

Commissioner Burke called to order the regular scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 12/22/2023 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, not present  
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, not present  
Legal Counsel- John Agnew

**STAFF:**

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel  
Assistant Director- Aaron Lloyd  
Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District- Kevin Watts  
Chief Financial Officer- Sean O'Neill  
Human Resources Director- Jackie Small, not present  
Communications Director- Jenifer McBride  
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler  
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

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Legal Counsel, John Agnew

**Nomination for Chairman** – Seat 3, Commissioner Mike Ellis

*The Commissioners of LCMHCD nominated Mike Ellis as Chairman, the Board approved unanimously.*

**Nomination for Vice Chairman** – Seat 1, Commissioner Ed Brantley

*The Commissioners of LCMHCD nominated Ed Brantley as Vice Chairman, the Board approved unanimously.*

**Nomination for Secretary/Treasurer – Seat 5, Commissioner William Burke**

*The Commissioners of LCMHCD nominated William Burke as Secretary/Treasurer, the Board approved unanimously.*

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Commissioner Burke requested Board approval for the 11/16/2023 LCMHCD 10258 Board meeting minutes.*

*Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the 11/16/2023 minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Department of Health report. Cheryl Adams, Biological Administrator Division of Communicable Diseases provided an update:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2023-51-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf>

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

10259\_Surplus

*Commissioner Burke requested board approval for the consent agenda item. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

10260\_Vehicle insurance deductibles – LCMHCD discussed the legality of requiring our employees to pay district vehicle insurance claim deductibles when they are at fault for vehicle damage. The LCMHCD vehicle fleet has been modernized over the last 3 to 4 years by replacing older trucks with newer, safer, and more dependable vehicles. These trucks are expensive and repairing or replacing damaged vehicle components takes more time than it used to due to supply chain constraints and are very costly.

Commissioner Burke asked “How many accidents were there this year?” Dr. Hoel responded, “There were about 32 incidents this year alone.”

Commissioner Burke asked “After an investigation, is there a standard procedure to have the employee drug tested?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, they are required to be drug tested the same day the incident occurred.”

Commissioner Ellis asked “I’ve never heard of this before. Is this a common practice to put on employees when there’s a wreck?” Dr. Hoel responded, “I’m not sure if it’s common or not, however, I heard it’s been done with other government agencies.”

Commissioner Ellis commented “I feel uncomfortable giving the green light on this with a vote. I think it’s an interesting idea. First, I would like to review the proposed policy, and have a legal counsel sign off on it before we move forward.” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, that’s a good idea. Maybe we can share this for another time and develop a written policy.”

Commissioner Hart commented “I just want to second what Commissioner Ellis just mentioned. If it becomes the same employee being negligent that’s one thing. However, if doesn’t happen often to the same employee, I really feel uncomfortable about LCMCD having a policy of our employees being accountable. Our employees are pretty valuable.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to table agenda item 10260 until further input from legal counsel and staff.*

*Commissioner Bowen moved to table agenda item 10260. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

10261\_ IT purchase – Request board approval for the purchase of information technology hardware upgrades for the network switches. This will authorize payment to Dasher Technologies for upgraded network switches. The quoted cost is \$198,443.85 for the hardware; the vendor has not completed the estimate for the installation costs so the total requested approval for the expenditure is a not-to-exceed amount of \$225,000.

Commissioner Bowen asked “The theory is we should get 5 years of service from the switches, but the proposal is for a 3-year maintenance agreement. Will they extend that 3-year agreement once 3 years has been met?” Keith responded, “Yes, what’s been happening now is we’re in a year-to-year agreement to get the maintenance renewal. This particular vendor when they came in with their quote came up with 3 years, and then we should be able to just renew after that.”

Commissioner Brantley asked “Was this part of our budget?” Sean responded, “Yes, it is in the budget.”

Commissioner Burke asked “You mentioned ours were installed in 2016/2017 financial year. What is the lifespan of the ones that LCMCD might potentially purchase?” Keith responded, “They should be good 5, 6, 7 years as well.”

Commissioner Burke asked “Do we have staff physically able to service these switches after 3/5 year has gone by?” Keith responded, “Usually what we have done is we would include some coursework in training, and not only do we get the support with the vendor, but I also learn as much as I can to run the day-to-day operations.”

Commissioner Bowen asked “Through ongoing conversations and negotiations, I heard that the quoted \$198K has now been reduced to \$165K, is that correct?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, that is correct and includes 6 days of installation at no additional cost.”

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10261\_IT purchase. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve 10261. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

10262\_January Board meeting date change – Request board approval move January 2024 board meeting date from 25 Jan to Friday, 26 Jan. FASD-sponsored Tallahassee Days visit is 23-25 January. It is very important for LCMCD leadership to meet with our representatives to discuss a variety of topics important to LCMCD.

*Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10262\_January Board meeting date change. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve 10262. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

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

Operations report – It’s been an unusual year for mosquitoes and this month has not disappointed LCMCD. We had some rain around Thanksgiving that produced some issues, and we were quite hopeful that December was going to be better, but it hasn’t been. Lee County had a huge storm that came through last Saturday, and it produced plenty of mosquito larvae with the rain and high tides. LCMCD ended up treating around 10,000 acres just last week alone. Our larviciding department have been working extremely hard trying to get these larvae under control, especially before we go on our holiday break. We have a group that’s on-call over the break to be prepared to come in mostly for adulticiding.

Facilities report– Currently we are concentrating on our heliports, trying our best to get them ready to go. I am happy to report all the concrete is in place, trailers, office setups, and tanks are complete. The only thing remaining is to install some plumbing between the tanks. In addition, we passed our electric permit at Bowman’s Heliport on Sanibel Island. Our biggest Achilles heel is the Jet A tanks, the removable tanks we would like to disconnect if we have a storm approaching. LCMCD is completing the paperwork for the federal funding that’s running through the Department of Health and Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (FDACS). Meanwhile, we have put together a temporary fix so our heliports will be fully functional for next season. Soon as the manufacturer starts producing these fuel cabinets, we’ll

begin replacing them one at a time.

Commissioner Burke commented "I would like to take a tour of these fuel cabinets once they are operational." Aaron responded, "We're expecting our first fuel cabinets in May, and we can give you a tour then."

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

Aircraft update – The N146 is in Mena, Arkansas for engine inspection, propellor work and painting.

LCMCD hasn't yet arrived at a final decision, but we are looking to bypass the Airbus offer of SBH (Service by the Hour). Buy-in is close to \$880,000 for past unpaid flight hours, benefits are not substantial, and the cost of the program will escalate yearly over time. The cost for each overhaul will be about \$1.2M in today's dollars. Our 4–5-year-old helicopter fleet has accrued 800 to 1,200 hours. This overhaul work would begin in anywhere from 15 to 20 years out.

C-90 engines are being transported back to LCMCD from a shipping company. The district finally found a company that would insure the engines in transit.

Woodstock parking – Fire Chief Jesse Cottrell of the Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue Department is offering to pay \$500/month to stage his vehicles on Woodstock heliport. He is offering to install a security camera on the premises to monitor those vehicles at his district's expense. Upper Captiva Fire and Rescue is relocating Pine Island departure to the marina at 6001 Maria Drive, Pine Island, to facilitate their shift change. The issue they are running into is parking for their firefighters as the marina doesn't have adequate parking. They plan to meet with LCMCD soon to determine parking sites on Woodstock heliport.

PCB LFS 24-02 –

- Creating a 12-year term limit for elected commissioners
- A 10-year continuation referendum

Requiring all special districts to adopt goals, objectives and performance measures and standards to be measured by the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control. LCMCD wrote to the Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Sub-Committee Chair Jenna Persons-Mulicka, asking her to not support this bill.

Lee County Delegation meeting, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Attended by at least 100 people. Again, FMBMCD insisted that we couldn't do the same good job that they are doing. They told this to the delegation, and then challenged Representative Botana as to why he wanted to raise taxes on Ft. Myers Beach citizens by merging the their District into ours. The delegation voted 5-0 to propose legislation to roll FMBMCD into LCMCD. Rep. Botana's bill will now go to a legislative committee for review. If it passes, then on to the House and Senate for a vote.

### **FISCAL REVIEW:**

10263\_LCMCD

10264\_LCHCD

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for November 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10263\_LCMCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for November 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10264\_LCHCD. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

## COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Ellis asked "On the front page of the News Press today they were talking about Form 6, and all these municipal and county people across the state that are elected are resigning because they have to complete Form 6. Does this apply to Special Districts?" John Agnew responded, "No, it doesn't apply to Special Districts. The Florida statute that was amended in the last legislative session was 112.3144, and it's full in public disclosure for financial interest. The expansion was only with respect to mayors and elected members of the governing body. Therefore, your obligations remain unchanged."

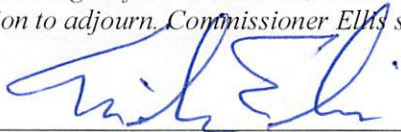
Commissioner Bowen asked "Where do we stand on the architectural and engineering plans for the Miller and fleet building? Are we making any progress?" Sean responded, "Right now we're still waiting on the actual engineered plan for the metal building itself. The Miller building, that's being handled in 2 parts that include the chiller and the actual building itself. The county has approved it and it will be considered as one complete project. The vendor for the chiller estimated time of delivery for April 29<sup>th</sup>."

Commissioner Bowen asked "Did anyone reach out and get any further clarification from South Florida Water Management District regarding the retention lake at the Pine Island properties?" Sean responded, "The lake is integral to the entire park. Now as far as it being integral just to our parcel, it shouldn't be any different. Whoever actually owns the lake would be responsible for doing all of the maintenance to the berm and culvert system. Lee County DOT has been doing all the maintenance on the culvert systems and the streets leading into the lake. LCMCD hasn't been billed for any of it either. I'm not aware if there is some other type of agreement with another entity, but it's not with our district."

Commissioner Hart asked "Can you get a copy of the water management permit?" Sean responded, "Yes, will do."

Commissioner Brantley commented "I would like the staff to perform a feasibility exercise on studying SE corner of Lee County corkscrew corridor, for possibly putting an outpost in that area of the county. There is a tremendous amount of population growth happening there, and a lot of natural mosquito habitats in the area. I think strategically looking forward it would be worth exploring the option of making an establishment in that area of the county." Aaron responded, "Yes, we did discuss this internally with all of our operations team, and we're all in agreement that would benefit LCMCD, especially moving forward with the new construction in that area."

*There being no further business, Commissioner Burke requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.*



Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024