

Commissioner Brantley called to order the regularly scheduled meeting of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMHCD) on 04/24/2025 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, Chairman

Seat 2- Commissioner Brian Farrar

Seat 3- Commissioner Mike Ellis

Seat 4- Commissioner Steve Bowen

Seat 5- Commissioner William Burke

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, LCHCD – Kevin Watts

Chief Financial Officer – Sean O'Neill

Human Resources Director – Melissa Tenzel

Communications Director – Jenifer McBride

Community Engagement Coordinator- Jamie Fowler

Senior Program Analyst – Thais Pineda Alfonso

AST Manger – Rachel Morreale

Executive Administrative Assistant – Sabina Vilarchao

**VISITORS:**

Carr, Riggs & Ingram – John Brielmaier, Auditor

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

The following citizens addressed the Board: None

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

*Commissioner Brantley requested Board approval for the 03/20/2025 LCMHCD\_10372 Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve the 03/20/2025 minutes. Commissioner Bowen 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/2025-17-arbovirus-surveillance.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/_documents/2025-17-arbovirus-surveillance.pdf)

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

10369\_Laboratory research for Biocentis company – Provide direction for the Executive team regarding SIT technology. An approval will provide a clear path forward for future collaborations that may enhance operational efficiency with SIT. LCMCD's SIT program is the leader in developing operational logistics for the use of SIT in public health and mosquito control programs. Currently, our SIT program is operating at max capacity given the resources available, including workforce numbers.

*Commissioner Farrar moved to deny the request pursuant to 10369. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed, which is dismissal of 10369.*

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

10373\_Retiree benefits handbook update – Present to the Board proposed revisions to the LCMHCD Employee Handbook that eliminate redundant information regarding retiree benefit contribution levels. Eliminating the duplicate contribution information from the LCMHCD Employee Handbook would help reduce potential policy confusion and ensure consistency by directing employees and retirees to the Retiree Health Insurance Trust Fund Plan Document as the single, authoritative source moving forward.

*Commissioner Brantley requested Board approval for the 10373\_Retiree benefits handbook update. Commissioner Scott moved to approve 10373. Commissioner Bowen seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

10374\_Airbus tariffs – Addresses the tariff placed on LCMCD's Airbus H125 helicopter purchase. Adjust the final cost of our Airbus H125 helicopter by an additional \$350,000. Per the LCMHCD policy manual, the Board previously approved the purchase of the helicopter at a cost of \$4,200,000. Since the tariff increase does not exceed 15% (\$630,000) of the originally approved cost, Board approval is not required. However, an approval vote confirms the Board is aware of the cost changes.

*Commissioner Ellis moved to table for a later date until we know more. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

10375a\_LCHCD Annual financial audit – Auditor, John Brielmaier, presented to the Board the annual audited financial statement for approval. Provided a summary of the annual audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, for approval and provide authorization to transmit the audited financial information to the State of Florida Department of Financial Services for the District's required annual reporting.

*Commissioner Scott requested Board approval to accept the 10375a\_LCHCD annual audited financial statements. Commissioner Farrar moved to approve 10375a. Commissioner Farrar seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed*

10375b\_LCMCD Annual financial audit – Auditor, John Brielmaier, presented to the Board the annual audited financial statement for approval. Provided a summary of the annual audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, for approval and provide authorization to transmit the audited financial information to the State of Florida Department of Financial Services for the District's required annual reporting.

*Commissioner Brantley requested Board approval to accept the 10375b\_LCMCD annual audited financial statements. Commissioner Hartt moved to approve 10375b. Commissioner Burke seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed*

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

Operations report

This year has been a much drier year compared to last year, which is a concern because we have mosquitoes building up. It's been nice thus far, there hasn't been a huge influx of adult mosquitoes. Just some small pockets around the county from tide producing salt marsh mosquitoes. Our first aerial mission took place on Pine Island a couple of weeks ago. It went well based on our back checks.

LCMCD is preparing for our preseason treatments which will happen at the end of May.

Overall, operations have been good right now, as the mosquito counts are low.

Facilities report

Heliports are getting done and two are close to completion. Bowman's heliport should be completed in 3 weeks right before the season, and others will follow shortly after that.

The CO for the fleet storage building was received Tuesday of this week. This was a huge project which is now completed.

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

Aircraft update:

- All is good, waiting for avionics for a DC-3(N146).

Legislative update:

- Jenifer McBride provided update on the House Bill 4035, which is the merger bill. It has been through all three committees in the House with favorable votes. If approved, they will move on to the Senate.

PI Center Update:

- The District contacted Harris-Jorgensen, LLC, the original surveyor of the plat for the Industrial Park. After review by Henderson Franklin, another question about the number of members required to be in the POA was presented to the South Florida Water Management District. The final answer to this may require LCMCD to hire an engineer to review the original documentation for the permit and the location of lots in the platted area before proceeding with a meeting of POA members. We are still waiting for more guidance from Henderson Franklin.

Arbovirus Workshop:

- The workshop was held March 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> at Anastasia MCD and attended by 4 LCMCD employees speaking on topics such as LCMCD research & technology updates, biting midge control, and resistance testing.

Strategic Plan quarterly update:

- Mosquito and Hyacinth Control strategic plans were presented and can be viewed on our website.

SIT Quarterly update: presented by AST Manager, Rachel Morreale

- Precision X-Rad 320 has been installed and staff has been trained
- Cold room built and in use
  - Greatly reducing processing time
  - Easier handling of adults
- Manuscript accepted
  - Infectious Diseases of Poverty
- Upcoming mosquito mating studies will be conducted

- Catalina Alfonso-Parra (visiting scientist) will help with the studies
- Over 6.5 million sterile males released in 2025

Washington Days May 2025:

- AMCA 2025 Annual Washington Conference will be May 12-14, 2025. If any Commissioners want to attend, please let Sabina know.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

10376\_LCHCD

10377\_LCMCD

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCHCD Treasurer's report for March 2025. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Hyacinth Control District financials, 10376\_LCHCD. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

*Commissioner Burke presented the LCMCD Treasurer's report for March 2025. Commissioner Burke moved to approve the Mosquito Control District financials, 10377\_LCMCD. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously; motion passed.*

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Ellis commented, "I'm very pleased with the legislative initiatives, SIT initiatives, and the audit. Good job."

Commissioner Burke commented, "I'm pleased with the order as well."

*There being no further business, Commissioner Brantley made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.*



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Commissioner Ed Brantley, Chairman

Term: November 2024 – November 2028



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Commissioner William Burke, Secretary/Treasurer

Term: November 2024 – November 2028