

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held its regular scheduled meeting February 4, 2016 at 10:02 a.m., in the Auditorium at District headquarters, 15191 Homestead Road, Lehigh Acres, Florida.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Brian F. Farrar, Commissioners George "Pat" Mann, Melissa Dortch, William M. Ellis, Vice-Chair Thomas B. Hart, Richard Paul, Bruce Scott and Director T. Wayne Gale.

**VISITORS:** Reverend Israel Suarez – Gave respect to the Commissioners and Director Gale. He is present today as a reminder that he is still interested in changing the District access road name to T. Wainwright Miller Road. He thanked the Director for his work thus far toward obtaining the permissions necessary for the change.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** – Kim Hawk, resident North Fort Myers stated that he is very proud of Rich Paul for being the voice crying out in the wilderness in dissent and following his beliefs by not going along with the Board and the Director on every issue. The function of the Board is to represent tax payers and remember that tax money is not unlimited. A good example is the \$300,000 salary that the teachers rake in. The national debt is into the next rollover figure. The reason I am here I would like to keep supporting Rich Paul. I know what it is like to be the only voice in the room that is not in total agreement with the Board. He applauds Rich Paul for his position and asks that the Board make a hard choice and really look at the budget.

**MINUTES APPROVAL** – Chairman Farrar asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on January 7, 2016. Commissioner Ellis made a motion to amend the meeting minutes by correcting the date when the meeting was held in the December minutes as well as correcting the meeting minutes by placing Vice-Chairman Hart as the one to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the revised minutes with no dissenting votes.

**LEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Jennifer Roth, Director of Epidemiology stated that she and Angela Swartzman, Health Officer met with Director Gale this morning to discuss Zika. Zika is not the only mosquito born virus they are dealing with but there are nine travel associated Zika cases in the state of Florida at this time. The affected individuals traveled to South America or the Caribbean came back to the States and were diagnosed. Two are in Lee County the others are in Hillsboro, Santa Rosa and four in Miami-Dade. Department of Health (DOH) Lee is encouraging that all residents protect themselves following the drain and cover method to rid the area around their homes of the container breeding mosquitoes. There are no locally acquired cases of Zika in Florida. The Health Department sends out messages to medical personnel on a regular basis and there is a web page for this information for anyone to access. Symptoms are fever, rash and conjunctivitis all of which are mild and 80% of infected people never have symptoms. The Governor has imposed a state of emergency for those counties with imported cases. There will be a community meeting to speak about the issues. Commissioner Ellis asked how long does it last in the body. Jennifer responded that once infected the virus is only in blood for a week afterwards and they can only test during that period. Commissioner Mann asked if they are no longer a carrier at that point. The week the virus is in their system is the only time that the virus is in the blood and they could be bitten and pass the virus. Commissioner Hart asked what the patient is told when they are treated. Until they are feeling better they are advised to stay indoors and use repellent. Zika has actually been identified since the 1940's in Africa but the disease did not come into this part of the world and our area until 2015. Commissioner Dortch mentioned the danger to pregnant women in the first two trimesters and Brazil is researching that situation aggressively at this time. Commissioner Paul asked if it is spread from mosquito to mosquito. Jennifer responded that transmission is from mosquito to human and back and forth. Commissioner Ellis mentioned the sexually transmitted cases of Zika and that research will have to be done on what happens in the body in those situations. The Website resource page for Zika information is [www.flhealth.gov](http://www.flhealth.gov) which will link to the current information they have.

Director Gale was asked if he would like to comment. He responded that we don't know much about Zika with only two travel cases in Lee County. It has been very wet this winter with 13+ inches of rain and we do have both species here which are capable of spreading Zika. We are doing everything we can to prevent that from happening. We are actively treating the county. We have issues with our weather going from hot to cold and high winds and rain. We will be out there treating during windows of opportunity when the weather cooperates and allows us to spray. It is important for citizens to know that these mosquitoes grow around the home in bird baths, dog dishes in containers or things that hold water around your house. Not the ditches not the pond next door but around houses. This is one of the reasons we do the education program so that at an early age students become aware of how and where mosquitoes breed and bite. We do get people coming into the county with other viruses Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya we are constantly testing mosquitoes to make sure they are not infected and we concentrate on any area where any virus is located. We test now for Dengue; Chikungunya we don't have the reagents at this time to test for Zika but the CDC is going to make the reagents available to us to test for this. We do have fish in a lot of areas where heavy rain has created some flood water breeding. These are the same as Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika transmitters. What does the state of emergency mean to Mosquito Control? This does allow us to conduct spraying without thresholds. With this we can do emergency spraying and if we need to spray on State Managed lands we can access those as well. We can now do dusk and dawn spraying but our mosquitoes are active all night long and we go out between 9:30 and midnight. We don't have a need to spray during the daytime. It is not prohibited to spray but it is less effective during the day and less impact on the bee population if we spray at night.

**Renaming Homestead Road** – Director Gale presented his findings to rename Homestead Road outside the District after T. Wainwright Miller. The process would be that our Board would vote to make the change and then if it is agreed upon it would move to the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Mann made a motion to begin the process to change the name of Homestead Road from Buckingham Road back to the entrance Gate at the Runway Tarmac. Commissioner Ellis seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

**PROJECT UPDATE** – Carmen McKinney reported that the King Airs have been moved to the private vendor fence line to begin the process of readying them for transport to the District. Repair on the King Airs is being done out there on the airframe. The engines will go to the overhaul shop and the aircraft will be brought back here on rental engines with the permanent engine installs being done here. Neither one of these is likely to be operational for mosquito season this year.

The runway extension has a Limited Development Order (LDO) pending at the County right now and once we have that Runway 14 will be extended by 500 feet.

Carmen advised the Board that there is an opportunity for the District to swap the duplex we own at 3978/3980 Sunset Road in Lehigh Acres with one located at 1909/1911 Park Road, Lehigh Acres. The occupants of which will move into the Sunset Road property. The reason for the swap is explained on the reference map showing Runway 6 and the large canal between the duplex we own and our fence line. There are mechanical issues with our property and the owner of the other property is willing to exchange with closing costs being paid by us even with the mechanical issues. The Park Road duplex is located in such a way that it can be attached to the district by entrance road and a gate into the compound. This will make the area actually usable for Emergency Services during emergencies in the State. Emergency Services could use this area as a staging area during any declared emergency which is an agreement we have with EOC and the State of Florida. The duplex will also provide classroom space. This is a security issue for our inner perimeter which contains all our working equipment. If we keep the duplex the other agencies who utilize our facility would be able to utilize the restroom and classroom space in that duplex rather than them coming into our inner perimeter to use our facilities. The Sunset Road duplex is not lined up properly for us to utilize it in any functional way. The South Gate will be eliminated and

open up a new gate. We couldn't purchase the lot that is between our lot and the Sunset Road duplex and the canal being in the way we cannot get to the District. In order to keep traffic off our compound this is the only working plan. The Sheriff's Department along with the Police Academy will pay for the utilities at the duplex. Motion was made by Commissioner Hart for approval to move ahead with the documents to transfer ownership. Commissioner Mann seconded the motion. The motion passed with six Commissioners in favor and one opposed.

The lot at the end of the runway has been purchased and we are in the process of closing on it.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – We are dealing with heavy service request volume with 120 service requests just yesterday we are still fighting water issues from the 13 inches of rain.

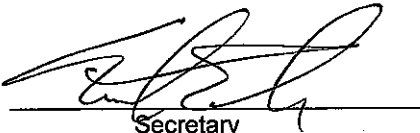
Director Gale advised that he will be in Savannah at the American Mosquito Control (AMCA) Meeting next week. Shelly Redovan, Deputy Director of Communications and Education will be dealing with any of the media issues that may occur. Dr. Hornby, Deputy Director Mosquito Control & Scientific Intelligence and Katie Heggemeier, Manager, Mosquito Control will handle mosquito issues. Director Gale is currently the AMCA Vice President and will be President in 2018. In two weeks Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) Tallahassee Days will take place. Director Gale will be attending as it will be incumbent to leverage what is happening disease wise and focusing on research as our operational mosquito control facility was disbanded years ago and the Florida Entomology Lab is overtaxed. We need to have those positions solidified at the Florida Entomology Lab so that we can have long term mosquito research in our State. We are working with the Florida Department of Agriculture (DEP) on getting additional ability to spray state lands. Working with our Tallahassee Attorney we met with the Deputy Secretary of the DEP and will be meeting with representatives from the Department of Forestry and the Department of Agriculture Consumer Services to get their input and support for our case obtaining relief to allow us to spray. The declared state of emergency allows us to spray but the mosquitoes involved are not in the area.

**FISCAL REVIEW** – Commissioner Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report for November and December. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve both Mosquito and Hyacinth as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dortch. The Board unanimously approved the report.

Russ Baker, Chief Executive Officer, advised the Board that we have been negotiating health insurance with Blue Cross and this year we chose to have an Agent of Record which we have not done in the past because we felt we were not getting enough help. Our initial proposal came back from Blue Cross with a 20% increase over our current insurance. Our Agent negotiated the increase down to 8% which is exactly what we budgeted for. By the time we get all of our carriers to come back with a quote and a bid we don't have time to negotiate. Russ would like to have a workshop in the future to discuss where we would like to go for next year and see how the Board feels. Russ will come back with several dates in the future for the workshop.

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Farrar at 10:53 a.m.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman