

Commissioner Hart called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 4/27/2023 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
Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar
Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis
Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer
Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Chairman, not present
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart, Vice Chairman
Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present
Legal Counsel- John Agnew

STAFF:

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel
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
Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler
Executive Administrative Assistant- Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Hart requested a motion for approval of the 04/27/2023 LCMHCD 10190 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the 04/27/2023 minutes. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Cheryl Adams, Biological Administrator of Communicable Diseases provided an update:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2023-week17-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf>

CONSENT AGENDA:

10191_ Surplus

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

OLD BUSINESS:

10182_ Strategic Plan Acceptance vote

Commissioner Hart requested a motion to accept the Strategic Plan as presented. Commissioner Bowen moved to accept the plan as stated. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

10192_ Solid building for Fleet mechanics

Quote for a solid structure able to withstand hurricanes vs. sunshades that have been destroyed on 2 prior hurricane instances resulting in vehicle damage as well. We will have to perform a RFP and get 3 bids. At this time, based on square footage and current construction costs, we estimate the cost at \$1.7M. FEMA has offered to cover up to 75% of the expense, pending proposal cost, with possibly some variation from the 75% cost coverage.

Commissioner Farrar asked "Regarding the Load Mix Building, are we looking to modify the existing design or do we need to start from scratch?" Sean responded "They're very similar to what we want. The only difference is we're going to expand it to 100' x 80'".

Commissioner Bowen asked "You contacted the architect that we're currently dealing with for the Miller building, but are the engineers' that did the original building still local or viable where can reach out to them as well?" Sean responded, "I'm not aware if the company still exist or not."

Commissioner Bowen asked "The Sun Shade structure that had been destroyed twice, ballpark what did that cost us?" Sean responded, "We're still awaiting for the estimates, should be around \$150K, last time it was about \$120K."

Commissioner Ellis asked "We don't know exactly what we're going to spend on this structure, is it the right time to approve this or do we need more information?" Aaron responded, "We're just asking for approval to move ahead with getting the RFPs."

Commissioner Brantley asked "What does the timing look like on each option? Sun Shade is option (1), how soon would that get us back to operational status?" Sean responded, "The Sun Shade would take months vs. the structural building would be a year."

Commissioner Hart commented "I'm in favor of moving forward getting the information, sounds like a good idea. My concern is we need to be sure we're have rights to use those plans. My other concern is everything I've seen lately about FEMA is you can't trust them 100%." Dr. Hoel responded, "We've had pretty good success with FEMA so far."

Commissioner Farrar asked "Do we have the ability to store this equipment under roof right now, this coming year? Aaron responded, "Yes, we do." Commissioner Farrar asked "So, do we really need the building then?" Aaron responded, "We do because we're currently using our chemical backup space to store the equipment."

Commissioner Hart requested a motion to move forward to prepare the scope of the RFP 10192. Commissioner Farrar moved to prepare the scope of RFP. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

10193_Ratification of interlocal agreement with county (LCSO Aviation Hangar)

On June 21, 1995 the LCMCD Board of Commissioners entered into a property lease agreement with the Lee County Board of Commissioners for the Lee County Sheriff Office Aviation Department use of LCMCD property at the Buckingham Airfield, 6550 Felix Romano Avenue, Fort Myers, 33905. The terms for the 1995 lease agreement were for 20 years at a rental amount of \$175,000 with option to renew. On October 26, 2015, LCMCD Deputy Director Carmine McKinney received a request for a lease agreement renewal that would expire on November 30, 2035. Upon examination of LCMCD records, it appears that the LCMCD Board of Commissioners were not formally notified of the renewal request.

LCMCD is requesting a formal acceptance by the LCMCD Board of Commissioner's for a renewed lease agreement between Lee County Mosquito Control and the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

Legal counsel will need more time to review the lease agreement. Therefore, we need to table this action for a later time.

Commissioner Hart requested a motion to table at this time. Commissioner Farrar moved to table 10193. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled.

10194_FMCA membership

The 501(c3) issue has been resolved, adverse players minimized, recommended we rejoin. We will request sustaining membership and ask to be prorated for this fiscal year.

Commissioner Hart asked "What kind of C are we talking about C3, C4, or C6?" Dr. Hoel responded, "We've referring to C3."

Commissioner Hart asked "So if we join as members again, do we pay more money?" Dr. Hoel responded, "We'll be paying dues, however, it won't be at the high level we paid last time."

Commissioner Bowen asked "In addition to them losing their IRS not-for-profit status, they also had some internal financial discrepancies. Are we confident that this has all been resolved?" Dr. Hoel responded, "I think it has been." Sean added, "When I spoke with the auditor he seemed confident that these issues were resolved."

Commissioner Brantley commented "My suggestion would be to negotiate a lower fee for a trial period. Then once that's completed we can go back to the initial membership fee." Dr. Hoel responded, "My idea was we're back in at \$15K/year; less than the old rate of \$25K/year, and then we negotiate a prorated year."

Commissioner Hart requested a motion to proceed reinstating membership 10194_FMCA with negotiated fee as discussed. Commissioner Farrar moved to reinstate membership with 10194_FMCA. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled.

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

Operations report– The season has begun, the little bit of rain we got in April created mosquitoes. LCMCD had their first aerial treatment over Pine Island Monday night. The treatment was successful, and the local residents were very satisfied. We have another aerial treatment scheduled for tonight over Sanibel and the outer islands. The larviciding department will be pre-treating starting May 8, 2023.

Facilities report– LCMCD has completed the apartment renovations from Hurricane Ian damage. Heliports have been moving slower than expected. As a reminder, we're not looking for a complete renovation of permanent structures, because season is near. The mobile offices we purchased are scheduled to be delivered May 1st, 2023. Our biggest concern right now is how to handle the liquid treatments. We'll be having a meeting on how to handle it and discuss proper methods.

Commissioner Hart asked “Regarding the apartments, why do we need them?” Aaron responded “If we hire a new employee from out-of-state, LCMCD assists by allowing him or her to stay in the apartment for 90 days. It gives the employee plenty of time to find a new home. Another reason is when we have large events, there have been attendees that need the training, but don’t have the travel funds. Therefore, upon request we will allow them to stay in the apartment at no extra cost.

Commissioner Hart asked “Sometimes we have guests from Washington come visit the districts, do they stay in the apartments?” Aaron responded “They could, but typically we have them stay in the Homestead house.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Executive Director, Dr. Hoel, updated the Board.

Aircraft update– The helicopters are doing well. One of our two DC3’s is still undergoing inspection. The King Airs are fine too. If any problems were to arise, our aircrafts are prepared to handle it.

Spring Regulatory Tour – 33 members from state and EPA regulatory agencies visited the district on March 24th to learn what mosquito control is and how it works. They were provided mock insecticide application observations on Beautiful Island so as to better understand the difference between public health and agricultural pesticide applications.

Balmoral Group update – On April 5th Valerie Seidel of Balmoral Group sent us their preliminary findings of their on-site inspection. No red flags were found.

Commissioners at AMCA Washington Days – We have 2 commissioners signed up for Washington Days. Only one will be attending the event. The other commissioner unable to attend due to a personal matter.

FEMA/Insurance progress report – Sean reported that the FEMA funds we received covered the claims LCMCD already had in place.

Aerial workshop – Our third annual workshop was attended by a record crowd of 179 visitors, some from out of state (Utah, California, and Texas). Reviews were very positive, and hands-on demonstrations were given in addition to classroom training.

SIT – Steve Stenhouse was requested by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to give training to the sterile insect technique (SIT) program in Mauritius Island as a visiting SIT expert. The primary goal of his assignment was to train the local personnel on the use and maintenance of the automated pupal separator.

Open House – Our open house occurred on Saturday, March 25th. An estimated 1,300 local residents from the community attended including commissioners and former employees.

The 8th International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Vector-borne diseases – Aaron and I have been invited to present on our SIT program for control of *Aedes aegypti*, and give an overview of the LCMCD program in Beijing, October 23rd-27th.

FISCAL REVIEW:

10195_ LCMCD

10196_ LCHCD

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for March 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10195_LCMCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for March 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10196_LCHCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Brantley commented “Thank you everyone for a successful Open House last month. The community was very happy, and hope we can do this again in the future.”

Commissioner Ellis commented “Great job on the Edison Park SIT release project. Also, thank you for the great work you’re doing on Pine Island.”

No further business, Commissioner Hart requested for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brantley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Burke", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Bowen", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026