

Commissioner Ellis called to order the regular scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 5/23/2024 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, Vice Chairman  
Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar  
Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman  
Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen  
Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer  
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart  
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  
Communications Director- Jenifer McBride  
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler  
Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso  
Administrative Assistant- Sandy Johnston

**VISITORS:**

BJD Construction Management LLC – Blaze Dorchincez & BJ Dorchincez

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Commissioner Ellis requested Board approval for the 04/25/2024 LCMHCD 10288 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the 04/25/2024 minutes. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Department of Health report. Assistant Director Aaron Lloyd provided an update:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2024-21-arbovirus-surveillance.pdf>

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

10289\_Surplus

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

10290\_Lee County BOCC duplex renewal agreement

*Commissioner Ellis requested board approval for 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:**

10291\_FGCU grant - Request Board approval for a two-year collaborative agreement with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) titled "A Second Data-Driven Mathematical Study of West Nile Virus in Lee County, FL". Per the District's purchasing policy, expenditures over \$150,000 require Board approval. This will authorize payment to FGCU of \$162,234 over two fiscal years to conduct a statistical study of West Nile Virus in the Lee County mosquito population in order to provide better surveillance and accurate treatment. The FY2024 payment is \$80,297 and the FY2025 payment is \$81,937.

*Commissioner Ellis requested Board approval for the 10291\_FGCU Grant two-year collaborative agreement. Commissioner Hart moved to approve 10291. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

10292\_Building E (Quad) Renovation - Request Board approval to award the contract for Building E - Break Room and Locker Room Renovations to BJD Construction Management of Fort Myers for a Not to Exceed (NTE) amount of \$460,000. Per the District's purchasing policy, expenditures over \$150,000 require Board approval.

Commissioner Bowen asked "Will this renovation completely renovate the entire building or this only a portion of building E?" Sean responded, "This would cover most of the building."

Commissioner Bowen asked "What is the actual use of Building E internally with our personnel?" Sean responded, "Further down past the locker room and break rooms, there's a wash base, work trucks, generator, and lawn maintenance office."

Commissioner Ellis asked "Did we take the lowest bid on this?" Sean responded, "No, this isn't the lowest bid, however, it's the best bid. We evaluated all of them and this bid came in as second best."

Commissioner Ellis asked "Why is this bid better?" Sean responded, "The way they have the bid broken out and the quality. In addition, they came back a second time and made some recommendations to LCMCD about ways to improve what the architect had originally drawn in the plans." Aaron commented, "There's a tabulation sheet that looks at firm background methodology, approach, cost proposal, and then the certification acknowledgement. Therefore, it was a combined score."

*Commissioner Ellis requested Board approval for 10292\_Building E (Quad) Renovation. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve 10292 with the understanding that the permit will be updated with the changes required by the recommendation. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

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

Operations report – At the last meeting I discussed our pretreats that were coming, the treatments started yesterday and we plan on finishing them on Friday. We're putting out about 17,000 pounds of pretreat to treat about 3,500 acres. It's mostly saltmarsh mosquitoes. Sanibel Island, Pine Island, along the river, and West side of Cape Coral will be completed between yesterday and Friday. These treatments will get us right up to the next peak tide which should happen towards the end of June. LCMCD will repeat this process and that will be our 2 treatments for the year. It's been pretty good with mosquito populations out in the area. We've had some come off, but we're running ULV trucks about 3 nights a week.

Facilities report– RFP process for the building that's across from the fleet department where the old shade hanger got taken down by hurricane Ian. Sean and Rick have been working really hard on trying to work with FEMA to get RFP processes going. We received one bid and Sean is contacting the individual to work out some details on the cost of the building. We believe it might be a little bit elevated. LCMCD will not be getting funds from FEMA on this building. We do have some insurance that has paid out onto that building.

Our chiller for the Miller building “A” is due June 1<sup>st</sup>, and as soon as it arrives it will be installed by Advanced Air.

We also have our 6 fuel tanks that we purchased from Westmore to replace our heliport fuel tanks after our inspection. Sean and his team are looking for companies to come in and install electrical and plumbing to ensure everything's up to code between the tanks and fueling cabinets.

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

Aircraft update:

- N484MC (C90) Nose gear should be here next week, Spray system will be going on soon. Should be ready to go by the end of June.
- N146 (DC3) should be back together and returned from Arkansas by the end of June.
- N766MC (Airbus) will go down for its 72-month inspection Monday 27<sup>th</sup>. This is the last 72-month inspection we have. Down for 6 weeks.

We have 4 fixed wing aircraft, 2 of these are King Air aircraft, 1 C90 and one 200. They required a fair amount of work as they are surplus aircraft and a lot of body and engine work went into them to make them spray capable.

The King Air 200 will require engine overhaul in 5 to 7 years, depending on how often it is flown. This is a special Navy model that were modified for Navy use, different from typical King Air 200s.

Engines are difficult to obtain and N763's engines may need to be replaced in 5-7 years. We are on the lookout for high hour engines with about 800 hours left before overhauling. Also, an engine kit “replacement engine” might be available should this be required. Blackhawk conversion kits for both engines for about \$2M.

We also investigated replacing these aircraft with 2 new Cessna Sky Courier aircraft at \$9.5M each. The Sky Courier is a heavy lift utility aircraft designed to haul equipment and other materials. We have discovered that they are too big for our hanger and that other similar types of aircraft are either not available or prohibitively expensive.

Our plans are to maintain the King Airs indefinitely. In the long run, this should prove to be the most economical method for keeping a functioning fixed wing fleet.

N762 (King Air 200) crashed on taxiing after landing on Monday. Neither pilot was hurt. Insecticide was not onboard, no fuel leaks, no fires. An engine malfunctioned due to a carburetor governor failure and the engine went to full throttle while the other one was slowing for a stop. The plane crashed in the field adjoining the runway, totaled was insured. Very little media attention.

LCMHCD Annual Audit Statements – At this time, no findings, however, report is not complete, but will be completed by the June board meeting.

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

COLA Adjustment discussion – Met with Suzanne Boy, our HR lawyer who is in the process of reviewing the applicability of a pay adjustment, awaiting her review.

Pine Island Center Update – The Conservation 2020 Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program Project Site Nomination Form was submitted to Robert Clemmons, Director of County Lands, who will expedite it through the Conservation 2020 review committee. We are awaiting their findings.

Washington Days – Meetings were held with Rep. Greg Stuebe, Senator Rick Scott, and Rep. Byron Donalds. Attended by myself and Jen McBride. Discussion issues included \$10M plus up for CDC’s Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grants, an amendment to HR (House of Representatives) 2864 for reasonable accommodations for use of DJI drones, and passage of Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2023 to eliminate the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements for mosquito control.

IAEA trip – Rachel, Aaron and I received an invitation to visit and review 2 SIT laboratories in Europe in Spain and Austria to provide us an update on the latest developments in SIT techniques developed by the IAEA. The travel is funded by IAEA.

#### **FISCAL REVIEW:**

10293\_LCMCD

10294\_LCHCD

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for April 2024. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10293\_LCMCD. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for April 2024. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10294\_LCHCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

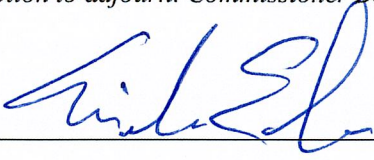
Commissioner Burke asked “Referring to our building renovation, you mentioned the difference would come out of our repair and maintenance budget, and I want how much is that budget for this year?” Sean responded, “For the facilities department, I would have to go and look that up. However, for the regular budget right now it’s 3,009,350.”

Commissioner Hart asked “Are we on track for the schools’ presentation in June?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Jenifer will be ready to present in our next board meeting.”

Commissioner Hart asked “Could you provide us a quick overview of how we’re doing with FEMA?” Sean responded, “We are still having regular biweekly meetings with FEMA. If I remember correctly, we have 3 projects that are still open. We haven't completed everything that we needed to get done. At this point they did tell us that we aren’t going to get any mitigation money related to the building. Due to this, we’re replacing it with an actual building instead of going back with the sunshade.”

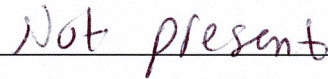
Commissioner Hart commented “At the Florida Association meeting in Tallahassee, we received some praise from the state about our strategic plan and how well it went over.”

*There being no further business, Commissioner Ellis requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brantley made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.*



Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024