

Commissioners of the Lee County Mosquito/Hyacinth Control District (LCMCD/LCHCD) held their regular scheduled meeting March 10, 2016 at 10:00 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, Richard Paul and Director T. Wayne Gale.

VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: – None

MINUTES APPROVAL – Chairman Farrar asked for Board approval of the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Board held on February 4, 2016. Commissioner Dortch made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of the change for the meeting dates to the third Thursday of every month beginning in July, 2016. 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 eleven counties have reported travel related cases of Zika. The District received the reagents last Friday to begin performing testing on mosquito pools.

PROJECT UPDATE – Carmen McKinney, Deputy Director Aviation, Fleet & Facilities, reported that during the daytime closure of the runway air traffic will be routed to Runway 06. The lot purchase has gone through and he is working on the exchange of duplexes which should be completed shortly.

The District is still attempting to obtain the technical manuals for the King Airliners. Work has begun on them and Al Bennett, Manager, Aircraft Maintenance will be going out to Arizona next week to begin the preparations for the move. Carmen advised that there is always the unknown when referring to aircraft budgeting but nothing new has developed so far.

They are bringing out the best of the two King Airliners first, the second one has a bad engine that will need to be replaced. The replacement engine we are looking for is a mid-time engine out on the market to save money. Time is on our side and we will hold off purchasing the second engine to get the best deal. The work will be contracted out there to be completed there. The air frame will be overhauled there which gives us plenty of time to have the engines worked on and returned to be installed. The first flyable aircraft will arrive here in early September in flyable condition then we will add all our equipment during the winter next year to make it flyable for season the next year.

The Coast Guard Boat we had for sale did sell for \$50,000 on GovDeals.

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director reported that Zika has been reported in laboratory *Culex quinquefasciatus* mosquitoes which changes everything because *Culex* is our major vector here for everything else. *Culex* are everywhere here and breeds in high organic water, salt marsh in late summer when salinity has dropped. Then they can be found everywhere and here they are a nighttime mosquito. There may potentially be an issue in the future.

February was busy. We had the annual American Mosquito Control Association (AMCA) meeting which was held in Savannah, GA with about 950 attendees. A lot of information on Zika and emerging diseases was discussed. At next year's meeting in San Diego Director Gale advised he will become President of the AMCA at the end of that meeting. February 12-16 are the dates for next year's AMCA meeting.

A state mandated meeting was held on February 15th here at the District. County officials from twenty-two county organizations were present by invitation only to discuss Zika. The District had the opportunity to share information on Zika preparedness and mosquito control response for counties that have travel associated cases.

The Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) held their annual Tallahassee Days February 24th and our delegation met with Representatives Caldwell, Fitzenhagen, and Rodrigues, Senators Benequisto, and Richter as well as representatives from the Commissioner of Agriculture's office. The big request this year was to move the three grant funded research positions into full time University of Florida tenured positions and we asked for an additional \$500,000 to research Zika. It appears that all budgets have been concluded and we have not received anything in addition to the normal mosquito control funding. We were late this year due to some issues with scheduling meetings with Representatives and hotel issues as well. Everyone was positive about what we were asking for. We still have all of our past funding in place and didn't lose any of that. If we had started earlier, it may have gone differently.

March 18th is the Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) annual Spring Regulatory Tour here at the District. Twenty people from EPA, Department of Agriculture (DACS) and the Department of Agriculture (DEP) will meet here. Most of the EPA folks work on registrations for the type of chemicals we use. The District will fly them in groups to Harns Marsh and Beautiful Island to demo aquatic and aerial mosquito control pesticide applications. There will be a tour, lectures and a Q&A period also.

The state has contacted us regarding Zika testing of mosquito pools and they are compiling a list of labs that can do the testing. The cost for one mosquito pool test will be about \$30 just for materials. If labor and other costs are added in it would approach \$40 which would be our cost when performing testing for someone else.

We are the only lab in Florida that will be doing any mosquito pool tests in the future. Tampa is too busy doing human testing to do pool testing. Routine testing would be normally about every two weeks unless there is positive disease. The EPA is in process of renewing NPDES permit for aquatic pesticide applications. That first permit began in 2011 and is a 5-year process. Comments are due by tomorrow to the Federal Register and Director Gale has reviewed the current comments.

At the last meeting we mentioned dates for the workshop for health benefits. The Board agreed to hold the workshop after the May Board meeting.

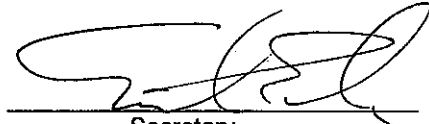
Russ Baker, Chief Financial Officer, mentioned instituting paperless pay statements for the Board. He would like to change all the Board over to paperless statements and is requesting signatures from each Board member to do this. It is about a \$2800 cost savings and will move them into the ADP pay system. ADP has gotten better for us over the last three pay cycles and our pay goals are currently being met.

Director Gale reported on the Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA) sites where we are doing aquatic weed control for the purpose of mosquito control. The actual procedure was to put an airboat into the water there with a crane rather than doing the mission by helicopter. The water lettuce was sprayed with success. The mosquito control issue has improved at the site behind the hospital in Lehigh Acres. A lot of the waterways both public and private in the county are not navigable and may be breeding mosquitoes due to the aquatic plants Water lettuce, water hyacinth and Cattails support specific species of mosquitoes that attach to the roots of aquatic plants.

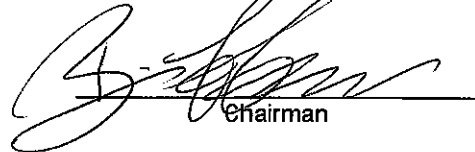
FISCAL REVIEW – Commissioner Ellis, Secretary-Treasurer presented the Treasurer's report for February. Commissioner Ellis moved to approve both Mosquito and Hyacinth report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dortch. The Board unanimously approved the report.

NEW BUSINESS – Chairman Brian Farrar mentioned that he met an Associate Professor at Hodges University who works with their nursing program and suggested that maybe the District could add some educational items to their program in the future. The staff has done a wonderful job getting out and addressing mosquito disease issues during the month.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Farrar at 10:44 a.m.



Secretary



Chairman