

Commissioner Burke called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 7/27/2023 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  
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart, Vice Chairman  
Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott  
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  
IT Director- Keith Lowe  
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 Burke requested a motion for approval of the 06/22/2023 LCMHCD 10212 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the 06/22/2023 minutes. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the 06/22/2023 LCMHCD 10213 Workshop meeting minutes. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the 06/22/2023 minutes. Commissioner Ellis 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-week30-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/_documents/2023-week30-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf)

Commissioner Burke asked “Do you have any further update on the malaria case?” Cheryl responded, “Not at this time, they’re still working on the 8 cases that developed.”

Commissioner Burke asked, “Was that just in Sarasota County?” Cheryl responded, “Yes, it’s right on the Sarasota-Manatee County border.”

Commissioner Ellis asked “Are we going to expect to see more malaria cases in the future due to the heat and warm waters?” Dr. Hoel responded, “You might see an expansion in the geographical range where it occurs now, however 90% of the world’s Malaria is in Africa.”

Commissioner Ellis asked “Is the malaria vaccine sophisticated enough to stop the spread?” Dr. Hoel responded, “No, the malaria vaccine development has been going on for 3 or 4 decades and they are not very effective or last long. The mosquitoes that spread malaria are generally active in late night hours. They’re generally home invaders, and home invasion here in Florida isn’t a problem due to living in houses that are screened and air conditioned.

Commissioner Hart asked “We’ve got malaria one county away from us. Is there anything we could do differently? Or we just continue with our normal program?” Aaron responded, “Yes, LCMCD’s normal operational activities would help stop malaria if it were to make it into Lee County.”

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

10214\_Surplus

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the 10214 consent agenda item. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

10215\_Millage rate 2023-2024 LCMCD – LCMCD is seeking approval for tentative millage rate of 0.2350 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. In light of ongoing hurricane damage repairs, Miller building renovations, sun shade building replacement, heliport fuel cabinet replacements, and increased aircraft parts prices, we seek a slight increase over last year’s millage rate.

Commissioner Hart asked “What are we anticipating for employees? Is that built into this recommendation?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, we’ve built in (2) employee positions as discussed in our prior board meeting.

Commissioner Hart asked “When are we going to get into a little more detail on the budget we’re looking at?” Dr. Hoel responded, “That’s generally in August and then September.”

Commissioner Brantley asked “If we approve this, we do have the ability to not approve it going forward?” Dr. Hoel responded, “I have to suggest a realistic number based on what our future expenditures will be in light of the economy.”

Commissioner Burke commented “I’m comfortable with this, and really interested to see how the economy is working with our purchasing going forward for the next year, fuel especially.”

Commissioner Bowen commented “I agree with the tentative millage rate LCMCD is proposing.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval on the 10215 tentative millage rate of 0.2350. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the tentative millage rate. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10216\_Millage rate 2023-2024 LCHCD – LCHCD is seeking approval for tentative millage rate of .0230 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, which remains the same.

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval on the 10216 tentative millage rate of .0230. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the tentative millage rate. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10217\_Executive Director Contract – Seek board approval for the Executive Director contract. Renews Executive Director Contract with updates to compensation. The Executive Director contract shall be for one year, commencing on October 1, 2023 and shall end on September 30, 2024 with an automatic extension of one year commencing each October 1<sup>st</sup> and ending each September 30<sup>th</sup>. In addition, requesting stipend for business meetings in the amount of \$2,500.

Commissioner Burke asked “In the year, how many times have you traveled for business?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Probably a minimum of 20 to 40 trips, including presentations for rotary or business organizations, meetings with sales representatives, and manufacturers.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10217\_Executive Director Contract agreement. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the agreement. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10223\_Executive Director Performance Review – Human Resources Director, Jackie Small, updated the Board.

Legal suggested 10223 to be motioned as an amendment so the record accurately reflects it's on the agenda.

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to amend the agenda with 10223\_Executive Director Performance. Commissioner Hart moved to approve the amendment. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10218\_Non-PTO time off – Seek board approval for employee personal days (non-PTO days off). Upon approval, LCMHCD employees will be allowed to schedule up to 2 personal days per fiscal year with authorization from their supervisor. This policy would begin on January 1, 2024.

Commissioner Brantley asked “We had a great Workshop last month and I’m in favor of the proposal. Has the management team asked the employees on what they would like, and was this proposal presented to them? Aaron responded, “Yes we asked the managers and supervisors to reach out to their direct reports on what’s important to them in a job. The responses reflected towards flexibility in time, taking PTO with their family or time for medical appointments, and more money in their paycheck. The health insurance came up as being very expensive; they would like affordable premiums.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10218\_Non-PTO time off effective January 1, 2024. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve 10218. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10219\_Purchase of Chiller – Obtain Board approval to purchase a new chiller for the District from Daikin for \$166,492. Authorizes District staff to purchase a new 111 ton chiller for the District's HVAC system. Multiple bids were requested and the best value vendor selected was Daikin. This is also the same manufacturer of the current District chiller which will be used as a backup unit. This price only covers the purchase of the chiller unit itself, it does not include the costs needed

to rework the electrical system for the connection or the costs of moving the new unit to the new location in the chiller farm required by FP&L and codes.

Commissioner Burke asked “I know the district was renting the chiller for a while. Roughly what was the cost on and how long were we renting it for?” Dr. Hoel responded, “The chiller cost the district an estimate of 20,000 a month.”

Commissioner Hart asked “What does the chiller do for us?” Dr. Hoel responded, “It air conditions all our working spaces.”

Commissioner Ellis asked “Why didn’t we choose the lower bid that was proposed?” Sean responded, “The compatibility issue was there, and also they mentioned it comes with a good warranty.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10219\_Purchase of Chiller. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the 10219 purchase. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

10220\_Purchase of new Fleet Storage Building – Obtain Board approval to purchase a metal building to replace Sunshade 3 that was lost in Hurricane Ian. The cost of the pre-fabricated steel building is \$153,783. Authorizes District staff to purchase the pre-fabricated metal building to replace the destroyed Sunshade 3 and move to the next steps of the construction process. This approval is only for the purchase of the building itself, it does not include the costs of surveying, permitting, engineering, concrete, or a general contractor to assemble it.

Commissioner Bowen commented “I know Allied Steel Buildings have done quite a lot of work in Florida. However, their proposal is stating that you follow their compliance code. My suggestion is that we get clarification on their code.”

Commissioner Brantley commented “In addition, you may want to go ahead and start the permit process. Also, ensure there are no issues with zoning or the building prior to committing to this purchase.” Sean responded, “LCMCD has retained an architect to assist us with this process.”

Commissioner Hart asked “Who is the architect?” Sean responded, “It’s the same one that’s doing the Miller building known as ADG Architecture.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to table 10220\_Purchase until LCMCD receives further guidance from the Lee County. Commissioner Farrar moved to table 10220 purchase. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion tabled.*

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

Operations report – This has been a unique season for LCMCD, mostly due to the hurricane affecting some of the salt marsh environment. In addition, this rainy season has been a bit unusual. However, it’s been a steady season and we’re still seeing mosquitoes and have our inspectors controlling them daily. LCMCD has only had 5 aerial adulticiding missions this year. We have 2 more scheduled for this upcoming weekend due to inland mosquitoes that have come off in the North Fort Myers area. The salt marsh mosquitoes have been manageable, and we’ve been doing a great job.

SIT projects are going really well. LCMCD has re-established the SIT program in the Edison neighborhood in Fort Myers.

Commissioner Hart asked “Are there any advertisements to the community, pre-publication, or setup?” Aaron responded “Yes, Eric worked with local media, and our inspectors visited each home in the study area to get permission from the homeowners and educate them about the project..”

Facilities report– Facilities is steadily working on our Heliports trying to complete the permanent repairs. Also, EMS reached out to the district requesting 4 additional landing spots across the county, and asking permission to utilize our LCMCD heliports for patient transport.

The chiller approval will initiate the architectural drawings; they're pretty much complete for the Miller building. We're looking into getting a permit soon to begin improvements.

The hurricane roof damage work is proceeding, contractors are onsite and work is progressing.

Commissioner Brantley asked "Have we considered the shade building foundation for in regards to code requirmenets off runway?" Aaron responded, "This particular building is going be across from the fleet inside the fence line. This building will not be on the runway."

Commissioner Brantley asked "So we're just approving a portion of the project?" "Are there any advertisements to the community, pre-publication, or setup?" Aaron responded "Yes, it would just be for the building. The district still needs the surveying, permits, engineering concrete, and the general contractor to consider."

Commissioner Brantley commented "I would like to know the total cost for everything in our next Board meeting."

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

Aircraft update – One King Air 200 is at Tomlinson Avionics for a recertification of the transponder and static system (2-year FAA requirement), it is scheduled to be back tomorrow. One helicopter is undergoing its 150 hour inspection, should be finished next week. The King Air C-90 engines have been shipped to Mesa, AZ for anti-corrosion work. Both DC-3s, one King Air 200, and 5 helicopters are available for work.

Pilot update – We currently employ 5 pilots, including Nick McCoy who is a new fulltime pilot. He flew for a news agency. We are interviewing a good prospect on 7 Aug. He has 20 years mosquito control flight experience in CA. Mark Kennedy is deployed until April. We hired a new on-call pilot from a private jet company.

Collaborative research project with Johns Hopkins – Dr. Richard Obiso with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory is collaborating with LCMCD on a project he's spearheading involving an autonomous system for mosquito control using drones and precision bio surveillance. LCMCD agreed to work with his team to help them build their database of the mosquito microbiome of various species from locations around the US. Their goal is to collect at least 100-200 mosquitoes of as many species as possible to conduct genomic microbiome analyses comparing data of differing populations from around the country. They're hoping to find indicators in the microbiome which could act as warnings of potential disease transmission in a given population.

Sale of Pine Island Center heliport update – An issue has arisen about the sale of PI Center. The lake has a weir that must be maintained under the guidance of SFWMD adding an inspection or maintenance liability to the purchaser of the property. We are proposing to split off one small land parcel of the land from the main PI Center property and adding it to the lake property as an easement. The main body of land should be worth in the neighborhood of \$950K.

Fuel cabinet grant – We ordered 2 of them. Awaiting a grant agreement before ordering the remaining 12 so as not to lose grant funding.

Health Insurance coverage rates – Proposing 95% coverage for single and family plans. This will cost LCMCD about \$250 to 300K, but result in significant savings for employees, several hundred dollars a month in some cases. We will drop the proposal of tapping into 401(a) or 457 plans for housing loans.

Visit by Verily (SIT) – Verily Life Sciences is owned by Google (Alphabet Corp.) and is involved with developing SIT solutions worldwide; they are headquartered in CA. Verily is building an SIT facility in Miramar and has invited LCMCD

to participate with an SIT release of *Culex quinquefasciatus*, a West Nile virus mosquito, under an experimental use permit, in Lee County.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

10221\_LCMCD

10222\_LCHCD

*Commissioner Bowen presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for June 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10221\_LCMCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

*Commissioner Bowen presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for June 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10222\_LCHCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Farrar commented "Dr. Hoel was in Bonita Springs Tuesday night presenting to the Downtown Business Alliance. He did a great job, they were really blown away by your presentation. And, I got a lot of wonderful comments about that."


Commissioner Burke commented "I'm glad that we're looking into the health insurance coverage rates of 95%."

*No further business, Commissioner Burke requested for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.*



Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026