Hart asked "How long will that baseline project take?" Aaron responded "Our plan is to start releasing in April 2023."

Commissioner Hart asked "Does the baseline include the summer experience? Aaron responded "Unfortunately no."

Commissioner Burke commented "If we were to participate with Forrest Innovations, I would like to be a part of the team."

No further business, Commissioner Burke made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: December 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026