Commissioner Hart called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 5/28/2026 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, Vice Chairman

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart, Chairman

Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present

Legal Counsel – John Agnew

STAFF:

Executive Director – Aaron Lloyd

Deputy Director, LCHCD – Kevin Watts

Research Director – Dr. James Dunford

Chief Financial Officer – Sean O'Neill

Human Resources Director – Melissa Tenzel

Communications Director – Jenifer McBride

Network Support Technician – Joel Canova

Community Engagement Coordinator – Jamie Fowler

Executive Administrative Assistant – Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Hart requested a motion for item 10460_Board meeting minutes 04/23/2026. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the 04/23/2026 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. Research Director Dr. Dunford provided an update:

https://www.floridahealth.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/fl-arbovirus-report-w21-2026.pdf

CONSENT AGENDA:

10461_Surplus

Commissioner Hart requested a motion for the consent agenda item. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

10462_ Executive Director Evaluation – Approve foregoing the 2025–2026 Executive Director evaluation due to the leadership transition in May 2026. Establish three goals for the 2026–2027 evaluation period, with evaluation beginning May 2027.

Commissioner Hart asked legal if a motion is required for the above inquiry, no motion needed.

LCHCD OPERATIONS REPORT: Deputy Director Kevin Watts updated the Board.

LCHCD is wrapping up our large-scale aquatic herbicide applications, primarily in Cape Coral. We do this in the spring due to the water levels are lower in the springtime. We're performing our biannual transects, which involve bathymetry data collection to measure plant height and the water column and determine whether we need to restock those areas with triploid grass carp. Furthermore, we've been working with the City of Cape Coral. They've got contractors working to harvest their aquatic vegetation in some of the freshwater basins.

LCMCD OPERATIONS REPORT: Executive Director Aaron Lloyd updated the Board.

It's officially Mosquito season here at LCMCD, we're in good shape as of now. Initially our field inspectors started May 6th with pre-treatments to get ahead of our salt marsh mosquitoes, which have successfully been completed.

Rainfall has been sporadic, so we're getting pockets of mosquitoes that are popping up in different areas, mostly near the Winkler Island Park area, which is just north of our boundary with Fort Myers Beach.

LCMHCD FACILITIES REPORT: CFO Sean O'Neill updated the Board.

Lee County Mosquito Control District has some major projects, one of which is the sewer line construction project. We've been looking for a grant to cover this estimate of close to $1 million. However, we haven't been successful, so this project is on a temporary hold. Next step is the generator replacement, and we're getting ready to do the RFP for that. We'll turn that over in the month of June, so hopefully we'll have some numbers to present to the board at the next meeting. Woodstock Heliport, we've completed installing the fuel tank; waiting on final inspection. Once they get final inspection and sign-off, we can start pumping fuel out of this location. The window replacement project for the administrative building is under way. We've located a vendor that can do the job, and it's going to be approximately $41,000. They're going to get started on it in mid-summer.

The fixed-wing hangar office remodeling project is also under way. We've selected a vendor, it will take about 2 weeks to complete, and it's going to be approximately $40,000. It should be done probably by the end of July.

AST DEPARTMENT REPORT: Research Director Dr. James Dunford updated the Board.

I am pleased to announce we have published our LIDAR manuscript. This is an operational note that outlines the parameters and methods we used to scan over 184,000 hectares here in Lee County from January to May. It represents the first time any mosquito control district has done something like this. We'll analyze cost savings associated with refining our treatment boundaries and have a follow-on publication to this one. The first SIT drone release took place in Fort Myers on May 19th. Nearly 80,000 sterile males were released. This was the first time a mosquito control district used a drone to release sterile male mosquitoes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Executive Director Aaron Lloyd updated the Board.

Executive Director turnover update: I am pleased to report that the transition is progressing smoothly. As you know, the executive team assembled by Dr. Hoel has been working together collaboratively for seven years, ensuring an effective handoff. I recently held an all-hands meeting to align everyone on our status and future direction. The feedback was highly positive, and the team remains energized.

Executive team succession plan: A key component of this transition is the executive succession plan we established prior to contract negotiations. I intend to maintain the leadership structure developed by Dr. Hoel, while strategically expanding the team. With the addition of Dr. Dunford, Research Director, we're also bringing Ed Foley, Operations Director. Ed brings 14 years of dedicated service to our organization, an FGCU background, and exceptional operational expertise in many areas. He will serve as a highly reliable asset in operations.

FMBMC ILA update: I recently spoke with Commissioner Johnson from the Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District. He was highly collaborative and presented several great ideas for partnership. While he initially brought our proposal to his board, they ultimately voted against signing our interlocal agreement for the upcoming season. Consequently, our district has ceased all operations within the Fort Myers Beach boundary. We are already observing the impact of this operational halt, as public complaints are rising. Notably, just last night, our trap data indicated a severe surge, capturing over 9,000 mosquitoes at the Winkler location and 6,500 at the Island Park site.

Aircraft update: LCMCD aviation department is finalizing the inspections previously outlined by Dr. Hoel. Five of our six helicopters are currently operational, with the final unit completing maintenance this month alongside three mission-ready airplanes. Furthermore, our newly purchased seventh helicopter will arrive this June and should be field-ready within a month. Finally, our King Air 250 insecticide tank is nearly complete in Kansas and is scheduled for pickup between June 26 and July 2. Following standard droplet analysis, this aircraft will be fully integrated into our spray operations shortly thereafter.

Legislative update:

Special Session Representation: A legislative special session is scheduled for next week, June 1–3. Jenifer McBride will attend in person to advocate for our district and present formal testimony regarding the local impacts of the proposed measures.

Property Tax Exemptions: Sean contacted the Property Appraiser's office; staff analyzed the potential elimination of homestead taxes. This change would trigger an estimated 37% reduction in our revenue, translating to a $10.8 million budget shortfall. Leadership is actively preparing contingency plans, if this were to occur.

Miscellaneous:

Clarke campus: Dr. Dunford and I recently visited the Clarke campus and operational facility in St. Charles, Illinois, where the organization manufactures many of its chemical products. The highly informative visit provided Dr. Dunford with valuable exposure to the operational aspects of the industry and fostered meaningful professional connections. Clarke offers specialized training programs for mosquito control districts, and this first-hand look successfully deepened our understanding of their field operations.

Edison partnership ceremony:

Our partnership with the Edison & Ford Winter Estates was recently featured on television earlier this week following a ribbon-cutting ceremony. We have now installed permanent educational signage at the Estates to highlight our local mosquito control programs and our Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) initiatives. Visitors to the historic site will now learn about the history of mosquito control alongside our modern SIT operations. The core theme of the exhibit, developed by Jennifer, perfectly captures this collaboration: "Where Vintage Science Meets New Science."

FISCAL REVIEW:

10463_LCHCD

Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for April 2026. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District Financials, 10463_LCHCD. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.

10464_LCMCD

Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for April 2026. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10464_LCMCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

None

There being no further business, Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Commissioner Thomas Hart, Chairman

Term: November 2022 – November 2026

Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2024 – November 2028