

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control Districts (LCMCD/LCHCD) held a regular Board Meeting, December 15, 2016, at 10:01 a.m. in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Rd., Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman Brian F. Farrar, Commissioners Thomas B. Hart, George, T. Mann Jr., Bruce C. Scott, Ed Brantley, Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Ellis.

Visitors: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MINUTES APPROVAL - Chairman Farrar, recognized our new Commissioner, Ed Brantley. Commissioner Brantley gave a short background on himself. Chairman Farrar asked if the Board would review the meeting minutes from November. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried with no dissenting votes.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, Lee County Health Department reported that things are beginning to slow down. There have been no Zika cases reported in the last two weeks. Miami has officially lifted all their areas of local transmission. Travel is still an issue and an advisory remains in place for travel cases in the Miami area. We are at almost 1,000 imported travel cases for the state in Zika. Flu this year is slowly creeping in and probably will peak in February. Higher than this time last year but last year we peaked in late March.

RESOLUTION APPROVAL – Executive Director Gale would like to ask that the Board approve a resolution for former Executive Director William R. Opp. The District is planning to have a portrait done of William Opp for his 13 years of service to the district as Executive Director. Executive Director Gale read the resolution as below.

RESOLUTION

***WHEREAS,** Director William R. Opp provided valuable leadership and guidance from March 1, 1993 to May 31, 2006 as Director of the Lee County Mosquito and Hyacinth Control Districts and,*

***WHEREAS,** Director William R. Opp served with great honor and distinction as Director for the Lee County Mosquito and Hyacinth Control Districts and,*

***WHEREAS,** Director William R. Opp served as President of the FMCA, President of the AMCA, and President of the Florida Association of Special Districts, Joint Editor of the Florida Handbook on Mosquito Control, member of the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Evaluation of Pesticide Application Equipment, a member of the Florida Coordinating Council Subcommittee on Managed Marshes and a member of the AMCA Accreditation committee, during this time period and,*

***WHEREAS,** Director William R. Opp helped to develop, implement and promote educational programs for those involved in mosquito control including the Dodd Short Course and FMCA Aerial Short Course and,*

***WHEREAS**, Director William R. Opp was a strong advocate of mutual assistance with other governmental agencies including City Governments, County governments, State Governments, and Federal Government. This assistance involved mutual aid to others in their efforts to control mosquitoes, facility needs, equipment support, hurricane disaster relief, that created an atmosphere of corporation between governmental agencies and their communities and,*

***WHEREAS**, Director William R. Opp supported and participated in community activities including Scoutmaster, Merit Badge Councilor and Committeeman for Boys Scouts of America, Board Member of the YMCA, Crew Trust, Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium, Lee County Breast Cancer Screening, Fort Myers Rotary Club, Chairman of BUPAC and,*

***WHEREAS**, Director William R. Opp provided highly valued insight in public health issues, organizational development, aquatic weed control improvements, public education improvements and fiscal responsibility and,*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito and Hyacinth Control District, at its regular meeting held Thursday, December 15, 2016, hereby recognizes the long and valued service of William R. Opp and by this resolution expresses gratitude for his farsighted and untiring efforts on behalf of the citizens of Lee County, and the State of Florida, resulting in more efficient and effective mosquito and aquatic plant control, and thereby making Lee County an even better place in which to live, and*

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this Resolution be furnished to William R. Opp and copy spread upon the minutes of this meeting.*

***WE HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito and Hyacinth Control Districts at the regular meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2016.*

***By:** Brian Farrar, Chairman
Edward Brantley, Commissioner
William M. Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer
Thomas B. Hart, Commissioner
George T. Mann, Jr., Commissioner
Bruce C. Scott, Commissioner*

Commissioner Mann made the motion to approve the resolution with Commissioner Hart seconding the motion. The Board approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Gale advised that the District has experienced a busy month with meetings, etc. The Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) meeting was held in the Panhandle. Kostas Bourtzis from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) came here to discuss sterile mosquito control techniques (SIT) in partnership with the IAEA. Statewide there are three basic techniques to use mosquitoes against themselves to control them. The genetically modified mosquitoes (GM) are soon to be released in the Keys. By genetically modifying the mosquitoes, they do have offspring but they do not develop properly and die off. Aedes can be infected with Wolbachia that renders them sterile. The key element is if females are infected with Wolbachia they are rendered sterile and cannot transmit disease. The drawback is that we cannot get a 100% accuracy rate in sexing mosquitoes and there will be a few released that may bite and that may cause concern in the population. The third is to irradiate the male mosquitoes so a mating with wild females produces no offspring. The Oxitech technique is a patented and registered commodity and regulated by the FDA. The University of Kentucky holds the patent to the Wolbachia technique. The third one is the sterile insect technique and is an unregulated form of treatment that has been conducted here for fruit flies and screwworm for decades. Director is in the process of working with the IAEA to see if there is some way we can establish a program in the future as part of the regular mosquito management program. The problem could be with a lot of this that Zika may go away in approximately two years and then the enthusiasm for funding could dry up. Director is more interested in establishing a more sustainable system not reliant on emergency dollars. The technology could work on other species but probably would not work as well on mosquitos that fly too far. The successful release ratio has to be 7 sterile males for every 1 wild male to obtain control. The irradiation machine is relatively small, about the size of a small desk. They can deliver a uniform dose to make sure that each one is equally dosed. The machine costs about \$200,000 and the next expense would be to create an insectary to rear the mosquitoes. We do currently have the building space here and could do it. To release the mosquitos they have developed an aerial dispersal system that chills the mosquitoes and when they are released from the airplane as they drop their wings and legs thaw and they can fly away. Director has requested formally that the IAEA provide us with the information on this technology. He has not yet heard back from them. He would like to begin on Sanibel as an island is the perfect place to test it. It would then be adding islands and locations across the county to eliminate or decrease the population to extremely low levels.

We have applied for a grant application through the University of Florida. We would release mosquitoes only during the time after spraying to time the release after an adult spray mission.

We are working on obtaining permission now to spray over State lands for adult mosquito control and there is a meeting set up in Tallahassee with Cari Roth next month to coordinate moving these decisions to a higher level of approval authority.

Director mentioned Hyacinth Control has been working with the harvester in conjunction with Parks & Rec and will give a presentation at the next meeting. They have cleaned out the filter marsh into Lakes Park, which has garnered much public appreciation.

Jennifer, Milton Sterling and Director Gale attended a Zika summit yesterday in Orlando where everyone was to come together and share experiences this year. The purpose was to help create a plan of action for next year. Basically it was a repeat of everything they already knew. Grant money will most likely be reduced next year. We have spent our allotment of \$52,000 a month for three months this year. Miami spent \$5 million a month to run for four months. They figured out what they need to do going forward and should be better prepared next year.

We will need to decide what we are going to do when small districts come to us in the future needing us to help spray.

Director attended a Preeminence Conference in Washington D.C. The conference was held to discuss which states have laws regulating pesticides, seeds and fertilizers that have preeminence over local laws that may be developed by smaller governments. State laws help to prevent smaller communities from placing bans or making regulations regarding pesticides which can be helpful for large area pest management programs.

PROJECT UPDATE - Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet and Facilities advised that the land development code for Lee County have been modified for CF 1, 2 & 3. There is now a category that is CF zoning only. Now a protection system is in place for our airport and heliports with a matrix attached that if we purchase additional helistops they will be covered under that code. I believe what our approach will be is to establish FAA standards into the future for our helistops. We are now moving forward here for a CF zoning on our properties. Additionally we purchase a small piece of property right off our runway to include that into our property and this will accomplish the CF zoning.

Second week of January the King Air with two pilots and two maintenance men will fly home.

FISCAL REVIEW – Commissioner Ellis asked Chief Financial Officer, Russ Baker to address the Board regarding changes in our accounting group. The installation of new computer systems and the old system was on a cash basis system and we are now on the modified accrual basis. CFO Baker updated for the benefit of our new commissioner how he reports the financials to the Board. The new system provides volumes of information that was not available to us before. Russ will attempt to provide summaries of that information in the future and gave an example from the current report. What it means to the Board is that they can obtain any information from Russ in an in-depth fashion, as they would like to go. Commissioner Ellis asked for approval of the October and November financial reports for Hyacinth and Mosquito Control Districts. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion to approve both October and November financials. The Board approved unanimously.

Election of New Officers – Chairman Farrar facilitated the selection of Board officers for next year. Chairman Farrar asked what slate of officers the Board would approve for this year. The Board presented Commissioner Hart for Chairman, Secretary Treasurer Ellis for Vice Chairman, and Commissioner Farrar for Secretary Treasurer. The Board unanimously approve the slate of officers.

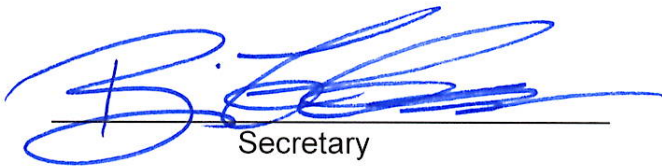
Dates Of Upcoming Events – The District Annual Service Awards Banquet will be held today after the Board meeting. This coming Monday begins the two week reduced operations period. The period ends on 1/2 with full time resuming on 1/3. The Fly-In happens here from January 10-12 and the Board is welcome to attend. The Local Delegation meeting on 1/19 is the same day as the Board meeting which should not need to be rescheduled. The Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD) is having their membership meeting here on the 1/27 from 10-Noon, Representative Matt Caldwell will be the speaker. The last week January 30 – February 3 is the Dodd Short Courses. Commissioners Day is Tuesday 1/31. The American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) meeting happens from February 12-17 at which time Executive Director Gale at the end of the meetings will become President of AMCA.

Chairman Mann advised that the old Fire Truck has been turned over to the Ft. Myers Fire District during the dedication ceremony of the newly completed Central Fire Station #1.

Purchase of the Woodstock Airport is winding down to a conclusion and have put it in check until the current owner comes to agreement with our terms. If that is accomplished the purchase should be finalized soon. Once the Owner signs all the surveys will be

submitted to the attorneys for creation. Once the zoning here is resolved then the two public hearings will happen.

Chairman Farrar moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Ellis seconded it. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.



Secretary



Chairman