

Minutes of Board Meeting  
Pasco County Mosquito Control District  
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556  
November 8, 2023

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on November 8, 2023, at 9:00 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, Karen Mojica, and Maria Johnson, all representing PCMCD. Lina from InVision Advisors was also present.

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

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

**Public Comment:** None

**New Business:**

- A. Board Meeting Planning for 2024: Director Rogers proposed 2024 Board meeting dates, mostly for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month. There is a conflict in the Commissioners' schedules for the February board meeting. Through discussion, all agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. The September budgetary meetings will be scheduled around the BOCC and School Board's budget hearings. If there are any conflicts as the year progresses, we will make any necessary adjustments as needed.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. Standard Life Insurance Policy Discussion: Director Rogers stated that an issue has recently been identified concerning the district's current Standard Life Insurance Policy that requires discussion as to how we are going to move forward with the costs associated with the retirees. She included that if it is the pleasure of the board to continue with the policy as written, we will of course do so, but if we want to look at amending the policy, now is the time to implement at the start of the fiscal year. Commissioner Cox stated that he was surprised to learn that the policy in the past was to provide coverage for the folks that retired however, other municipalities such as the county and school board cover these types of benefits. He also stated that for everyone that is currently employed, that is what they signed on for when they accepted the position. Commissioner Abbott suggested to table the discussion until additional information is obtained. Commissioner Cox commented that this is just another thing that pretty much everyone in the room has inherited from previous management. He suggested that we contact our new broker and find out what other plans are available that would suit the needs of the district better.

Commissioner Abbott made the motion to table. Commissioner Evans mentioned that the responsiveness to our inquiry from the insurance company is to be noted as well. All agreed. Motion carried.

- B. Odessa Property Discussion: Director Rogers began the discussion by stating that Berkshire Hathaway prepared a Broker's Professional Opinion of the Odessa property for the board to consider. Director Rogers pointed out that Berkshire Hathaway did not value the heliport, as it was very difficult for them to assess, and therefore not included in the valuation. Commissioner Abbott stated that Berkshire Hathaway are the best of the best when it comes to commercial properties for the area. This is a broker's opinion of value which basically means they are looking at the resale market. He believes that the numbers are very accurate. Commissioner Cox stated that the next step is to contact Berkshire Hathaway to see what their

next steps would be in preparing a marketing packet so that they could start searching to find those who would be interested in the property, as it is a unique property. He then reiterated that the PCMCD should involve the Economic Development Council because they are engaged in bringing new business to the county and this would be a prime spot for them to attract those that have a need for the amenities that the district possesses. Director Rogers responded that herself and staff met with the CEO of the Pasco Economic Development Council recently to provide an understanding of the district's integrated mosquito control program. She stated that the CEO sent a follow-up email to the meeting, informing that he enjoyed the tour. He also applauded PCMCD's decision to relocate to North US Hwy 41 and looks forward to working with us during the transition. He mentioned that there is a lot planned for that area so it was a reinforcement to the justification as to why PCMCD is moving to a more central area of Pasco county. Director Rogers also stated that additional comments made during the meeting were that the future campus location is in the central part of the county, which will become a busy hub in the very near future. It was also mentioned that it was good that the PCMCD purchased the property over 2 years ago because if the district would have waited, it is very unlikely that PCMCD would have found a property for a reasonable price, as property values have increased significantly since that time. Price is not the only factor, but the availability of the land as well. All these things that were discussed 3 years ago, which led the PCMCD to embark on the purchase of the land and design of new campus. Director Rogers also included that it was great to have the perspective of the CEO of the Economic Development Council reinforcing that decision. Commissioner Cox mentioned that the Economic Development Council has a lot of stuff in the pipe line and one of their challenges is to have site ready properties for businesses to move into and we should move forward with the marketing packet. Director Rogers requested that we need a decision on what part of the property the district will keep and what the estimated cost would be. Commissioner Cox stated that all were in agreement with keeping the new hanger and the only gray area is whether we will keep the original hanger and that question will be answered dependent on what a potential buyer might want and could be worked out during the negotiations of the sale of the property. It was mentioned that some of the Pasco delegates are demanding an answer prior to continued conversations with them. Commissioner Cox made a motion to move that the intention of the district is to sell the majority of the existing campus and start to develop a marketing plan with an option for negotiations of the hangers and heliport. All approved.

#### **General Information:**

- A. **Campus Update:** Lina presented an update on the campus design, the progression of events, and associated timeline. She stated that they have received the completed 30% Construction Documents from the architect engineer team and have feedback from staff. The team worked out a compromise with FDOT to extend the tapers north and south and the construction drawings are being revised to reflect the agreement. Spring Engineering, Inc. was having a meeting today to see how that could affect the site design schedule. Lina stated that Invision Advisors are still working on the owner provided items such as security access controls, fuel management system, and furniture vendors. By the next meeting we will have a better understanding of the schedule while getting into permitting. Spring is expected to have 75% of construction documents ready for review by the next board meeting.
- B. **District Operations:** Executive Director Rogers provided an update on district operations over the past month. One large item of note, staff have been visiting our known and newly discovered used-tire pile locations. Used tires are a major concern for mosquito-borne disease, as the mosquito species that lays eggs in tires is a primary vector of several diseases of concern. Therefore, district staff will collect discarded used tires to dispose of them appropriately. In the last 3 work days alone, district larvicide teams have moved 13.5 tons of used tires! The average tonnage for our collection of used tires for the last 4 years is around 10 tons per year. In 3 days alone, we have already exceeded that average. This was all from one illegal dump site. District staff will require additional tools to continue to be able to mitigate such situations moving forward.

- a. Commissioner Cox asked where are these tires at and what is the obligation of the property owner? Executive Director Rogers answered stating it is multiple sites with at least one of them that were brought to our attention through code enforcement. Code enforcement does not have the resources, or the county runs into whatever dead ends that they run into, so they come to us to dispose. Commissioner Cox asked what authority are we using to go onto private property? Director Rogers stated that Chapter 388 affords us the permission even if it's refused by the property owner for the protection of public health. She stated that we typically do not exercise that because we want to have good relationships with our citizens however, if it is a disease situation then we could utilize that authority to do what we need to do for the protection of public health. She included that in next year's budget we will allow for a bobcat or something to do this because this task is very labor intensive, unclean, and unsafe. The used tires have always been a concern when the tire piles are evading neighborhoods with adjoining properties creating a major health concern. All agree that we will continue to explore options and have conversations with the county regarding this issue but we need something more formal. Commissioner Cox added that the legislature collects for this problem however, they do not put it back for its intended purpose. Commissioner Abbott mentioned that when they go to the FMCA next week we are going to push this subject.
- b. Executive Director Rogers then mentioned that our aviation and shop staff have been working the past couple weeks on building out the larger Jet A fuel tank and the new support trailer for the replacement of the support vehicles for offsite. The hope is to have that operation going into the 2024 season. The auto loader we have been using the last few months has been modified to improve operations. We had a meeting with staff a little over a week ago where there were some really creative ideas to resolve the issues that have arisen. The plan is to build out a 2<sup>nd</sup> auto loader to have the potential to have the ease of transitioning between products.
- C. Nick McFaul had one safety item to report. Not all of the vehicles had access to eye wash stations. So we purchased eye wash kits for every vehicle that goes out to the field and CJ is currently installing. We are trying to uniform all vehicles with the stations in the same area so that all the stuff is in the same spot.
- D. Ms. Johnson provided an update on community engagement and outreach activities. We have been super busy with outreach since our last meeting. We have had HCA Hospital of Trinity Hospital, their CEO of Infectious Control along with Premier Community Health's CEO. They are all about public health themselves. The CEO has invited us to tour their hospital and also invited to go to the car show this Sunday with our educational trailer. We also had a VIP meet and greet tour with our Pasco County delegates government municipalities, departments and divisions. It was an honor to have them here and they were appreciative of everything we do. We also had a community tour. That was fully packed with our residents, and we really had positive feedback from that as well. We also had Pasco's Economic Development Council the CEO and Director of Stakeholder Engagement. We are building a really great relationship with them discussing all of the growth expected in Pasco County. We also had our Pasco County library staff take a tour. They really wanted to see our educational trailer so that they could potentially incorporate that in their library system. Our next tour will be December 6<sup>th</sup> which will be the last tour for 2023. In our outreach area, we attended the Metropolitan Ministries Leadership Luncheon. I also personally attended the Hearts for Hospital HBA breakfast. Tonight, we will be presenting at the Citizens Academy. We also had the Army recruiters back that have used our conference area for their meetings. Their recruiters from all other areas. Also, Karen has been busy with 4 days of 5<sup>th</sup> graders education and she will be going to the New Port Richey Garden Club today. We have our blood drive tomorrow so please save a life, give blood. Later today, we will have an honorable ceremony for our veterans that work for the district. Executive Rogers thanked Commissioner Evans for his service and presented him with a certificate. Commissioner Cox mentioned that Maria was appointed to 2 separate boards and congratulated her.

- E. **Arbovirus Report:** Executive Director Rogers provided an update on the arboviral activity throughout the state and within Pasco County. Executive Director Rogers reinforced the importance of mosquito control to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne disease and that this is the information the members of the public really need to be aware of. Pasco has had travel-related disease cases identified and the district always responds very quickly to reduce mosquitoes to a level that does not sustain local transmission. Two human cases of EEE have been identified in North FL this year, which has the highest mortality rate among the mosquito-borne diseases we are combatting. The district was formed to protect public health, not just improve quality of life by reducing mosquito pressure to make it more enjoyable to be outside, but to prevent the very real threat of mosquito-borne disease in our community. This is the information we need to share with the citizens of Pasco County. There was then discussion on the incidence of mosquito-borne disease worldwide and reference to a survey that was conducted which showed most mosquito control programs or areas of concern are not sufficiently prepared to respond to a disease outbreak. Unfortunately, history has shown that it isn't until an outbreak occurs that the federal, state, and local governments then realize the need for mosquito control efforts and dedicate funding to combat the outbreak. This is very reactive. Mosquito control programs across the globe should be increasing their capabilities in order to appropriately respond to these threats and become more proactive. PCMCD works proactively to combat mosquitoes in the immature stage, before they become flying and biting adults with the potential to spread disease and responds rapidly to any potential threat identified. Commissioner Cox stated that the steps the district has taken, the efforts Executive Director has requested of putting an emphasis on community engagement and outreach is really starting to resonate with people. He continued to state that people in the community are discussing it and our efforts are needed.

**Good of the Order:**

- A. Commissioner Evans stated that he conducted his annual evaluation on Executive Director Rogers' performance and thanked her for the efforts over the past twelve months. He also recognized the efforts the staff have put in that make the district look good, referencing two employees who won the Florida Mosquito Control Association's Jim Robinson Award last fall for their cost-saving innovations. He also stated that district staff present their work at the annual conferences and there are a lot of talented people at the PCMCD, they are awesome and deserve the raise their Executive Director gives them!

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Commissioner Abbott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 A.M., all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 12/12/2023 Attested: 