

The Board of Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito Control District held its regular scheduled meeting May 9, 2013 at 9:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Melissa Dortch, Commissioners William M. Ellis, Richard H. Pritchett, III, George T. Mann, Jr. Bruce C. Scott and Director T. Wayne Gale.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MINUTES: Vice-Chair Dortch asked for approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on April 4, 2013. Commissioner Pritchett moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion which carried with no dissenting votes.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Dr. Hartner stated that there is nothing new to report from the Health Department at this time.

AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION (AMCA) WASHINGTON DAYS: Director Gale, Commissioner's Mann and Dortch along with Katie Heggemeier, Manager-Mosquito Control, met with Representative Radel, and staff members from Senator Nelson, Representative Ross, Representative Young and Representative Rooney. Everyone was receptive and attentive to the presentation by the delegation. The main issue was the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting requirements and the legislative change to the law so mosquito control would no longer be under that permitting requirement. Instead of a stand-alone bill the NPDES fix will probably end up in the farm bill. It is important for the farm bill to pass. The Senate version of the farm bill will not have the NPDES language but the NPDES language that is in the House Bill will more than likely end up in the final version of the farm bill.

Katie Heggemeier and Director Gale met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Registration Division concerning issues with mosquito control pesticide label language. The new labels have language that is filtering in from agriculture labels which does not allow mosquito control to spray under certain conditions. One example is "Do not allow the product to drift", which is exactly how mosquito control applies pesticides. The EPA agrees that this is a problem that needs to be fixed and has asked the District to prioritize items in question on the labels, and partner with the American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) in doing so. The District will be copying the AMCA on everything sent to the EPA. Florida has a representative from the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (DACS) in Tallahassee who will be spending a month in Washington with the EPA. The Director will visit with Charlie Clark before he leaves Florida to educate him on our issues.

STATE MANAGED LANDS MOSQUITO CONTROL POLICY: The Director met with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Deputy Secretary for State Lands and Recreation, Al Dougherty, who makes the ultimate decision about adulticiding on state managed lands. Al is a developer from Estero who lives adjacent to the salt marsh on Estero Bay as well as being in a position of authority for an agency tasked with protecting the environment of the property for which they are responsible. There is still much push back from DEP staff over the issue but they are willing to continue the discussion. Director will continue to work on this project to reach some mutually beneficial conclusion.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION: Director Gale reported that the budget process is beginning. He has no information at this time on property values although according to reports values are going up. There is no information available as to what the income might be next year. The Director requested from the board information on what they would like to do regarding employee increases. Most government agencies are currently going with about a 3% increase. The Director proposed that 3% go into the budget for our employees. The assumption is that the total budget will stay the same as last year and could support the 3% salary increase. Some positions have been eliminated, but seasonal weather conditions could require additional hires. Commissioner Ellis proposed a workshop to discuss possible increases after the next Board meeting and the Board unanimously agreed.

PROJECT UPDATES: Carmen McKinney advised that the King Air/UH1 exchange is still in the negotiation stage, but close to completion. The newest King Air is being calibrated for spraying at this time.

There has been a water line break going into some of the District buildings. The task of discovering what lines are dysfunctional and rerouting them has begun. The deteriorated line, at this time, is feeding into the old administration building and rerouting the line will be done by Christo for approximately \$3,000 for three hookups. The rest of the lines will be replaced by the District Maintenance Department.

FISCAL REVIEW: Commissioner Ellis reviewed the receipts and balances.

NEW BUSINESS: The employee search panel, Commissioner Ellis, Director Gale, Vivian Jones-Chief Financial Officer and Susan Merris-Director of Human Resources, have interviewed and selected a replacement for Vivian. An offer has been made to Russ Baker, currently CFO for Iona McGregor Fire District and experienced in private as well as governmental finance. Russ has also been the CFO of a special taxing district with a budget similar in size to Lee County Mosquito Control. Russ will begin work on June 17th and will be available at the next Board meeting. He will attend the budget workshop to begin the budgeting process for next year.

There has been no update from the Governor's office on filling the Commissioner vacancy on the Board. Keith Arnold, District Lobbyist, checked on the progress and reported to the Director that the Governor's office is running behind in the process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.