

Commissioner Bowen called to order the regular scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 11/16/2023 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, not present  
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart, Vice Chairman, not present  
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, not present  
Communications Director- Jenifer McBride  
Senior Program Analyst- Thais Pineda Alfonso  
Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler  
Executive Administrative Assistant- Sabina Vilarchao

**VISITORS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Commissioner Bowen requested board approval for the 10/26/2023 LCMHCD 10253 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the 10/26/2023 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 report. Cheryl Adams, Biological Administrator Division of Communicable Diseases provided an update:

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/documents/2023-w46-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf>

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

## 10254\_Surplus

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

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

10255\_ DC-3 N146 engine overhaul – Request board approval for aircraft repair expenditures for two DC-3 engines totaling \$1,169,880 to Prime Turbines.

Commissioner Farrar asked, “Is this within the budget constraints we have for maintenance planning?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, it is. It was budgeted for.”

Commissioner Bowen commented “Since we did have multiple quotes, we’ll make a note that staff recommended Prime Turbines. It’s my understanding Prime Turbines is familiar with our aircraft and has worked on them in the past, correct?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, that’s correct.”

Commissioner Bowen asked “I understand it’s an estimated total, and subject to change for any hidden parts that may arise. Does that take into account engines only, and not include propellers/repaint? Sean O’Neill responded, “Yes that is just for the engines only.”

Commissioner Bowen asked “When will the engines be going out for repairs?” Dr. Hoel responded, “The first or second week of December.”

*Commissioner Bowen requested a motion to approve the 10255 expenditures for DC-3 N146 Engine Overhaul. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve 10255. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.*

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

Operations report – It’s been very slow up until this weekend. We had about 2 to 3 inches of rain across the county. LCMCD will be doing inspections today to see what that produces. Overall, it’s been really slow dealing with *Culex* mosquitoes. Hardly no adulticiding, but we’re larviciding daily.

Facilities report– Currently we are concentrating on completing the renovations for the heliports. Dr. Hoel has an update on the fuel cabinets which he’ll mention in his report. Furthermore, LCMCD is still working on getting permits lined up and working with our architects from ADG on the Miller building and the fleet building.

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

Aircraft update – First week of December the N146 will be flown to Mena, Arkansas for painting. The engines will be sent to Mesa, Arizona, and props to Tulsa, Oklahoma for overhaul. N146 is due back here in May 2024. The N763 King Air will be finishing the biennial inspection around Thanksgiving. Also, N762 begins interim inspection in 4 to 6 weeks. Lastly, C-90 engines will be coming back within a month.

Pilot update – LCMCD is awaiting FAA medical clearance on Gerard Geeghart. There will be two more Pilot positions opening early next year.

Sale of PI Center – Realtor provided an update, there are several buyers interested in the property. However, they don’t want the lake included in the sale. My suggestion is we keep it listed for 5 to 6 months. How long does the board wish to wait?

Commissioner Brantley asked “Can you remind me what the property listed at?” Dr. Hoel responded, “It’s listed at \$1.9 million with the lake, and just under a million without the lake.”

Commissioner Farrar commented “The purchasers, maybe they’re not understanding, and the real estate broker should inform them. That lake is an integral portion of the parcel because it’s part of the stormwater management system for the overall track. Therefore, separating it and making a third party responsible for stormwater management system can be a very high hurdle to get over. It needs to be disclosed and clarified that it’s not just a land deal.”

Commissioner Bowen commented “It’s my understanding that the lake is not only part of the stormwater management for our parcel, isn’t it also part of a community adjacent retention area?” Dr. Hoel responded, “We will schedule a meeting with the realtor concerning this matter.”

Commissioner Brantley asked “You mentioned there has been some interest in the property, have any offers been made? Have any numbers been discussed?” Sean responded, “The construction company located across from the property has been the primary ones interested in it. They want to be able to buy the 3.1 acres of dry ground and place their equipment on it. I checked with the realtor and no offer has been made at this time.”

Commissioner Scott Zone 7 visitor – Spoke with a gentleman, Trey Yeater, who might be interested in taking this position. However, we haven’t received his resume as of today. According to the enabling act, when the district loses a commissioner, we must go through the governor’s office to get a replacement. From my understanding, Commissioner Scott isn’t moving out of his zone now, at least temporarily. I’ll follow up with him if he’s staying or if he’s still looking to move out.

Commissioner Bowen asked “Does the current commissioner have to file a form to vacate his seat? John Agnew responded, “There needs to be notification provided to the governor’s office. And I know that preliminary notification had already been provided. Once that move is complete, they just need a formal notice that it’s occurred, and that will ultimately trigger next steps.”

Commissioner Ellis asked “Has he resigned in writing? Does it require a written resignation or does a verbal resignation stand?” John Agnew responded, “I would have to look into it further. From a record keeping perspective, it would be best if we had something in writing.”

December award ceremony reminder – LCMHCD Award ceremony will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. William Opp Training Center at the Districts’ headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971.

Lee County Delegation meeting, Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – The issue of an involuntary merger was on the agenda. Republican Botana sponsored the bill, but a vote was denied. Arguments were heard from FMBMCD and counter comments from LCMCD. FMBMCD is adamantly opposed to the merger. We told the delegation that we were fully capable of providing Fort Myers Beach with effective and timely mosquito control.

Commissioner Ellis asked “What is the process for making the merger happen? Does the full legislature have to approve it and then pass it over to the governor?” Dr. Hoel responded, “The delegation has to approve an introduced bill before it moves to committee review and then to the legislature. If it is passed, then it becomes a referendum to be voted on by all the citizens of Lee County.”

Heliport fuel cabinets – LCMCD ordered the rest of the cabinets, they will arrive in September 2024. Awaiting to hear more from FDACS regarding the grant. Until now, \$350K has been approved, this grant will be reviewed and returned to FDACS by the end of today.

8<sup>th</sup> International SOVE meeting. Beijing, China – Approximately 120 entomologists attended from China, Korea, SE Asia, and Australia. I was invited and presented on the LCMCD SIT program.

Commissioner Ellis asked “What is your assessment of mosquito control in China?” Dr Hoel responded, “China in the 1960s and 1970s was a rural country with a gross domestic product equal to Belgium. Now it’s number 2 in the world and their technology is incredibly advanced, and they take vector control very seriously.”

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

10256\_ LCMCD

10257\_ LCHCD

*Commissioner Bowen presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for October 2023. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10256\_ LCMCD. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

*Commissioner Bowen presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for October 2023. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10257\_ LCHCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.*

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Farrar commented "I attended the FMCA meeting. I was pleasantly surprised by the presentations I witnessed which were all referring to LCMCD SIT program and others. They always spoke very highly of LCMCD. Even the professor at University of Kentucky was talking about mosquito rearing, and how to create that whole system. I thought it was very nice."

*There being no further business, Commissioner Bowen requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.*



Commissioner William Burke, Chairman

Term: November 2020 – November 2024



Commissioner Stephen Bowen, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2022 – November 2026