

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito Control District (LCMCD) held its regular scheduled meeting August 6, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chairman Brian Farrar, Commissioners Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Bruce C. Scott, Richard Paul, and Director T. Wayne Gale.

**VISITORS:** Joan Heggemeier, resident from North Fort Myers, commented on the superior job that Mosquito Control does for Lee County. She has lived here since 1966 and remembers "the way it was" then and feels that the small price residents pay for such dedicated service is money very well spent. She realizes that educating the public is a major component of our program. After the last Board meeting she checked our Website and within 30 seconds found lots of information on the website to help her protect herself and her property.

**MINUTES** – Vice-Chairman Farrar asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on July 9, 2015. Commissioner Dortch then made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion which carried with no dissenting votes.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology, reported that there are now five counties in Florida with disease reporting at this time. The Health Department is watching for West Nile cases in our emergency rooms just to monitor how far south the disease has come.

**DIRECTORS REPORT** – Director Gale presented that Volusia County asked if we could possibly do some arbovirus testing for them as the State system is rather slow in responding and we can provide same day results. They were concerned enough to ask us to test their mosquito samples. We tried to determine what the cost was including personnel and reagents, etc. and basically charged them at our cost. The cost broke down to about \$20.00 per sample. They were willing to pay the price and at this time we had the ability to handle it so have done so. We will wait and see if we receive other requests but at this time they are the only ones to have requested this service.

Director Gale advised that at this time there is one item that needs to have Board attention. A letter requesting bids for fuel and chemicals needs to be approved for sending. Commissioner Dortch made the motion to approve the bid letter for fuel and chemicals and initiate the bid process. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

Director Gale pointed out that Lee County is having an extremely bad mosquito year and the east side of the county is the worst. Aerial spraying has started in the east and is moving west. The Website shows planned spray missions. If a mission does not go out for some reason it will not show that on the website. It takes about 7 or 8 days to get to the entire county. We are dealing with inland freshwater mosquitoes so everyone gets relief because they are easier to kill. Salt marsh mosquitoes are more difficult because we cannot treat the source of these mosquitoes. In case people are wondering please have them call us because we do use citizen requests for targeting specific problem issues. In season we can and do work seven days and weekend activity is predominantly pilots working. We continue to work as long as there is breeding going on. For aerial adulticiding some of our part time pilots will come in. We have to have two pilots in each airplane and we only have seven pilots. If we use them for that then we don't have anyone available to do daytime missions. It is a balancing act until we transition out of the DC-3's which is what the plan is for the future. We try to use as much part time help we can and balance the full time people as we can.

**PROJECT UPDATES** - Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, reported that the painting of the runway has been completed.

The King Airs that are in Arizona will be assessed in September by a crew of our people to determine if they are able to be flown out of there to here rather than trucked from there. If there are deemed flyable they will go to a private field and we will then get the permit and fly them home.

We were successful in obtaining another piece of equipment from Florida General Services Administration (GSA). The equipment is coming to us from Germany and is a forklift that has the capability to lift out hangered material. The value on it is about \$70,000 our cost is \$12,000 including transportation, etc.

There has been maintenance performed on the runway with the runway cleaner purchased last year through GSA.

The runway expansion project is in the budget for 2016 and planning is moving forward.

**FISCAL REVIEW** – Treasurer, Mike Ellis reported on the budget for the previous month. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to approve the budget through July 2015. Commissioner Dortch seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chairman Farrar at 10:24 AM.