

Commissioner Burke called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 1/26/2023 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
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
Legal Counsel- John Agnew, not present

STAFF:

Executive Director- Dr. David Hoel
Assistant Director- Aaron Lloyd
Deputy Director, Public Information and Education- Eric Jackson
Deputy Director, Lee County Hyacinth Control District- Kevin Watts
Chief Financial Officer- Sean O'Neill
Human Resources Director- Jackie Small
IT Director- Keith Lowe
Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso
Purchasing Manager- Chris Gates
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler
Receptionist/Administrative Assistant- Sandy Johnston

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board:
None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the 01/26/2023 LCMHCD 10175 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the 01/26/2023 minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Department of Health was not present for an update. Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd provided the report.

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2023-week4-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf>

CONSENT AGENDA:

10176_ Surplus

Commissioner Burke requested a motion for approval of the consent agenda item. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

10171_ Forrest Innovations

Commissioner Burke asked "In regards to the proposal, sterilization agents of the Forrest Device must first receive EPA approval. Have they developed this wash?" Dr. Hoel responded "I haven't seen any devices, it was just described to me. I had asked if they received EPA approval, and didn't get a response."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to dispose of the agreement with Forrest Innovations, and not move forward. Commissioner Farrar made the motion. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

10177_ Roof repair contracts

CFO, Sean O'Neill presented the proposals for permanent repairs to the roofs of buildings G, O, M, and D that sustained damage in Hurricane Ian. The Universal Contracting contract amount is \$180,840 and the Crowther Roofing contract amount is \$572,250 for a total of \$753,090. After reviewing all the bids, it was determined that it is more cost efficient to split the buildings up between Crowther Roofing and Universal Contracting based on their individual bid prices for the buildings. We are seeking approval from the board in approving both contracts with Universal Contracting and Crowther Roofing.

Commissioner Burke asked "How much money was received through our insurance?" Sean responded "We received \$899,000, and that is just for the building damages."

Commissioner Hart asked "Can you elaborate a little more?" Sean responded "The insurance adjusters came out and provided us an estimate of \$1.1 million in damages. After adjusting for our deductibles the amount so far was \$899,000. We are currently working with FEMA to receive the difference."

Commissioner Hart asked "What else is there besides the Crowther Roofing \$572,250?" Sean responded "There are two separate quotes one of them is for \$180,840, that's for Building G. The other quote is for \$572,250 and that covers the remaining building."

Commissioner Burke asked "When roofs are repaired in terms of insurance for the average homeowner, the insurance companies like it to stay around for 20 years on metal roofs. Do we have a similar coverage with our insurance on our buildings?" Sean responded "I would have to look into it as I don't have the answer right now."

Commissioner Farrar asked "Do you have any other future expenses you're expecting beyond these contracted to date?" Sean responded "Yes, we have the apartment repairs which is going to cost an additional \$45,000. We also have other repairs happening with the heliports, so there are plenty of other expenses on the way."

Commissioner Farrar asked “Is it your expectations that with this contract, and the dollars remaining from the insurance settlement would cover all repairs or would you be going into the reserves? Sean responded “No, we probably end up having to pay.”

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the 10177 Roof Repair Contracts. Commissioner Farrar made the motion. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

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

Operations report– We are larviciding more than usual for this time of year. The treatments have been on Pine Island, Sanibel, and Cape Coral due to the Tide that happened a week ago. The rains that are occurring this week are probably going to dry up, and isn’t going to require mosquito control. However, we are still having issues with construction dumpsters and drains that are producing *Culex* around the county. Periodically we have our ULV trucks that go out at night as service requests come in. There are some very small hot spots around the county.

Facilities report– Servpro began working and conducted the mold remediation on the apartments. They will be returning to place the drywall back up once the mold is removed. This should be completed by the time we have our Aerial Workshop in April 2023. Repairs on our shade hangers are scheduled to begin on February 6th. All of our heliport fencing has been replaced, and all are secured. Our trailers have been ordered which will be our mobile offices for the heliports. There is still a lot of work remaining for the heliports to be completed and made fully operational.

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

Aircraft update– LCMCD has one King Air 200 that’s undergoing biennial inspection, and repairs are close to completion. One of our DC-3s (N198) with the imperium spray system is being modified, and close to becoming completed. We have a 90 gallon tank modification for the second Dibrom system for the helicopters, which is in progress. Therefore, we have one tank we can use as backup if we need a second helicopter for night spray on the islands.

SkillBridge program explanation and possible use– SkillBridge is a Department of Defense (DoD) program for service members to gain valuable civilian work experience while on active duty during their last 180 days of service. DoD SkillBridge connects service members with private and public sector organizations that offer internship opportunities for transitioning Service Members to build their resumes, explore employment interests, develop job skills, and gain valuable work experience that will help them prepare with their transition to the civilian workplace.

Hyacinth story on ABC-7 news – There was a really good story on Hyacinth Control. Water hyacinth was introduced into Florida in the 1880s, but by the 1960s, it had covered more than 120,000 acres of public lakes and rivers– that’s 25 percent of Lake Okeechobee. Its biggest hazard is that it grows so thick that it can stop boat navigation by clogging waterways. That’s exactly what happened to the Boris Canal in the City of Cape Coral, which is now covered in a carpet of green.

<https://abc-7.com/news/environment/2023/01/06/water-hyacinth-taking-over-cape-coral-canals/>

MCAA meeting 20-24 August – The Mosquito Control Association of Australia has invited Dr. Hoel to come visit this August. Dr. Hoel will be doing a presentation on LCMCD, and its innovative programs. Travel costs are covered by MCAA.

OPPAGA review 5 year strategic plan– The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) review will start very soon; the Balmoral Group is the Auditor. We have been working diligently to ensure the audit is successful. Valerie Seidel of the Balmoral group is planning on joining this meeting to introduce herself and answer any questions you may have. She is running late and will not be able to join until 1100.

North runway repair plans– Discussed last year about paving a 75 foot strip along the entire length of the North runway. LCMCD decided pick the rectangular pads that are most damaged, and have them repaired instead. This will begin in a month or so, and process is cheaper than our original plan.

South runway emergency relief services update– They are estimated to depart our facility mid-March 2023.

Tax revenue collections: CFO, Sean O'Neill– Last week we received the last normal distribution from the tax collector. LCMHCD is finally caught up. We received \$20,531,000 for Mosquito and \$2,084,000 for Hyacinth.

Commissioner Hart asked “What percentage have we collected at this point?” Sean responded “The percentage is about 75% to 80%.”

Commissioner Hart asked “In regards to the runway, do we need to be budgeting for a complete overhaul in the future?” Dr. Hoel responded “Yes, we could start budgeting. It will be a gradual, piecemeal repair, by the slab. Once it's completed we won't have to do anything for a while.”

Commissioner Burke asked “What is the difference between repairing the entire North runway and partial repairs?” Dr. Hoel responded “The original plan was to do a rolling repair which would take 3 years to complete. Repairing the most damaged rectangular pads (slabs) will be a lot less expensive than repairing the entire runway. In addition it will be done in less time.”

Commissioner Brantley asked “Do these private communities contribute to the maintenance of these runways?” Dr. Hoel responded “To my knowledge, we have never asked for any monies.”

Commissioner Burke asked “In regards to the OPPAGA review, are they reviewing every mosquito control district in the state?” Dr. Hoel responded “It's for all independent special districts. They are also auditing water management districts, some *ad valorem* hospital districts, and fire department independent special districts.

Commissioner Burke asked “What caused this OPPAGA review, is this a regular occurrence or special request from Tallahassee?” Dr. Hoel responded “No, this is a special request over a few issues that occurred in other districts which raised a concern.”

Commissioner Bowen asked “In regards to the accounting firm we hired to review our processes, have we received any report from them? Sean responded “Yes, we have a list of questions from Balmoral Group that need to be addressed. We are currently working with our regular auditors to assist us.”

Commissioner Hart asked “Do you know of any other districts that have experience with these special audits?” Dr. Hoel responded “No, we don't know any other organization that has.”

FISCAL REVIEW;

10178_ LCMCD

10179_ LCHCD

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for December 2022. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10178_ LCMCD. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Commissioner Bowen presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for December 2022. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10179_ LCHCD. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Farrar commented "The SkillBridge program for veterans. I think is a great opportunity for LCMHCD."

Commissioner Bowen commented "The ABC-7 report on Hyacinth Control; I had the opportunity to see the harvester in operation. Hyacinth Control is doing an excellent job."

Commissioner Burke noted that it is not 1100 yet and there are plans for Valerie Seidel of the Balmoral group to join our meeting via zoom. Commissioner Burke suggested to take a recess until Valerie Zooms into the meeting. Commissioner Ellis made the motion to recess until 1100. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Burke announced the end of the recess at 1100. Valerie Seidel provided an overview of the review process along with a timeline. She noted that the first 2 weeks of work will be conducted remotely before the first visit to the district. A preliminary report must be completed by April 7, 2023 with a final report due by September 30, 2023.

No further business, Commissioner Burke requested for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bowen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.



Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026