

Minutes of Board Meeting
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556
December 12, 2023

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on December 12, 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, 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:

Michelle Mandarin – Stated that she was not presenting her own questions but representing questions from community members.

-Why do we not drug test our drivers for Mosquito Control?

-Why was there a 30% raise for the Director?

-Why are we selling hardened buildings to store helicopters? Where will they store them during hurricanes, now that they are being sold on the current property when they sell the current property?

-Why did we spend so much on the parade?

Tammy Deloye

Stated that she wanted to thank the PCMCD for wasting her taxpayer money and finally has people's attention now. Her comments were mostly directed towards money, and she excitedly yelled about spraying for mosquitoes. She claimed that the PCMCD was not just killing mosquitoes, but killing everything. She stated that no one has to clean their windshield for bugs anymore. She continued by commenting that when she moved here 5 years ago, people warned her about bugs, but there a "no" bugs in Florida! She states there are bugs inside her house, but that's pretty much it. She has seen maybe 5 bees in 5 years. She then stated that she has tried to grow a garden, with pumpkins, & such. The pumpkins will grow forever, but never any pumpkins because there are no pollinators to pollinate. She claimed to be a flower addict. She stated that she has seen a few spiders, the green & red ones, the spikey ones, that's it. Has seen 1 ladybug. Literally no bugs. She states she has chickens that she literally goes outside to find bugs, but there are none. She proceeded to state that she hasn't done super deep research on this, but she knows that the PCMCD claims to spray for mosquitoes because they are a nuisance and they carry disease, but then stated that is absolutely false! She then said that if

PCMCD could show her one scientific paper that proves this, she would like to see it. The research papers that she has seen, as she stated, and others have been able to find only has proven that the mosquitoes, because they put someone that had Malaria, they put their arm in there, hoping mosquitoes would bite that arm but the mosquitoes would not even bite someone's arm with Malaria. She then said that the research that has been done could not prove one way or the other that mosquitoes infect others with these so-called diseases. And further, she stated that market research shows that the global mosquito control market was valued in 2021 at 800 million and projected to reach 1.4 billion by 2027 and PCMCD claims that the chemical that they use and spray is not harmful..... (Ms. Deloye reached her 3 minutes to address the Board)

New Business:

- A. Legislative update: Shawn Foster, with Sunrise Consulting Group gave a Legislative update to the Board.
- B. 2024 Holiday Calendar: Proposed 2024 Holiday dates were reviewed and no questions were asked.

- C. Board Member Composition Expansion: Commissioner Cox requested the Pasco BOCC to allow PCMCD to put a referendum on the ballot next year to expand the size of the District Commission Board from 3 to 5 members. Discussion ensued and Commissioner Evans stated that if there is a cry for this from the public, then a petition should be conducted and brought to the Board. All agreed that if the majority of the voters wanted this to occur, a petition would be an appropriate mechanism to achieve it.
- D. Revenue Restriction: Commissioner Cox proposed a self-imposed mileage cap limit to show serious good stewardship of taxpayer money. Discussed by each Commissioner. Commissioner Cox moved that the District Board impose a restriction on its mileage cap at a mileage maximum of 2 mils. This will go into effect immediately. All approved.
- E. Open letter to citizens: Commissioner Abbott proposed a letter to go out to the citizens to inform them where PCMCD is currently, where we are headed, the reason why we are going to build a new operational campus and get details about the financials. Also, the letter should include that there will be no increase in mileage rates to build the new campus. Discussed by the Commissioners and Executive Director. There is already information to inform citizens of the new campus and the reasons why PCMCD is moving forward with the project. This proposed open letter could be added to the information on the website to supplement the information provided.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Standard Discussion: Broker Paul Steele, of Advocate Consulting, Inc. addressed the Board to discuss the Standard Life Insurance plan the District currently has in place. Discussion was held.

General Information:

- A. Campus Update: Lina presented an update on the campus design. Spring Engineering has now completed 75% construction drawings and has presented the drawings to staff and IVA who will work through the review process over the next few weeks. The site design is anticipated to be complete this week and submitted to Pasco County Permitting shortly thereafter. A follow-up meeting is scheduled with the Executive Director and Spring Engineering soon regarding site work as well as the early start bidding work. The FDOT revised drawings were submitted this month. Approvals are in process. Meetings will be held this month regarding furniture and audio visual designs.
- B. District Operations: Executive Director Rogers thanked each Commissioner for attending the FMCA's annual meeting in November and for expanding their knowledge in mosquito control, interest in what we are doing, and looking at other ways that we can progress our program. Reported DODD short courses are coming up end of Jan 2024 and the Commissioner caucus is every year. This year they are providing the ethics training required for elected officials. Executive Director thanked the staff for their dedication and hard work over the last year. She then reported on another illegal used-tire dump site which happens to be in the same neighborhood of a suspected Dengue case that elevates the importance of the necessity for rapid mosquito mitigation. PCMCD staff have been working with code enforcement who then engaged the services of FDEP who are now investigating this issue. PCMCD staff participated in the Holiday Parade with great feedback from the Pasco County citizens thanking us for all we do. Director reported vehicles are being equipped with cameras as an added safety measure and that the 48-month required inspection on helicopter N517MC is underway. The installation of a new radio system is in progress as well, which will expand our radio frequency coverage area by joining the County's P25UHF Communication system. Lastly, a discussion was held for a Donation to Camp Idlewild as they have been great partners of PCMCD for 3 years now helping us Serve Our Mission. A report graph was given to the Commissioners showing a representation of the CDC light trap collections, comparing 2023 to past years. The data represents a large reduction of overall trap counts in 2023 compared to previous years. Executive Director Rogers stated that the operational improvements are the driving factor to achieve that overall reduction of mosquito populations. Commissioner Cox recognized the fact that this data shows a reduction, showing a direct impact of the way the District is administering their Mission.
- C. Nick McFaul provided the safety report.

- D. Ms. Johnson provided an update on community engagement, outreach activities and upcoming 2024 outreach.
- E. Arbovirus Report: Agne Prasauskas provided an update on the arboviral activity throughout the state and within Pasco County. In 2023 there were 3 confirmed travel-related cases of mosquito-borne disease in Pasco County. 1 travel related Malaria case, 1 sentinel chicken positive for EEE, and 1 sentinel chicken positive for SLE.

Good of the Order:

Commissioner Evans echoed the comments regarding the staff Holiday Party and how it was a nice time with the team at PCMCD. He also shared his excitement of PCMCD being in the Holiday parade and seeing the Pasco residents enjoy this festive time of year.

Commissioner Cox wished everyone a wonderful Holiday season.

Commissioner Abbott recognized how PCMCD's scientific approach behind the scenes sets the PCMCD apart from other organizations! He thanked all PCMCD team members.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting 11:49 A.M., all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 01/09/2024 Attested: 