

Commissioner Burke called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 11/17/2022 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, Secretary/Treasurer
Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman not present
Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis
Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen
Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke, Vice Chairman
Seat 6- Commissioner Thomas B. Hart
Seat 7- Commissioner Bruce Scott, not present
Legal Counsel- John Agnew

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
Executive Administrative Assistant- Sabina Vilarchao

VISITORS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The following citizens addressed the Board:

None

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Commissioner Burke requested board approval for the 10/27/2022 LCMHCD 10163 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Bowen moved to approve the 10/27/2022 minutes. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT: Arielle Ghanem, Biological Administrator of Communicable Diseases, Director, Director, provided an update:

https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/_documents/2022-week46-arbovirus-surveillance-report.pdf

Dr. Hoel commented "I think we'll have a record number of imported dengue cases this year. There have been over 600 cases and it looks like it's closely tied to the epidemic occurring in Cuba."

Commissioner Burke asked "Is dengue strictly in the Keys or Miami Dade area?" Dr. Hoel responded, "You go on vacation somewhere and get bitten. Then when you return home you can get sick later, potentially infecting local mosquitoes. We have done a sweep. Aaron Lloyd added "We will be doing another sweep on Friday. Miami has had a lot of local dengue cases. However, in Lee County it's all been imported, but we respond to it as if it could turn into a local transmission event."

Commissioner Hart asked "Are you having a sweep on Friday?" Aaron responded, "Anytime the health department notifies us that we have a possible disease in the area, whether it's local or introduced from travel. We always gather 10 to 12 of our Field Inspectors, and we put out a radius around the focal point. Next, we go out looking for the container mosquitoes and knocking on doors. This is what we call a sweep."

CONSENT AGENDA:

10164_ Surplus

Commissioner Burke commented "I noticed a few of these items were purchased in May or June this year. They were bought and sold fairly quickly, so they didn't depreciate much. However, what I'm wondering about is a \$15,000 spray golf cart, plus other big expensive items, what happened?" Sean responded, "Those were items out at the heliports that were destroyed, and all have been submerged in salt water. Therefore, we are placing them for sale." Commissioner Burke asked "Are we still able to use them or are they totaled? Or can others use them? Sean responded, "They are totaled. I even discussed it with the fleet manager who also agreed."

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Financial Officer, Sean O'Neill, requested the Board's retroactive approval of the bill from Crowther Roofing for emergency repairs to various building roofs that were damaged in Hurricane Ian. The total bill for the emergency repairs was \$158,650.

10165_ Emergency roof repair

Commissioner Burke commented "Just for clarification we're approving the expenses for the emergency roof repairs already completed. How soon after the storm were they able to do the repairs?" Sean responded, "Crowther Roofing was onsite right away." Commissioner Burke asked, "In terms of long-term repairs have we started getting estimates?" Sean responded, "We have some estimates already for the permanent repairs, and it's an estimate of about 1 million dollars to get all 4 buildings done. We met with FEMA, and they said they would help us out with the deductible."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the purchase order 10165 Emergency roof repairs in the amount of \$158,650. Commissioner Brantley made the motion. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

10166_ DC-3 belly tanks purchase

Assistant Director, Aaron Lloyd requested the Board's approval to purchase two belly mounted spray tanks (275 gallons each) for the Districts' DC-3 fleet, N198 and N146. This would permit us to install one tank under the center section of the aircraft eliminating the four underwing pods and dual spray systems. The conversion to one spray tank will reduce the risk of a chemical spill during loading and unloading, reduce spray equipment required on aircraft effectively reducing maintenance, increase amount of insecticide carried per mission, increase acres sprayed per mission, and increase accuracy of aerial adulticide missions.

Commissioner Hart asked "Aaron, are these units internal?" Aaron responded, "They're not internal, but they'll be attached to the belly. It'll be mounted in the center of the aircraft on the belly, and part of the cost of \$219,000 are for engineer drawings allowing it to be mounted underneath the aircraft.

Commissioner Bowen asked "As far as the non-recurring engineering, is that something Creative Composites is doing for the tanks? Or does it have something to do with structural integrity of the aircraft itself?" Aaron responded, "It's a little of both to make the tank hold the proper amount of liquid, and aerodynamically not pull as much. Also to be connected at the right mounting points where we're not going to worry about any issues with it hanging underneath the belly."

Commissioner Bowen asked "Is the Creative Composites actually doing the in-house engineering?" Aaron responded, "Yes, that is correct."

Commissioner Brantley asked "How much is the proposed Quonset hut?" Aaron responded, "We budgeted it for \$225K." Commissioner Brantley commented "We're no longer going to purchase the Quonset hut, if we move forward with the belly tanks for 2023 year's budget, correct?" Aaron responded, "Yes, that's correct. At some point, we will purchase the Quonset hut but it won't be during this budget cycle."

Commissioner Burke requested a motion to approve the purchase order 10166 DC-3 belly tanks for LCMCD.

Commissioner Ellis made the motion. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved, motion passed.

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

Facilities report –In addition to the roof repairs mentioned earlier, our top priority are the Heliports. We've secured 2 different contractors to begin working on the fences. Also, we've ordered the storage sheds which should be delivered before the season instead of using existing sheds that were modified into offices. We discovered mobile office trailers, and our plan is to secure them during a hurricane. They can easily be towed to the district. Furthermore, we're in the process of securing our jet fuel tanks. We had Crane Services come out to retrieve the fuel tanks that were moved away from their original area, and put back in place and to ensure the fuel is good to be used in the helicopters. Right now our top priority is with facilities and our helicopters.

Commissioner Bowen asked "How are the insurance companies working with us regarding these repairs? Are we getting a good response from them, or are they slow to respond for recouping any of these additional expenses?" Can you discuss a little of what we have done to address mosquito control since the hurricane?" Sean responded, "Currently, we have two good quality estimates, of which one of them can't do all the work, and we are awaiting third one. So they are responding, it's just that we are competing with everyone else."

Commissioner Bowen asked "What about the insurance adjusters? Sean responded, "They've already come by the district, and are working on the numbers. FEMA arrived yesterday, and from hereon they will be coming in once a week."

Commissioner Burke asked "Is it too early to ask roughly, when the permanent roof repairs will be done?" Aaron responded, "Yes, however the temporary roof repairs are good for 6 months. Therefore, we have 6 months to get a permanent solution."

Operations report – Operations have slowed down a little bit, but we're not technically in the off season, and it's due to Hurricane Ian plus Tropical Storm Nicole. Our seasonal staffs' assignment ended October 31, 2022. We're currently utilizing our full-time staff to assist with our trap truck surveillance because we're still having significant mosquito issues.

Operationally we're out every day with our Field Inspectors looking for larvae. We're responding to approximately 30 service requests a day from local residents who are having problems with mosquitoes, and we have our ULV Truck Operators going out every night.

Commissioner Hart asked "What about the SIT program for Sanibel Island?" Aaron responded, "That's effectively done; we will not be continuing this project on Captiva. We will be moving it to Fort Myers, and we are in the process of contacting homeowners asking for permission to place our traps. This will allow us to get the baseline data that we're going to need with an expectant release in April of next year to continue the project."

Commissioner Bowen asked "Geographically in Fort Myers, what area are you considering?" Aaron responded, "The treatment area will be at the Edison Park. Downtown Fort Myers is going to be a buffer, and then we're going to have control in the Historic Dean Park area."

Commissioner Burke asked "There will be no SIT males released in that area, is that correct?" Aaron responded, "There will be trapping in the area, and correct, no releases."

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

Aircraft update- We have one helicopter down during inspection to replace the tail rotor drive bearings. We have both DC-3s up so they can be used at any time. One of the Beechcraft is down due for a biennial inspection which is mandatory. If we need to get our aircraft in the air we definitely can.

Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control interlocal agreement- In our local agreement we haven't heard back from Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control on a document we drafted for them. I think they're still trying to figure out what to do next. In the meantime, we'll let them work out what they're next move is with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Forrest Innovations proposal – There's an organization in Israel called Forrest Innovations, and they recently got in touch with me. They've got a new sterile insect technique technology that they're working on. The objective is try to produce sterile *Culex* mosquitoes. This would require some field work on our behalf. They want us to apply for a DARPA Grant, (Defense Advance Research Project Agency). I will have a proposal sent over, and in our next board meeting December 16, 2022 we can take a vote on it.

Commissioner Ellis commented "I agree it sounds intriguing. I'm a little amused by the fact we're getting involved with genetically modified mosquitoes. Similar to what they're doing down in Monroe County. I think it's a great idea as long as we're not putting a lot of money into it upfront." Dr. Hoel responded, "The GMO classification we would have to research further."

Commissioner Ellis commented "I think it's fascinating technology."

Commissioner Bowen commented "I agree, once we think get the proposal, then we will be able to generate more questions."

Withdrawal from REDI-NET tick project – I communicated with a gentleman at Notre Dame, and advised him we wanted to withdraw. First, this is a tick project and not mosquito control related. Secondly, the project is not funded, therefore, we will not participate in this project.

Thank you letter, Steve Miller, Incident Commander, Ohio Incident Management Team – The District received a thank you letter from the State of Ohio Butler County Incident Management Team. I'll scan the letter and send it over to each board member to review.

Dibrom purchase – The Adapco Company has rebranded to Azelis Agricultural & Environmental Solutions (A&ES). Our representative whom is soon to relocate, is proposing to conclude a good deal. If we buy a full order of \$1.5 million dollars, then we will be paying \$226 a gallon, the old price. Currently the average cost next year will be \$271 a gallon. The catch is we must purchase it all in January 2023. This purchase would cover us through the next 2 years,

and would save the District a lot of money.

Commissioner Brantley asked “This is going to last us for up to 2 years, are there any storage requirements or expiration dates? Dr. Hoel responded, “Until recently, we had 3 year old Dibrom; it does change color a little bit, but it doesn’t interfere with effectiveness.”

Commissioner Brantley commented “We should verify what the label states for certain.” Aaron commented, “Actually it can go well beyond 5 years of storage.”

Commissioner Hart asked “The effect on the budget is zero, and we have it in our current budget, correct?” Dr. Hoel responded, “We’ve budgeted a lot of money to purchase Dibrom at the new bid price or purchase it before December 31st.”

AIG transition period – We’re having some difficulty with AXA transferring the account to Corebridge (formally known as AIG), it’s very slow. The districts are currently on schedule for the conversion process from Equitable to Corebridge financial services. On December 2nd employees will be able to begin making transactions in their retirement accounts online at the Corebridge website.

Upcoming award ceremony on Friday – We’re having our award ceremony Friday December 16th, 2022 which will occur after our next board meeting.

Commissioner Bowen asked “December 16th is a Friday?” Dr. Hoel responded, “Yes, and then we will be on Holiday break from December 19th returning on January 2nd.”

FINANCIAL REPORT:

10167_LCMCD

10168_LCHCD

Commissioner Brantley presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for October 2022. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10167 LCMCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

Commissioner Brantley presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for October 2022. Commissioner Brantley moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10168 LCHCD. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously, motion passed.

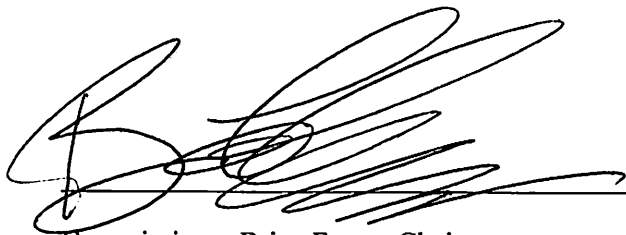
COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Burke commented “In regards to the Forrest Innovation, I’m fascinated by this proposal. I really like that we’re targeting more different kinds of mosquito species. I’m interested to see how the public education part of it is going to come up. I’m looking forward to what we come up with regarding communicating it all to the public.

Commissioner Brantley commented “I had the opportunity to visit the Imaginarium Science Center and Lee County Mosquito Control has a very nice display setup. I encourage everyone to go out and visit. It’s still a work in progress but what is there its very impressive, and I’m very proud to see that. Also, I think it would be a good place to introduce Hyacinth Control.”

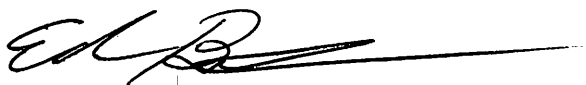
Commissioner Bowen asked “Seeing the heavy expenditure of chemicals which were primarily due to the storm, do we see the possibility of FEMA helping compensate us for the excessive use of chemicals post-storm?” Sean responded, “We discussed it with FEMA, and they were open to it. We’re in the process of gathering all the information for them.

No further business, Commissioner Burke made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a prominent loop at the beginning and several horizontal strokes at the end.

Commissioner Brian Farrar, Chairman

Term: December 2018 – November 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Brantley', with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Commissioner Ed Brantley, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2020 – November 2024