

**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
Pasco County Mosquito Control District  
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556  
February 14, 2024

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on February 14, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Cox motioned to approve; Commissioner Abbott seconded agenda; all approved.

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

**Public Comment:**

Cathy Julian:

She asked that we be good stewards of taxpayer funding in our County. She doesn't think that spending 40 million dollars or 27 million, that she has heard is a good number to spend on a new campus. She stated that it's outrageous we need another bond issue in our County to cover a mosquito commission building and doesn't think we need it. She also stated she doesn't think we are being transparent that she can't find any information about the building on any website. She also stated that she thinks it should be on there, knows it doesn't legally have to be on there, but it should be. She then said she really has a problem with \$40,000 raises to people. She has requested a booth at Mosquito Fest and is curious why that is taking so long to get approved. She claimed to have sent an email to indicate what she was going to talk about and it will not be about mosquitoes. She then said she's not sure how beard oil or lemonade has anything to do with mosquitoes. She thought it was a community event. She is just curious why we are allowing her to come and also stated the other night she was at a meeting and Liz Hittos, Chief of Staff for current Congressman. Ms. Julian claimed that Ms. Hittos was furious when she heard what was going on here and that is the sort of reaction everyone gets when they hear that we are building a \$40MM mosquito complex, or a \$20MM or whatever it is. She closed her statement by saying "You also know what happened in Reedy Creek and I [she] is going to start talking to Legislators about maybe that happening here too."

Gary Joiner:

He stated that he is disappointed that the Commission did not go ahead to a 5-member Board, "because everyone in the county is in favor of it." He then said he knows that they didn't do it but it's not over with and is pushing forward to go to a 5-member Board. He stated that "with that complex, think of all the thousand of acres we have lost that we have lost covered treating. Think of all the thousand acres that are going to be lost in the next 5 years. In 10 years from now, Pasco County is going to be Pinellas County & Hillsborough County. Go East of here and look at all the Developments that's going in. If you haven't gone over there, you need to go take a look. It's thousands and thousands of acres. I have talked to probably over a thousand people and has yet to find one person after we have explained everything to them, that's in favor of that \$37 million complex. It's a waste of money because we are not going to need it to treat the area we are treating now. We are not going to need the \$8 million worth of helicopters. We are going to have to go to a smaller helicopter because we can't treat half the area now. And we are all against it." He then stated that he "is still out there every day, and he will be. He doesn't think it's needed in this County right now with the way it's growing. He has talked with Doctors, lawyers, business people, developers, contractors and tax payers and they all agree. That is all I [he] have to say."

**New Business:**

Director Rogers stated there is no New Business.

attending various trainings over the past month with a focus on something new this year. She described a wonderful partnership with Pasco County Code Enforcement where they have been able to provide us with ATV and side by side training for our field staff. She commended the head of Code Enforcement and their team for collaborating on this item. She then described that all legitimate career fields, businesses, and Governmental entities have to perform recurrent training. She then discussed the licenses required by the state to perform public health mosquito control efforts, that comes with continuing education requirements that we have to be fulfilled to maintain those licensures thru the State. She stated it has been questioned if training is a good use of tax payer money. Director Rogers stated she is a huge proponent of continuing education and training and will continue to provide opportunities for herself and staff to perfect their craft and continue learning as long as she is in a position and able to serve this community. Commissioner Evans asked who started this rumor about black mold, was it internal or external. Director Rogers explained that ABC Action News was at the District and happened to be filming when the insectary was empty because they had to remove the mosquito colony to keep it going. A question was asked by the news reporter and the Director mentioned that mold had been detected in the mosquito colony. She then stated that a member from the public at a Board meeting started to claim that the facility had been infested with black mold, compromising the health of our staff and that simply was not true.

C. Community Outreach and Education: Ms. Johnson provided an update on community engagement and outreach activities. Commissioner Cox thanked Mrs. Mojica & Ms. Johnson for the great job and hard work they do in getting the word out to the community.

D. Safety Report: Mr. Nick McFaul provided the Safety report.

E. Arbovirus Report: Agne Prasauskas reported Statewide arbovirus detections in Florida. Pasco County is under a Mosquito Borne Illness Advisory for a case of Dengue detected. Director Rogers reiterated that this just increases the need for us to continue to be out there, to be vigilant and continue our mosquito control operations, especially in Urban environments. As the County changes its landscape, that need for urban mosquito control increases along with the risk of mosquito-borne disease transmission.

#### **Good of the Order:**

Commissioner Evans thanked all District staff for what they are doing. He stated he appreciates there have been very few safety incidents and appreciates all the work Agne Prasauskas and her team are doing to keep our community safe. He also thanked the Deputy in the room and appreciates all he does. He thanked Karen Mojica for helping with Mosquito Fest and Director Rogers for wearing many hats, taking flack everywhere, and keeping the place running and doing a fantastic job! Commissioner Cox was sorry he couldn't assist with the efforts in Tallahassee but thanked all that did attend the lobbying efforts on behalf of Florida Mosquito Control. Commissioner Abbott stated it was great that we are focused on safety and nice to hear there is some attention on the ATV's. He continued to state that the Capital visit was real highlight this year and that Director Rogers was personally invited to the Department of Agriculture office to meet with Ag Commissioner, Wilton Simpson. He thanked Ms. Johnson for also going to Tallahassee and helping to talk to people with her numerous connections in our community.

#### **Meeting Adjourned:**

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 A.M., all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 12 MARCH 2024

Attested:

