

Commissioner Ellis called to order the regular scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 1/26/2024 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
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, not present
Network Support Technician - Joel Canova
Receptionist/Administrative Assistant - Sandy Johnston
Executive Administrative Assistant - Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

Benjamin Mickuleit -Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District (MPIFCD)
Matt Davis -Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District (MPIFCD)
Cody Allen -Matlacha/Pine Island Fire Control District (MPIFCD)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

*Commissioner Ellis requested Board approval for the 12/22/2023 LCMHCD 10265 Board meeting minutes.
Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the 12/22/2023 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 provided an update:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2024-4-arbovirus-surveillance.pdf>

CONSENT AGENDA:

10266_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 approved unanimously, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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

Operations report – We’ve had an unusual amount of rainfall for this winter. The cold temperatures help when it’s cool, it slows them down a little bit. However, like last week whenever the temperatures go up mosquitoes pop off and they become a problem. LCMCD is doing more adulticiding treatments this time of the year than we’ve done in past years. The rain patterns have caused this, but we’re out responding to service requests every day, and answering them as they come in. LCMCD still has their adulticiding trucks going out when needed at night. We had an aerial helicopter mission on January 10th over Pine Island because of the mosquitoes. We’re still out working larviciding every day, taking care of them as they come.

Facilities report– Our heliports- we’re trying to reach our goal and have them ready before the season starts. We’re just working out all the details with connecting tanks. Dr. Hoel currently has an update on the actual fuel cabinets that we’re trying to work out through the grant. That’s the bigger item but everything’s going really well, and we expect to have those up and running by the season.

Most of you are familiar with the old mixed load building that’s sitting right off the ramp. That building has been vacant for years. The district hasn’t had a use for it. Just recently we’ve decided to do some minor preparations and turn it into a battery storage area. We had an incident with our drone battery which is a lithium cobalt battery. These batteries are typically found in electric cars, electric bicycles, and our drones. The batteries spontaneously combusted in a fireproof bag, fortunately we had it contained and everything went well. However, it made us realize that we didn’t want to store those in our buildings. This old building stands alone, so if a fire occurs it’ll happen right there and won’t damage any other buildings around.

Sean provided an update on the Miller Building and the shop across from the fleet department.

The Miller Building is all under one permit but broken into 2 parts for the building itself and also for the chiller. At this point for the chiller, we are now ready to do the RFP to go out and get a construction company to come in and do the electrical change, the piping, or the new slab for the chiller. LCMCD will have an update for you in our next board meeting. For the Miller building itself, we are still waiting on ADG architecture. They are going to pull some different vendors and get prices for us for what they think the entire project will cost. And then for the fleet building we received the certified plans from the building manufacturer yesterday that forwarded those over to the architect and they’re moving along with getting the whole package sent over to community development for approval.

Commissioner Farrar asked “These battery and potential fire issues, are these insured? Do we need to file a claim or how does this work?” Aaron responded, “We didn’t for this incident since it was a simple battery and a bag on the cement. The only thing that got damaged was the battery.”

Commissioner Farrar asked “So we’re putting this building in a position where it be utilized as a battery storage facility. Are there additional insurance requirements or having some type of backup plan?” Aaron responded, “Not that we’re

aware of, but we can look into it.”

Commissioner Farrar commented “It would be a good idea to contact the fire department and then check into the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) requirements. Battery storage is becoming a very volatile issue for people.”

Commissioner Bowen commented “When you do check with the local fire department, inquire if a fire suppression system is needed.”

Commissioner Burke asked “I wanted to know about our fire suppression system in that building and also it sounded like it wasn’t charging. Is that correct?” Aaron responded, “It was just in a fireproof bag.”

Commissioner Burke asked “How old was the battery roughly?” Aaron responded, “It was brand new.”

Commissioner Burke asked “For these different types of battery fires, would it be meaningful to have some training for our staff how to address these incidents?” Aaron responded, “Yes, we do. The Tice Fire Department will come in and do training for our staff just on fire extinguishers. We can make sure to have them incorporate on how to manage electric batteries.”

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

Aircraft update:

- N868 is down for a 72-month inspection, it’s a few weeks away from completion.
- N763 (King Air 200) is approximately two weeks from completion and going back online.
- N484 (C-90) one engine is back on and the other should be reinstalled next week.
- N146 (DC-3) is in Mena, AR. The engines are now in Mesa, AZ at Prime Turbines, the props are in Tulsa and the overhaul on them has begun.

Woodstock parking – Jesse Cottrell with Upper Captiva Fire & Resue met with me at Woodstock to locate a parking zone for their employees’ vehicles. They will have 6-10 vehicles parked. In addition, Mr. Cottrill and I also discussed where they would install a security camera.

Corkscrew heliport – Commissioner Brantley to review territory of east Lee County along Corkscrew Road for possible heliport sites, then schedule with LCMCD for aerial flyover inspection.

CDC/DOH/FDACS grant – Problem with timeline of grant.

- Expires 30 July
- Apparently, cannot be extended beyond cutoff date
- Can only order gear listed on the grant, greatly limiting any “Plan B” purchases of hurricane damaged gear
- Courtney Frazier of FDACS is speaking with DOH today to push for a one-year spending extension

Vehicle insurance deductions discussion – Further investigations into the matter of damaged vehicles due to negligent driving revealed that there are indeed legal concerns in requiring employees to pay deductibles:

- When it comes to damage to any kind of company property, state and federal laws may restrict or prohibit the company’s ability to make payroll deductions for loss or damage. Under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, employers may deduct wages for loss or damage if two conditions are met:
 1. Before the money is taken from the employee’s paycheck, he or she must sign a written statement agreeing to the deduction
 2. The deduction does not bring the employee’s hourly rate below the minimum wage or violate overtime requirements. This part applies to non-exempt employees who qualify for overtime regulations and minimum wage laws as well. This is too cumbersome.

LCMHCD will pursue disciplinary action and add another grading category to our yearly Performance Evaluation.

Pine Island Center (PIC) STRAP and sale – Seven offers on our PIC property have been declined over 4 months after prospective buyers discovered that the lake was attached. We consulted with SFWMD about lake use and found that there aren't any "use restrictions" on lake. However, SFWMD will not provide a letter on use restrictions stating that they have no jurisdiction to enforce use restrictions should use become a problem. An example would be if a motorboat were to stir up bottom sediment and negatively affect water quality; on rare occasion SFWMD may get involved in such situations despite a lack of use restrictions on a particular body of water.

Sean and I are in discussions with Henderson Franklin lawyers about separating out a 0.6-acre lakeside lot that is a part of the PIC property. The Pine Island Fire Department is interested in possibly acquiring this piece of property so as to continue their certification training. I will meet with their Fire Chief in early February to discuss possible transfer of lot with the caveat that they must also take responsibility for the lake. Sean is working with a lawyer to STRAP separate this piece of the property from the main body. There is a lot of interest in this property.

Commissioner Farrar asked "Are you asking us today for a motion to do a Lot split of that property?" Dr. Hoel responded, "Yes, as Mr. Agnew mentioned, to STRAP that off the Board has to vote on it now."

Commissioner Ellis requested a motion to authorize the director to proceed with STRAPing the lake off as discussed. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve conducting a lot split. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Tallahassee Days – Aaron, Jenifer and I participated in FASD's Tallahassee Days, Monday-Thursday; January 22nd through 25th. We visited and spoke with the following:

- Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson
- Senior Policy Advisor for Economic Development, Infrastructure, and Security
- Senate President Kathleen Passidomo Photo Op
- Senator Jonathan Martin
- Member of the Florida House of Representatives Adam Botana
- Member of the Florida House of Representatives Jenna Persons-Mulicka
- Member of the Florida House of Representatives Tiffany Esposito

Commissioner Ellis commented "Being around a long time, I feel that legislatively we're being reactive rather than proactive. We listen to the state associations. We listen to other organizations. We're the biggest mosquito control in the state and most respected. I think we should work some way to maybe get in front of these legislations that are coming down."

Commissioner Scott asked "Do we currently have any lobbyists? I know in the past we used to." Dr. Hoel responded, "We use Ramba Associates located two blocks from the state capital. A very reliable staff."

Commissioner Ellis commented "Ramba Associates is statewide. Locally we should be in touch with all of our representatives whether it's state or federal; at either the elected official level or the aid level."

FISCAL REVIEW:

10267_LCMCD

10268_LCHCD

Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for December 2023. Commissioner Scott moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10267_LCMCD. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

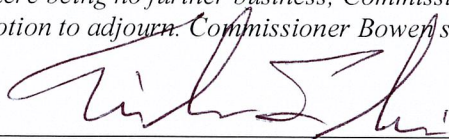
Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for December 2023. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10268_LCHCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burke asked "Regarding the surplus, there was a truck that was purchased in 2019 for \$3500, then it was sold very recently. What happened to it? What was the mileage on it?" Sean responded, "I will have to look into it and get back you."

Commissioner Burke commented "It seems Pine Island is a very active community for what we do. I suppose we've had a fair number of citizen comments. I'm wondering about the feasibility of having a public information event on Pine Island to speak to the local residents there. I think this would be a really positive idea in the next month or so."

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 10:48 a.m.



Commissioner Mike Ellis, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024