

Commissioner Hart called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 03/20/2025 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, Chairman, not present

Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis, not present

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

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, LCHCD – Kevin Watts

Chief Financial Officer – Sean O'Neill

Human Resources Director – Melissa Tenzel

Communications Director – Jenifer McBride

Senior Program Analyst – Thais Pineda Alfonso

AST Manager – Rachel Morreale

Executive Administrative Assistant – Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Hart requested Board approval for the 02/27/2025 LCMHCD_10368 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the 02/27/2025 minutes. Commissioner Burke 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, not present.

Assistant Director Aaron Lloyd provided an update:

https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/_documents/2025-12-arbovirus-surveillance.pdf

CONSENT AGENDA:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

10369_Laboratory research for Biocentis company – Provide direction for the Executive team regarding SIT technology. An approval will provide a clear path forward for future collaborations that may enhance operational efficiency with SIT. LCMCD's SIT program is the leader in developing operational logistics for the use of SIT in public health and mosquito control programs. Currently, our SIT program is operating at max capacity given the resources available, including workforce numbers.

Commissioner Farrar moved to table 10369 until the Board receives additional details, specifically costs. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.

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

Operations report

The mosquitoes are almost non-existent right now. We do have some hot spots that are being treated by our ULV truck operators. In addition, we've been concentrating on our preseason *Culex* treatments to try to get ahead of any kind of virus transmission that might come into the county. Operations have been good right now, as the mosquito counts are low.

Facilities report

None

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

Aircraft update:

- N198RD (DC3) is down this week and next for repairs of some basic maintenance items.
- N765MC (H125) will be in for 12-month inspection starting 3/21/2025 should be down for a week or less.

Legislative update:

- Jenifer McBride, Communications Director, is attending both the FMCA and FASD Tallahassee Days events to speak to our local legislators about legislation involving mosquito control. As of Tuesday, HB4035, the merger bill, is not on the committee agenda for this week.

PI Center Update:

- "Lot 8, which is attached to the lake, is not for sale at this time. The South Florida Water Management District is giving us 90 days to attempt to re-establish the Property Owner's Association. Once the policy is in place, we will begin making arrangements to hold a meeting with the Park's property owners and move forward with forming the POA. After the POA is formed the Districts will complete quit claim deed; the lake back to the POA and Lot 8 can be offered for sale.

AMCA annual conference:

- There were 10 attendees from LCMCD that gave 8 presentations including topics on public relations, education, operations, and drone use for mosquito control.

Washington Days May 2025:

- AMCA 2025 Annual Washington Conference will be May 12-14, 2025. If any Commissioners want to attend, please let Sabina know.

Miscellaneous:

- \$12,200 was received by LCMCD for helicopter flight surveillance provided to the EOC for Hurricane Milton.

FISCAL REVIEW:

10370_LCHCD

10371_LCMCD

Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for February 2025. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10370_LCHCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.

Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for February 2025. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10371_LCMCD. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Bowen commented, "Would staff be so kind as to forward the commissioners a copy of the swift mud letter pertaining to the reestablishment of the POA? I'd like to review the wording on that, thank you."

Commissioner Burke commented, "I'd just like to reemphasize with the idea of the potential partnering with Biocentis, if it goes through, we will gather data comparing SIT to this GMO release. I think it's going to be invaluable, not just for us, but for different mosquito control districts in the country for effectiveness, cost, and to give our staff the opportunity of publishing their research."

Commissioner Hart commented, "I'm very interested in the genetically modified testing. I would like to know the cost and whether we can justify it. I'm also interested that our public in Lee County might be more educated and more acceptable of genetically modified organisms, especially mosquitoes because of the work that we have done over the last decades in our schools."

There being no further business, Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.



Commissioner Ed Brantley, Chairman

Term: November 2024 – November 2028



Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2024 – November 2028