

Minutes of Board Meeting  
Pasco County Mosquito Control District  
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556  
August 4, 2023

Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on August 4, 2023, at 9:03 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Those present from the District were Chairperson Cox, Treasurer Abbott, Secretary Evans, Executive Director Rogers, and Maria Johnson. Lina Castro and Andrew Pupke from InVision Advisors and Rich Bekesh from Spring Engineering, Inc. were also present.

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

**Public Comment:** None

**New Business:**

- A. Commissioner Cox introduced Rich Bekesh of Spring Engineering, Inc. to provide an update on the design development of the new campus. Mr. Bekesh began by informing the Board that the PCMCD has reached an important milestone to impact the community in a tremendous way! He continued by stating that we are in the middle of the Design Development stage of the project and that this campus will not only have important health benefits, but great educational opportunities for our community. Mr. Bekesh also stated that the watermain extension has been approved through Pasco County permitting however they are still seeking final approval of the roadway extension work through the Florida Department of Transportation. He also gave an update on the projected timeline for the project, which is subject to change. Commissioner Cox stated that the plans need to get proper review by staff and must meet the needs of the growing community to positively impact the residents. Mr. Bekesh spoke to the importance of the campus being functional and informed the Board of an outbreak of West Nile Virus in California that was currently happening and stated that, unfortunately, the program in the area does not have infrastructure in place to appropriately handle the situation and control the outbreak. He stated they are being reactive and they don't have what they need in place. But we have that with this District and the vision of the new campus! It was stated that the staff and Commissioners have very thoroughly reviewed the plans and have been highly involved in the entire process in order to minimize the need for changes later in the project which would result in higher costs. Commissioner Evans stated that he has visited other mosquito programs and governmental agencies for comparison to the design we are creating and this project is very well thought out and a great design, all while doing what we can to conserve tax payer dollars and not having to raise the millage rate. He continued in commenting that this process has been very well done and thought out, that District is being good stewards of tax payer dollars. Commissioner Cox added that the facility the District is currently operating out of was built in 1987 when the boundaries of the District only included West Pasco, not all of Pasco County. We are now servicing well over 600,000 residents in the county unfortunately, our existing facility is located in the southwest corner of the county. He stated that the need for the new facility is absolutely justifiable, that Pasco County population is projected to be 800,000 – 1 million soon and this design will stand the test of time with the growing population and will serve generations of this county well after we are gone and being able to do so without raising taxes is monumental! He then compared other public works projects estimated to cost \$63 million for Gulf School, as an example. A citizen attending the meeting commented that he came to the meeting because he was concerned over protecting the water for people and the environment. He stated that he thought what the District is doing is great! Mr. Bekesh described how the plans have a settlement pond on the site prior to water being discharged to the lake and then to the wetland. He said, "we want the water to be pristine!" Mr. Bekesh continued by stating the new campus will be the cornerstone mosquito control facility, not just in terms of how it impacts health, because there is a serious health component to this, but the way it impacts education and awareness. This campus we are designing is built around education and bringing people in to educate them on the importance of mosquito control and protecting public health in Pasco County for both adults and young children. He stated that our hope is that this campus inspires someone to become a scientist and work on these mosquito-borne disease issues. Commissioner Evans spoke on the continuing efforts to educate people on mosquito control and Executive Director Rogers spoke on mosquito-borne disease transmission and the impact of educating the public.

B. The Board discussed the need to move forward with dedicating the right of way on US Hwy 41 to the Florida Department of Transportation, as required by the agency. The area for conveyance is approximately 61ft x 1070ft. Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the conveyance of this land; All approved.

**Good of the Order:**

A. Commissioner Evans stated that Ms. Johnson did an excellent job in providing education to the public and everyone is doing a great job out here! "Their efforts are not unnoticed and certainly appreciated!" Ms. Johnson thanked the great staff coming together as a team to show the community what we do. She continued by stating that the tours have been very successful and we are working on implementing a survey for resident feedback. Commissioner Abbott asked for the 457b plan to be added to the next agenda for discussion.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m.; all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 9/20/2023 Attested: 