

Commissioner Burke called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 5/25/2023 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, not present
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, not present
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
Administrative Assistant- Sandy Johnston

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the 05/25/2023 LCMHCD 10197 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the 05/25/2023 minutes. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Department of Health was not present for an update. Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd provided the report.

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2023-week21-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf>

CONSENT AGENDA:

10198_ Surplus

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

OLD BUSINESS:

10193_ Sheriff's Aviation Hangar Lease Extension

Commissioner Hart asked "Is this lease the Gun range or the maintenance parcel?" Dr. Hoel responded, "It's the aviation department is where they shelter their aircraft and run their aviation operation out of."

Commissioner Hart commented "I'm sure that got discussed over the last 20 years, because I remember the discussion about renewing the lease, but apparently it didn't happen." John Agnew responded, "We couldn't find in the minutes that there was a vote, and there may have been some discussions with individual board members without voting."

Commissioner Hart asked "On the subject, where do we stand with the use of the gun range for our helicopter storage and hurricanes?" Dr. Hoel responded, "It's all good."

Commissioner Brantley asked "What's the proposed term that we're renewing, is it for another 20 years?" John Agnew responded, "Yes, that's correct included in the packet is the letter dated October 26, 2015. It proposes a 20 year renewal beginning December 1, 2015. This would be a motion to ratify the extension pursuant to the terms of this October 26, 2015 letter."

Commissioner Brantley asked "I'm curious are they still using out fuel?" Aaron responded, "Yes, they are."

Commissioner Bowen commented "Looking over the lease it does appear its specific to this one facility and looks like they have the option for (2) additional 20 year agreements."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the renewal of the lease agreement with the stipulation that will clarify and come back later. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the renewal 10193_ Sheriff's Aviation Hangar Lease Extension. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

10199_ Sale of Pine Island Center heliport

Our Heliports are in various stages of repair. However, the Pine Island Center Heliport it's consist of 10 acres with 8 acres of lakefront and 2 acres of dry land. We did a request for proposals for a realtor. However, we plan on advertising it for whomever is interested in purchasing the property. This land isn't serving its purpose and we no longer need it.

Commissioner Burke asked "Was this the property that the fire department was interested in a few months ago?" Dr. Hoel responded, "Yes, that's the one they wrote us a letter inquiring about the property."

Commissioner Bowen asked "Have we commissioned an appraisal to be done yet?" Dr. Hoel responded, "We did have an appraisal last year, and it was appraised around \$800K."

Commissioner Brantley asked "Does the sale of this property negatively impact our strategic plan any way or operational?" Dr. Hoel responded, "No, it doesn't in any way. First of all, we can't operate from Pine Island Heliport now because all our structures have been removed. Secondly, we have our other heliport 2 miles away that we're setting up right now."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to move forward with the sale of 10199_Pine Island Center Heliport subject to our final approval of the contract. Commissioner Hart moved to proceed forward with sale of Pine Island Heliport. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

10200_Budget Amendments

At this time, we're bringing in the new budget amendments to recognize the FEMA proceeds and the Insurance proceeds that have been received. And we're just allocating them based on where LCMCD/LCHCD have spent the money to date and where we anticipate spending it.

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 Burke requested a motion to approve 10200_LCMCD Budget Amendments to increase the budgeted revenues and expenses. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve 10200. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled.

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve 10200B_LCHCD Budget Amendments to increase the budgeted revenues and expenses. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve 10200B. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled.

10201_Fuel Cabinet Vendor Selection

LCMCD has submitted request for proposals, as you know our fuel cabinets that supplied our helicopters was destroyed by hurricane Ian. We're asking to table this simply because we had asked for FEMA funding.

Commissioner Bowe asked "Are these fuel cabinets going to be mobile in the event we need to remove from harm's way? Aaron responded, "Yes, they're going to be built to have quicker disconnects."

Commissioner Burke asked "Sounds like we need the fuel cabinets, is the absence of them making our field crew more difficult?" Aaron responded, "Right now yes it does."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to table at this time. Commissioner Farrar moved to table 10201 until next month. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled

10202_Executive Director Annual review

Annual performance review for Dr. Hoel to be completed by each board member, and returned via email prior to board meeting in July.

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

Operations report– As mentioned in our newsletter, we did have adulticiding mission by plane and our trucks are steadily going out. We haven't seen a huge increase, especially in our salt marsh, our pre-treatments seemed to be working really well.

Facilities report– LCMCD still working on the heliports, this is our main focus.

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

Aircraft update (include Safran HMU shortage) – HMU- hydro-mechanical metering unit, which controls the hydraulics from the engine, and must be inspected during routine inspections at various time periods. Safran Aircraft Engines

Company currently has a critical shortage of Airbus H125 HMUs- only 4 for the world right now. If one of our helicopters fails the HMU inspection, we will be given an extension of 20 hours flight time and afterwards the aircraft is grounded until one becomes available.

We currently have 1 helicopter (N867MC) down for 12 month inspection. It should be down for approximately one more week.

N868MC will be going down for its 800 hr inspection for about a week pending everything goes well. This is the helicopter that we may have the HMU issue, this inspection will begin as soon as N867MC has completed its 12 month inspection.

Fixed wing we still have N146RD down for inspection, it should be wrapped up any day. N484MC is down for inspection but currently the inspection has not begun yet.

Hurricane Ian tax distribution refund – Sean received notification that the county tax collector were going to draw some of our funding.

Personnel turnover – We’ve lost a lot of employees over the past couple of years. Of course, there are many reasons for this: hurricanes, COVID, and better pay opportunities with county government for those whose permanent homes are in Lee County. Other reasons include natural attrition as employees approach retirement age and as newer employees move back to live with their less expensive out-of-state homes/families. However, the driver in all of this is mainly due to the high cost of living, especially with respect to apartment rental rates. Private industry also plays a part. Commercial airline pilots are in great demand now and for the foreseeable future. In the last 30 days, we lost our chief pilot, a second pilot is leaving in June, and a third is considering leaving; this out of 6 full-time pilots.

Field inspectors are turning over at a higher rate than any other group. As a result, we field new, inexperienced inspectors that may or may not stay put. This will degrade our mosquito control response.

3 heliports are being supplemented with partial fixes and run with tanker trucks, not operating as normal. Bottlenecked logistics and delay in manufactured parts and equipment is causing this.

One of our pilots is deploying overseas and leaves this July for at least 6 months. We are busy trying to hire pilots and seasonal pilots and have some promising leads.

Employee Retention plan – We are open to suggestions as to what can be done to ameliorate the financial suffering to our employees. Most 2 bedroom apartments are now renting at or just below \$2,000 month. Military pays their employees a tax-free housing allowance every month. If we offered \$700/month minus taxes back to \$500/month, it would cost us an extra \$840,000/year.

Tuition reimbursement- I do not support this due to limited promotion opportunities afforded our people. Also, once more qualified, we are enabling them to find better jobs elsewhere.

Washington Days – We visited the offices of Marco Rubio, Byron Donalds and Greg Steube. AMCA asked that we advocate for 1) support for drone use and guard against further harmful drone legislation 2) pesticide regulation to remain at the highest state level and not preempted at city levels where ban attempts might be made and 3) \$10M add to the SMASH Act and \$5M for USDA’s spray drift modeling.

FISCAL REVIEW:

10203_ LCMCD

10204_ LCHCD

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for April 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10203_ LCMCD. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for April 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10204_ LCHCD. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

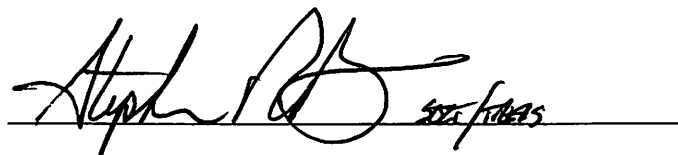
None

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

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

Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Bowen', written over a horizontal line. To the right of the signature, the words 'see farrar' are written in a smaller, cursive script.

Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026