

Minutes of Board Meeting
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556
August 15, 2023

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the district office on August 15, 2023, at 9:01 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present from the District were Chairperson Cox, Treasurer Abbott, Secretary Evans, Executive Director Rogers, Nick McFaul, Michele Donagrandi, Jamie Black, and Maria Johnson, all representing the PCMCD. Lina Castro and Andrew Pupke from InVision Advisors were also present.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the agenda; all approved.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the consent agenda; all approved.

Public Comment: Cathy Julian spoke on the budget, June meeting minutes, recording of meetings, and new location for mosquito control operations, as she believes the new location is not any more centrally located in the county than the Districts current building in Odessa. She asked why more mosquito control would be needed because mosquitoes are on the ground. And lasty, she stated she did not believe that Florida would be uninhabitable if it wasn't for mosquito control. Christie Zimmer spoke regarding mosquito control use of Camp Idle Wild property as a remote landing zone. Rebecca Yuengling spoke on the campus build-out project and the way the helicopters fly.

Commissioner Evans spoke on the location of the new property and how it is, in fact, more central in the county and that satellite offices would be more expensive and a larger portion of the tax bill Ms. Julian referenced. He stated the county is rapidly growing and commended Executive Director Rogers for having the foresight to see that we are rapidly going to grow out of our current facility, that we need additional vehicles and more staff to keep up with the growth. Commissioner Abbott discussed the options that had been considered over 2 years ago prior to purchasing the property. The District considered the use of satellite offices, remodeling construction on the existing facility, etc.. However, it was determined by the Board at the time by a 3-0 vote in favor of purchasing property that is more centrally located within Pasco county to build a new campus that could accommodate future growth.

Commissioner Cox stated that meeting minutes for June needed to be amended and that was the reason they were not uploaded to the District's website; approval of the minutes was on today's agenda. He also informed that all meetings are recorded and available for review by the public. He stated that we don't have a true cost of the campus build-out project yet, as we are still in the design phase. He continued by informing the public that a portion of the project will be financed, however, since this project is not at the stage of going out to bid for a contractor, the District doesn't have an actual cost of what portion will be financed. The District has put funds aside to build over the last few years and the remaining costs will be spread out over generations to come. He continued to explain that the current facility was built in 1987, at a time when the District did not service all of Pasco County. Odessa was the center of the District's jurisdiction in 1987. Since that time, the District has expanded its boundary multiple times to now include all of Pasco County. Commissioner Cox discussed the potential for mosquito-borne disease transmission and the number of people that die annually across the globe from the bite of the World's Deadliest Anima - the mosquito.

Executive Director Rogers addressed concerns over the manner in which the helicopters fly; that District pilots fly in concurrence with industry standard for mosquito control operations. She then informed that the landscape in Pasco County is changing due to widespread development. With the changing landscape, she continued, there are new challenges to mosquito control. The large pastures once treated by the District are quickly becoming neighborhoods which brings thousands of additional residents to perform service requests and educate on the home owner's responsibility to reduce mosquito production sites around their homes, drainage ditches to maintain, and sewer/drain systems that must be surveyed for mosquitoes routinely. Additionally, large natural areas are now being reduced to small "conservation areas" which causes migrating birds to congregate in smaller, more confined areas, closer to each other, which increases the risk of mosquito-borne disease incidents. The close proximity of houses abutting these "conservation areas" poses increased risk that mosquito-borne disease will spill into the human population. She also informed that Florida would be uninhabitable if not for mosquito control efforts and explained the history of mosquito-borne disease epidemics in the state.

Commissioner Cox stated that the District is being as good of stewards of tax payer monies as they can in order to keep up with the growth in Pasco County. He invited those members of the public present to come take a tour of the District to get the answers to remaining questions they have, because it would be incredibly informative and beneficial for each of them to see exactly what we do to control mosquitoes and protect the public.

New Business:

- A. The October Board meeting was rescheduled to October 16, 2023 at 9am.
- B. The June Board meeting minutes were approved. Commissioner Evans made a motion to accept as amended; all approved.
- C. Executive Director Rogers discussed the desire to amend the PCMCD policy on employee leave accrual, moving toward combining annual leave and sick leave into a more general Paid Time Off policy. Further discussion on this topic is required.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Executive Director Rogers presented an updated version of the draft FY 2023-2024 budget for review. Commissioner Cox asked staff to look into putting names on uniforms for the field staff for easy recognition, which will tie into the resident feedback surveys the District will soon be implementing.

General Information:

- A. Campus Update: Lina Castro presented an update on the campus design, the progression of events, and associated timeline. Meeting with the architectural team and Executive Director Rogers is scheduled for August 18, 2023, to review PCMCD feedback on the design documents, which are not yet finalized. FDOT has not yet come to a conclusion on the North taper and discussions with the agency are in process. Considerations for AV requirements of the new campus will require a consultant.
- B. District Operations: Executive Director Rogers provided an update on the status of District administration and current operations. With record-breaking heat indexes for multiple consecutive days, she reported the staff continue to do whatever is necessary to complete their jobs. She commended the staff for their efforts, despite additional challenges with unprecedented, inclement weather. Rogers gave an update on the OPPAGA performance audit, indicating that the Balmoral Group sent over the draft report for District review and that she had made appropriate suggested edits to the document for final review by the Balmoral Group and OPPAGA. The District is very much looking forward to the finalized report to be published, as they are eager to share the audit with District stakeholders. Senator Hooper is scheduled to visit the District facility in the following week.
- C. Community Engagement Director, Johnson provided an update on outreach and education activities. The scheduled, guided tours of the District to provide awareness for mosquito control and mosquito-borne disease has been a success! Upcoming tours are filling up quickly and the District has had multiple requests for private tours in addition to those that are already planned. Additionally, 5th grade teachers have been working with the District to schedule outreach and education in the schools and the District is starting to register for participation in many fall weekend events throughout the county.
- D. Safety Reports: Operations Director McFaul informed the Board of safety issues within the last month and training that has occurred since the last meeting.
- E. Arbovirus Report: Executive Director Rogers provided an update on the arboviral activity throughout the state and within Pasco County.

Good of the Order:

- A. Commissioner Evans thanked Maria for the efforts put into the Cub Scout group that came to the District for a tour last week. Ms. Johnson commended the entire team for their efforts.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 a.m.; all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 9/20/2023 Attested: 