

**Pasco County Mosquito Control District**

**2308 Marathon Road, Odessa FL 33556**

**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Evans called the Pasco County Mosquito Control District Board meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Cox led the Pledge of Alliance to the Flag.

**Roll Call**

Commissioner Evans called the roll. Chairman Evans, Secretary Abbott, and Treasurer Cox were present.

District Staff: Executive Director Rogers, Edwin Martinez, Jose Freundt, Maria Johnson, Lindsay O'Reilly, Brett Hicks, and Michele Donagrandi.

Additional attendees: Gary Joiner (Citizen), Cathy Julian (Citizen), Tammy (Citizen) and Nikki Alvarez-Sowles (Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller)

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the agenda; all approved.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner Cox asked about the Commissioner review and approval process for itemized expenditures and requested its implementation starting in February. Commissioner Cox then motioned to approve the consent agenda, which was unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Evans called for public comment.

Cathy Julian stated that she could not find any record of the Board discussing the cancellation of the new building project and expressed concern that it was not addressed through a formal motion. She also noted the absence of any mention of salary increases and assumed that none were given. Additionally, she mentioned submitting a public records request for emails but decided to cancel it due to the associated costs. Ms. Julian further expressed frustration with the District's lack of response to questions included in her public records requests. Cathy noted that a mosquito truck passed by her residence four times and questioned the reasoning behind it. She stated that, based on her research, the chemicals used are not highly effective in 50-degree weather.

## **New Business**

Executive Director Rogers stated that since Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Cox have not yet been officially sworn in, the swearing-in ceremony must be conducted before revisiting the motions for the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

### **A. Reinstate Commissioners Randy Evans and Michael Cox by Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller – Nikki Alvarez-Sowles**

Nikki Alvarez-Sowles conducted the swearing in of Commissioner Evans and Commissioner Cox. The Commissioners verbally took their oath and signed their paperwork.

The motions for Agenda and Consent Agenda were presented again for vote, where they were approved unanimously.

### **B. Commissioner Position Change**

Commissioner Cox motioned to reorganize the Board positions, as is customary each year. Matthew Abbot will serve as Chairperson, Michael Cox as Secretary, and Randy Evans as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

### **C. Employee of the Quarter Presentation**

Brett Hicks was presented the Q4 2024 Employee of the Quarter award for his outstanding service and commitment to improving the district's aquatics department.

### **D. Review Property & Liability Insurance Current Coverages- Commissioner Abbott**

Commissioner Abbott initiated a discussion on reviewing the District's property liability, land, and marine insurance coverages. He suggested exploring the possibility of conducting periodic coverage reviews. Commissioner Cox supported the idea and inquired about the last comprehensive review of the policies. Executive Director Rogers noted that the aviation coverage was reevaluated this past year, resulting in cost savings.

Commissioner Cox also asked if the District had access to any services through its memberships with AMCA or FMCA that could assist in reviewing policies and coverages. Director Rogers stated that she was unaware of any but would look into it as a potential option. She provided the Board with a packet outlining the District's current liability coverages for review.

Commissioner Abbott recommended that the District present potential advisors or organizations that could assess the coverages at the next Board meeting. Commissioner Cox further suggested having a subset of brokers evaluate the coverages as well.

### **E. Discuss the creation of an HOA agreement for Marathon Road maintenance**

Commissioner Abbott revisited the discussion on establishing a road maintenance agreement, given that the district will no longer be relocating. Director Rogers noted that previous board meetings had included discussions about consulting legal counsel to determine the necessary steps for drafting a formal request for the County to assume responsibility for the road. She requested a motion from the board to authorize the district, with legal counsel's assistance, to draft and submit this request.

Commissioner Cox expressed concern about whether or not the other property owners along the road have an ingress/egress agreement in place. He also raised the question of whether the road should remain open to the industrial park to the west if it continues to be privately owned. The board sought to better understand the district's rights should the road remain private and explore steps to ensure that all users share in its maintenance.

Commissioner Cox then made a motion to direct the district's attorney to formally request that the County take over maintenance of Marathon Road. The motion also specified that if the County requires the road to be brought up to standard, this requirement should be included in the County's response. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **General Information**

#### **A) Director's Report and District Operations, A. Rogers**

Director Rogers provided an update on behalf of Invision, as Lina was unable to attend the meeting. An initial brainstorming session was held earlier this month to explore options for rebuilding or remodeling existing property, with a primary focus on prioritizing the needs of the current campus.

Regarding upcoming projects, the ITB for the surplus property is now live. Key dates include:

- Property tour for bidders – Scheduled soon.
- Deadline for questions and responses – January 29th.
- Issuance of addendum – January 31st.
- Full bid submissions due – February 12th, followed by a formal bid opening at 12:00 noon.
- Board presentation of bids – February 18th meeting.

Commissioner Cox inquired about any questions received thus far. Director Rogers confirmed that the district had issued a response addendum. When asked about bid package distribution, she reported that three organizations received them: two developers (M/I Homes and RIPA) and one tree farm organization. Commissioner Cox also asked whether Metro had received a bid package and offered to provide a contact if they were interested.

Meetings continue with the legislative delegation, and the district remains in compliance with all given initiatives. Prior to the January 7th delegation meeting, a timeline was submitted to Representative Maggard, who commended the board's swift and decisive action. As a result, he rescinded his bill to dissolve the district, stating that he had been working with the district in good faith and would revisit the matter next year if necessary. Director Rogers noted that this decision has alleviated staff concerns and allows the district to fully focus on its mission of protecting public health.

#### **Arboviral Activity & Mosquito Control Efforts**

Despite cooler temperatures, arboviral activity persists, and Pasco County remains under advisory from the Florida Department of Health. Sentinel chicken surveillance continues, with additional detections and more human cases identified. Flooding in Eastern Pasco County is exacerbating the issue. All

sentinel chicken coops will be removed, except for two in the flooded areas and ULV treatments will be scaled back.

Director Rogers emphasized that although colder weather is present, short bursts of cold are insufficient to eliminate mosquitoes. Sustained temperatures below 50°F for several weeks are required to disrupt their life cycle. Given recent temperature fluctuations, mosquito breeding and hatching are expected to continue, and treatments will proceed as needed.

FDACS Inspection – Conducted in early January, confirming the district is in full compliance.

Pasco County One Health Alliance - The inaugural meeting has been rescheduled for Friday, January 24th. This initiative will bring together key stakeholders in human and animal health services to enhance communication on disease transmission and prevention.

Tire Amnesty & Bromeliad Shredding Event – Scheduled for February 4-8th in partnership with the Florida Department of Health of Pasco County. The district will seek reimbursement through the Department of Environmental Protection’s tire recycling program.

**B) Community Outreach and Education Report, M. Johnson**

The District volunteered at the Metropolitan Ministries Heroes Day Holiday Tent, giving back to the community. Additionally, the District participated in the New Port Richey Holiday Parade, conducted a two-day school program, and hosted a blood drive with the Bloodmobile. An interview and article featuring the District were published in the Suncoast News.

We also attended the Pasco County Delegation meeting, spoke at a New Port Richey Main Street event, and welcomed the Hope Home School Co-op for a tour. The District participated in the Pioneer Museum Community event and attended the ribbon-cutting and grand opening of the Always Center.

Upcoming events include DODD education classes, Pasco One Health Alliance Meeting and Tire Amnesty & Bromeliad shredding.

**C) Safety Report, N. McFaul**

The District reported one minor vehicle incident. Slight damage to vehicle that was able to be repaired inhouse. No physical injuries reported.

**D) Arbovirus Report, A. Prasuskas**

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/surveillance.html>

Arbovirus	Florida - 2024	Pasco County - 2024
West Nile Virus	18 humans, 10 asymptomatic blood donors, 11 horses, 2 geese, 1 flamingo, 3 ducks, 1 alpaca, 4 mosquito pools, and 867 sentinel chickens have been reported from 33 counties.	2024 - 1 human, 1 alpaca, 54 sentinel chickens and 2 mosquito pools
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	from 59 sentinel chickens, 23 horses, 2 emus, 1 emu flock, 1 duck, and 1 deer have been reported from 26 counties.	1 emu flock, 2 sentinel chickens
St Louis Encephalitis	29 sentinel chickens have been reported from 13 counties.	5 sentinel chickens



Dengue	966 travel-associated dengue cases have been reported and 90 cases of locally acquired dengue have been reported from ten counties	11 travel related cases, 13 locally acquired cases with 2 pending
Chikungunya	11 travel related cases	1 travel related case
Oropouche	103 travel-associated Oropouche fever cases have been reported.	3 travel related case
Malaria	69 travel related cases	2 travel related case

Arbovirus	Florida - 2025	Pasco County - 2025
West Nile Virus	n/a	n/a
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	2 emu	n/a
St Louis Encephalitis	n/a	n/a
Dengue	22 travel-associated dengue cases, 3 local	n/a
Chikungunya	n/a	n/a
Oropouche	n/a	n/a
Malaria	n/a	n/a

Due to the significant rise in mosquito populations and mosquito-borne diseases in our county and neighboring areas, the Board recommends collaborating with surrounding counties to coordinate treatment efforts and develop strategic plans to reduce breeding and transmission across the region.

**Good of the Order**

Commissioner Cox inquired whether the District has explored a notification system to inform citizens via email, text, or push notifications about upcoming treatments in their area. Director Rogers confirmed that the District is actively working on a solution and is currently awaiting final pricing.

Commissioner Evans thanked the District staff for their hard work and efforts, stating that he was excited for the next four years.

Commissioner Abbott shared that the District received positive feedback on its speaking event at New Port Richey Main Street. He also acknowledged the significant improvement in the District’s documentation over the past nine months, elevating it from satisfactory to outstanding, and expressed his appreciation for those involved in the effort.

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Commissioner Evans reported on dates of upcoming meetings as part of the Agenda with the following:

- A. Regular Board Meetings (9 AM unless otherwise noted)
  - January 21, 2025
  - February 18, 2025
  - March 11, 2025
  
- B. Events
  - Christmas Holiday- December 24-25, 2024
  - New Year's Day Holiday- January 1-2, 2025
  - USF REACH Leadership Training- January 8-9, 2025
  - FASD CDAP Training- January 8-10, 2025
  - FMCA DODD- January 27-31, 2025

## Meeting Adjournment

Commissioner Abbott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 A.M.; all approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

2-18-2025

Attested: \_\_\_\_\_

