

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) held its regular scheduled meeting February 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

PRESENT: Chairman Mann, Commissioners Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Brian F. Farrar, Thomas B. Hart, Richard D. Paul and Director T. Wayne Gale.

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

MINUTES - Chairman Mann asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on January 8, 2015. Commissioner Ellis moved that the minutes be approved as read. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion which carried with no dissenting votes.

LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, advised that there is no mosquito illness to report at this time in Lee County.

PROJECT UPDATES Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, reported that the King Airs are still in Arizona and that the process to move them is progressing slowly. This is mainly a logistics problem working through the different government entities. No matter when they arrive it will still be at least two years before they will be in service. The sweeper truck procured through the General Services Administration (GSA) has arrived from Turkey. The District paid \$14,000 for shipping the truck which is valued at around \$80,000. The truck has been tested and will be put in service maintaining the runways.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Gale reported on the drone presentations from last month's Fly-In. The District has spent time working through media requests about drones. The District is not planning to get into any type of drone testing program anytime soon.

Genetically modified mosquitoes have been in the local media lately. The sterile insect control technique is as follows:

- Mass production in the laboratory
- Sterilization or lethal gene not harmful to the carrier insect
- Competitive with wild population for mating
- Must be able to overwhelm native insect population with numbers
- Must minimize movement of insects from outside the sterilization zone

There is a success story involving the screwworm in the United States:

- Screwworm eradication from SE U.S. by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) began in Florida in 1958
- Factory in Sebring produced 75 million sterile flies per week
- Released at a rate of 75 to 300 Flies per square kilometer from airplanes
- Last reported screwworm fly infestation in Florida was in 1959
- The flies were pushed out of the SE U.S. and down to Central America where a buffer zone is established to continually release sterile flies and keep them out of the US. The last reported case in the U.S. was in 1982

The Oxitech plan is:

- Aedes aegypti* genetically modified (GM) to require tetracycline in their diet to survive
- Offspring die as larvae without tetracycline
- GM Male mosquitoes released to mate with wild females and produce nonviable offspring
- Successful in Cayman Islands, Brazil and Malaysia

The success in the Caymans, Brazil and Asia is the reason Keys Mosquito Control wants to use this program. Lee County has both *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*, if the *aegypti* are eradicated the *albopictus* would immediately take over. Oxitech would have to find a way to do a multi species release to take out all those that are breeding. This is one method for the Keys to deal with Dengue fever in their area. Oxitech is attempting to get approval for this process and show the public that it has potential.

Director Gale advised where LCMCD stands on adulticiding public lands. The District is no further along than it has been since 1987. There is a ban on spraying adulticides from the air. LCMCD is attempting to treat the source of mosquitoes in the salt marsh to reduce the need for additional spraying over residential areas throughout the season. The restriction needs to be lifted as it is based on misinformation and the way things were done 28 years ago. Our goal is to reduce the pesticides we are using and decrease the overall cost. If spraying can be done early in the season this will help decrease how many times we have to spray in that season. There are currently three research projects at Florida Gulf Coast University, University of Florida and the United States Air Force, indicating initial aerial adulticiding impact on small flying insects. Our report has been provided to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and will be published at some point in the future. The outcome is that there is not much of an impact on insects, i.e., butterflies, bees and no lasting residue on flora and fauna. We will resubmit our Arthropod Control Plan to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for approval to be allowed to aerial adulticide at the beginning of the season to reduce spraying later in the season.

Director Gale requested a Board Workshop before or after the next Board meeting to discuss the health benefits for retiree's policy. Commissioner Paul will not be attending the next Board meeting so the Board agreed to hold the Workshop immediately after the April 9th Board meeting.

FISCAL REVIEW – Commissioner Ellis reported on the LCMCD and LCHCD budgets. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to accept the financial report as read. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - Russ Baker-Chief Financial Officer presented the amended Interlocal Agreement between LCMCD and LCHCD. The amended agreement includes three distinct sections; banking and investing from the original Interlocal Agreement and two new sections; allocation of shared expenditures and entering into joint contracts. Discussion ensued concerning the different sections and at the end Commissioner Ellis made the motion to approve changes outlined by CFO Baker. Commissioner Hart second the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mann at 10:58 AM.