

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) held its regular scheduled meeting June 4, 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 Paul, and Director T. Wayne Gale.

**VISITORS:** Kim Hawke, Jon Larsen Dudley, Phyllis Marino

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Kim Hawke - Mr. Hawke spoke again about his concern for the national debt of \$18 trillion as it relates to LCMCD. He is concerned and would like to register a protest against LCMCD paying teacher salaries. Mr. Hawke is against one government agency contributing to another government agency. He is urging the Board to consider handling this piece of the budget in a different way.

**MINUTES** - Chairman Mann asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on May 7, 2015. Commissioner Dortch moved that the minutes be approved as read. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion which carried with no dissenting votes.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, provided an update on vector borne disease activity in Lee County. There are no locally acquired mosquito illnesses here or in the whole state in the last couple of weeks. As of June 26<sup>th</sup> the current Health Department Director is moving on to a new job and they are beginning the search for his replacement.

**LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD AND FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY BUDGET PROPOSAL** – Shelly Redovan, Deputy Director Education and Communication presented the proposed budgets for the next year's environmental education programs.

Shelly stated that LCMCD is tasked with the education of the public through an integrated program. There are many mosquitoes that we cannot control and providing this education helps individuals learn how to control mosquitoes in their own environment. The courses over the years have now impacted multi generations here in Lee County. Our education staff consists of Neil Wilkinson, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU); Brian Murphy and Eric Jackson, School District of Lee County. Neil spoke to the fact that they are mission driven to augment mosquito education and to inform Lee County who, what and why Mosquito Control exists. No other place in Florida and perhaps the world produces the quantity of mosquitoes we do here. Florida is the biggest, flattest, wettest, warmest place on earth. There are four major programs in place for Kindergarten through High School. The programs are high impact taking a week to complete each unit. 13,000 students participated in programs this school year. The educators either Public Schools or Private have to request the LCMCD team to come in and present the units to their class. Neil also is an Instructor Level 3 at FGCU. He is a Past President of Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) and will help to write the Director's Exam along with Director Gale for FMCA. Neil was instrumental in obtaining a grant from the Department of Agriculture to partner LCMCD with FGCU on a mosquito control research project.

Shelly Redovan presented the budget to the Board for a vote on signing the contract with FGCU and LCMCD. There are no changes since last year other than the dates and they asked that we only use LCMCD rather than spelling out the district name within the body of the contract. This is a three year contract.

Discussion ensued with Commissioner Paul stating that to him the program is backwards and he would like to reverse it and have classroom education brought here to the District. Also rather than paying three educators salaries as well as utilizing FGCU interns he would like to reduce staff to one educator and multiple FGCU interns and bus students here rather than LCMCD going to the schools. Commissioner Farrar saw his point but understands that students traveling here in the quantity that we now reach would be cost prohibitive. Shelly Redovan pointed out that the reason we have FGCU interns is because of we have Neil on the staff there. Without that connection it is unlikely that we would have the interns available to us.

Shelly Redovan also indicated the need for LCMCD to meet the regulations to show Integrated Pest Management is still an issue and the educational component is the part of our program fulfilling that requirement. It is LCMCD's responsibility to educate the public regarding their role in controlling their own home grown mosquitoes. This program is in place to educate the public to control their own mosquitoes and it is a return on investment to us to educate them so we don't have to control the mosquitoes that they produce. The assumption that the public will use the Internet to get information off our website is a voluntary situation, while in the schools it is much less a voluntary effort.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to approve the contract for 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Farrar. The Board voted and there were five (5) yes votes; Commissioners Hart, Farrar, Mann, Scott, Dortch and one (1) No vote; Commissioner Paul.

**PROJECT UPDATES** – Director presented the housing development project called Bentley Crossing to the Board and indicated it has been determined that there will be no significant impact on the district. The District is working on an aviation agreement that the residents must sign stating that they know the District is present and realize that there will be much noise due to our day to day airport operations.

There is a significant bill coming up for the King Air of \$40,000 involving an auto feather mechanism that needs to be installed for safety reasons. The feather mechanism will make the flight systems between the C90 and E90 the same so that pilots will have continuity between the two aircraft.

**RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY DRAFT** – Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer presented the draft retiree health insurance policy for review and discussion. Susan Merris, Director of Human Resources was present to help with any questions. During last month's workshop the Board discussed this policy. Florida statute states that that an employer participating in the Florida Retirement System and offering health benefits to employees must provide retirees the opportunity to continue participation in the health benefits program upon retirement. If an employee dies while active and has not retired they will not meet the eligibility requirement of retirement. This information will be provided to the Board for their review and additional discussion at the workshop on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Under the policy those hired after July 1, 2011 are eligible for the insurance but ineligible for the premium assistance. Blue Cross will not allow retirees to stay on the Blue Cross plan at age 65, they must go over to the Medicare Supplement. If an employee does not leave with coverage they are ineligible to get it in the future.

There will be a workshop at 1:00 p.m. on June 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Retiree Health Insurance Policy and at 2:00 p.m. a Special Board Meeting will be held to discuss the Audits results and approve the audits for the Districts.

**AUDIT UPDATE** – Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer will update the Commissioners on the progress of the fiscal year ended September 30, 2014 audit. They were here last week performing field work on the audit response on 6/30. Financial reporting purposes in 2004 governmental accounting really changed with the implementation of GADSB 34. Our accounting software at the time did not provide for a general ledger accounting system which we still do not have in place. The Auditors built the financial statements and were not built internally. That has now been changed and is being done internally for budget to actual, balance sheet, fund balance and entity statements. The audited financial statements reported \$200,000 less in cash than we actually had. There is no money is missing and the current Auditors have been asked to prove that there is no issue with cash. Staff is working to get a double entry accounting system in place and working.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Director Gale reported that the open house was a great success with e-mails being received by staff and commissioners. We had approximately 1,000 people for the event. Very positive experience for everyone and pleased with our staff with the level of extreme pride in what they do and presented that to the public. It all went very well, we will probably continue to do that type of event in the future.

Pretreat larviciding missions have been done this year and it has worked, everything sprayed is wet and the pretreatment is working. We do have significant request calls 30-40 a day but it points out that the season is starting with the huge high tide in a week or so we will know how well we did. Blue green algae bloom in Lake Okeechobee is moving down the river and we are getting inquiries about that. There is nothing we can do we are aware but there is no combating the water releases from Lake Okeechobee.

Over the last couple of years we have been at odds with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) over mosquito control we conduct on their lands. The state just acquired a significant part of Babcock Ranch on the west side of S.R. 31 and it is an area that we routinely adulticide. Anything they acquire now is declared "Highly Sensitive" and they now have preeminence as to what mosquito control does for control on those lands. They are in control of most of the salt marsh and forbid aerial adulticiding of all their properties. We have proven if we can adulticide early in the season we can reduce the amount of pesticide in Lee County as a whole if they would let us spray their areas once or twice a season. The FGCU project was created to study non target species impacted by our spraying. There is a legal challenge process in place to dispute DEP's aerial adulticiding prohibition which the Director will be working on with Carey Roth, a Tallahassee attorney very familiar with mosquito control issues. The Director wants to know if the Board will have any issue with spending the money to proceed with this challenge. The cost could be between \$200 and \$400 per hour for attorney fees. If it costs \$70,000 - \$100,000 that could be made up in one season of proper spraying. The Board had no real concerns with the Director pursuing this issue. Director will provide a running tab on the process for the Board to review at each meeting.

Mr. Dudley requested an opportunity to speak. He is against hiring attorneys at \$70,000 - \$100,000 added on top of our education budget of \$300,000. If there is anything that needs reviewing it is hiring attorneys and once it started it cannot be stopped.

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**FISCAL REVIEW** – Russ Baker reported on the budget for the previous month. Commissioner Farrar made a motion to accept the financial report as read. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mann at 12:04 AM.



Secretary



Chairman