

# Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

120 EOC Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092  
Telephone: (904)-471-3107 \* Fax (904) 471-3189 \* Web: [www.amcdsjc.org](http://www.amcdsjc.org)

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gary Howell, Chairperson  
Gina LeBlanc, Vice-Chairperson  
Vacant, Secretary/Treasurer  
Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner  
Jeanne Moeller, Commissioner  
Don Girvan, Commissioner



## DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, December 13, 2018

Next Meeting(s): Thursday, January 10, 2019 – 5:00 PM

## MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Mr. Gary Howell, Chairperson  
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Vice-Chairperson  
Mrs. Jeanne Moeller, Commissioner  
Mr. Don Girvan, Commissioner

Absent:

Mrs. Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner (Ill)

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director  
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney  
Mr. Don Lohr, Herbie Wiles Insurance  
Mr. Bill Youker, Harrell Construction Co., Inc.

NOTE: Commissioner Jacqueline Rock resigned as of December 2, 2018. New Commissioner Mr. Don Girvan was appointed by the Agricultural Commissioner on December 7, 2018.

Chairperson Howell called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Howell led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

### **CEREMONY: Oath of Office (Swearing In) of newly Appointed Commissioner.**

- Attorney, Mr. Wayne Flowers administered the Oath of Office (Swearing in) of our newly appointed Commissioner, Mr. Don Girvan, who was appointed by Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, effective December 7, 2018. Mr. Girvan commented that this is an honor and something he had a great interest in for a long time and that he will contribute to the best of his ability and thanked all.

Roll Call: Chairperson Howell noted ~ All were present with the exception of Commissioner Brandhorst

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** For Items not on the Agenda ~ None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairperson Howell called for approval of the Agenda.**

**A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Chairperson Howell called for approval of the Consent Agenda.**

**A. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Consent Items ~ APPROVAL OF:**

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Vouchers (*Cancelled Checks*)
3. Chemical Inventory
4. Minutes: Regular Board Meeting – October 18, 2018 at 5:00 PM
5. AMCD Apartment Lease Agreement
6. Reclassify Pilot Job Description, from Non-Exempt to Exempt
7. Quarterly Budget Analysis (for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Oct., Nov., and Dec. 2018)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Item 1: APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTH, DENTAL, AND LIFE INS. ~**

*Mr. Don Lohr, Herbie Wiles Insurance Company*

- Mr. Don Lohr stated that we received a nominal rate change on the Florida Blue medical plan, just over 2%, and that he shopped the market to do due diligence. The Health Insurance Committee reviewed the plans and made the recommendation as presented to keep the same Insurances as last year with the nominal rate change.

**A. A motion was made to approve the health, dental, and life insurance package recommendation as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
- Seconded by: Commissioner Girvan
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Item 2: 8 ACRE PARCEL AND RESEARCH PROPERTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE ~ Mr. Bill**

*Youker, V.P., Harrell Construction Company, Inc.*

- Mr. Youker stated that building 400 (alternative housing) was close to being done and they are just waiting on the St. Johns County's Building Department to review the As-Built; Building 500 (insectary/labs and greenhouses) is being permitted next week; Building 700 (chicken house) is up and closed in and just needs doors and A/C; Building 800 (chemical storage/general warehouse/2 labs with wind tunnel and droplet testing) is up, closed in, and already has the electrical and A/C installed; the helicopter hangar is permitted and the slab poured, they started erecting the steel yesterday. Everything should be wrapped up by February 2019. There is a waste issue with St. Johns County on the chicken house and they are trying to get the Health Department to allow a separate septic system for the chicken waste.

- **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Item 1: 70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY (2019) DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF PLAN TO HOLD A CELEBRATION**

~ Dr. Rui-De Xue

- Dr. Xue stated AMCD was created in November 1948 when voted on by the people, it covered 17 square miles, the operations actually started April 1949 and 2019 will be 70 years. We would like to use this opportunity to promote public education: January some local clubs may come to take a tour, January 23, 2019 the Florida Coordinating Council for Mosquito Control meeting will be hosted here and they will tour our facility; February 26 to March 1, 2019 the AMCA meeting is in Orlando and some will come to here for a tour; March 26-28, 2019 is the AMCD Workshop with 8 international attendees; March 26, 2019 will be a ceremony before the start of the Workshop; June 24-28, 2019 is National Mosquito Control Awareness week and we plan to hold an Open House; 3 interns and 3 visiting scientists plan to join us next year and will join the celebration; Dr. Xue and Commissioner Moeller encouraged the FMCA to hold their November 17-20, 2019 meeting in St. Augustine at the Embassy Suites, hosted by AMCD. Dr. Xue requested approval of a \$3,000 budget for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Open House.

#### **A. A motion was made to approve a budget of \$3,000 for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Open House in 2019.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
- Seconded by: Commissioner Howell
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **Item 2: INTERN STUDENTS TRAINING (Ppt) ~ Ms. Molly Clark**

- The Intern Student program encourages scientific and non-scientific interns in Research and Education. Over the years, AMCD has had 53 interns since the beginning of the program; the interns have written manuscripts and publications on their internship here. In 2018 we had interns Morgan Smith (Rotator Traps), Parker Brown (oviposition in Bromeliads for *Aedes aegypti*), Catherine Chase (Wolbachia for vector control), Courtney Cunningham (SIT), Lagan Mullin (SpringStar Autocidal Gravid Ovitrap), Dillon Streuber (Attractive Toxic Sugar Baits), Nicholas Acevedo (DynaTrap & CDC Light Trap), and Caroline Blunck (Wolbachia in wild mosquitoes). The benefits of the intern program supports AMCD's mission, trains future mosquito control professionals, receiving outside funding through grants, adds materials and equipment to AMCD and it benefits employee training. We budgeted for two interns in 2018 but we only used the budget for one as the rest was grant funded.

- **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

### **Item 3: AGO COLLABORATING PROJECTS REPORT ~ Dr. Daniel Dixon**

- Dr. Dixon explained the AGO Project. Last year this project, with SpringStar, showed the community acceptance was good, the overall project did not show overall reduction of the *Aedes* mosquitoes. This year there were over 1600 traps deployed (last year was approximately 600), there were three sites with a control and a treatment area on each site with 5 AGO traps per home on the treatment areas, along with them were 24 sentinel AGO traps for each control area; 97% of the traps caught non-targets. A final thought was that the AGO Traps may have the potential for pest control because they did capture non target pest species, roaches, flies, ants, biting midges, etc. and the community liked having the traps. Dr. Xue stated we received \$120,000 and 3,000 traps from SpringStar to do the experiment, as well as training; the value of the project was \$240,000.

- **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

**Item 4: APPRECIATION FOR COMMISSIONER BRANDHORST (Two terms 2011 through 2018) ~**

*Chairperson, Commissioner Howell*

- As Commissioner Brandhorst was absent, Commissioner Howell read the plaque of appreciation for her as a Commissioner from 2011 through 2018. He assured everyone that we would get the plaque delivered to her.

○ **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

**REPORTS:**

1. **Director** ~ Dr. Xue reported the arbovirus activity for the whole year of 2018: 2 positive horses for EEE, (1 in January and 1 in June), 39 positive sentinel chickens for EEE, 43 positive sentinel chickens for WNV, and 1 sentinel chicken positive for HJ, and there were no locally transmitted human cases in 2018. Mosquito Control Technician, Mrs. Dean Autry received the CDC Scholarship for the Dodd Short Courses for January 2019; in 2018, in Orlando, Mosquito Control Technician, Mrs. Carlye Tulley received CDC funding for the Dodd Short Courses; Mr. Christopher Bibbs, Biologist, received a full scholarship for his work and from AMCA, FMCA, Entomological Society of American and Florida Entomological Society, he joined the student competition and won. Biological Technician, Mr. Joseph D'Amato, resigned for a civilian position in the Navy. Merry Christmas - Happy New Year.
2. **Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers stated that Amendment 12 (on Ethics in Government) approved by the voters in November – may have an impact on this Board. Ethical provision of Chapter 112, this amendment extends revolving door provisions – it applies to special district Board members funded by ad valorem taxes. Two provisions: 1) Lobbying other agencies or boards - public officers shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations or procurement during their term of office, which goes into effect, Dec. 31, 2022. 2) Lobbying this Board, public officer shall not lobby for compensation on issues of policy, appropriations, or procurement for a period of 6 years after vacation of public office, which goes into effect Dec. 31, 2020. Also there was another section that provides that a public officer shall not abuse his/her public position in order to obtain a disproportionate benefit for himself/herself, spouse, children, or employer or for any business in which he/she contracts, in which he/she is an officer, partner, director, proprietor, etc.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Girvan** ~ has seen in the last 10 years, a tremendous amount of improvement and growth here at AMCD and is glad to be here.

**Commissioner Moeller** ~ suggested that we put up a sign at County Road 208 and Agricultural Center Drive, as well as one at Agricultural Center Drive and EOC Drive, as many people get lost and can't find us. Legislative Committee for FMCA is working to change wording in 5E/13-8 and also looking at changes on how to allocate the money. February 5, 2019 at the Dodd Short Course, is the Commissioner's Caucus with many speakers, including our attorney, Mr. Flowers. Also looking to attempt to open Chapter 388 to the legislature in March 2019, and when Lobbying in Tallahassee, we need to be on point. The luncheon today was delicious and hopes everyone has a very Merry Christmas.

**Commissioner Howell** ~ we need to let the new Governor know we have diseases and get in touch with them, let them know what we do and encourage them to work with us to accomplish our goals. We work for what's best for the people of St. Johns County.

**Commissioner Brandhorst ~ Absent**

**Commissioner LeBlanc ~ thanked the staff and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.**

**ATTACHMENTS: ~**

1. *None*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Howell adjourned the meeting at 6:22 P.M.

ATTEST   
Chairperson, Commissioner Gary Howell

  
Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner Gina LeBlanc

*These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript of this meeting and could easily be misinterpreted by a reader who was not present. To obtain a full and accurate record of the meeting, an individual should view/listen to the entire proceedings via the District's DVD visual/recording system.*