

Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jeanne Moeller, Chairperson
Trish Becker, Vice-Chairperson
Don Girvan, Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Howell, Commissioner
Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner



DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, December 10, 2020

Next Meeting(s): Thursday, January 14, 2021 – 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Jeanne Moeller, Chairperson
Mrs. Trish Becker, Vice-Chairperson
Mr. Don Girvan, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Gary Howell, Commissioner
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney
Mr. Don Lohr, Herbie Wiles Insurance

Also, the newly elected Commissioners' Catherine Brandhorst and Gayle Gardner were in attendance in the audience. They will begin on the Board on January 5, 2021.

Chairperson Moeller called the meeting to order.

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

ROLL CALL: Chairperson Moeller noted ~ All were present

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: For Items not on the Agenda ~ None

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

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

- Motioned by: Commissioner Howell
- Seconded by: Commissioner Becker
- VOTE accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

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

- Motioned by: Commissioner Howell
- 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, Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM
5. Use of Grant Funds to assist Mr. Kai Blore, Biological Lab Technician, for his Ph.D. Studies at AMCD and UF
6. Grant Award and Appreciation
7. Count Dr. Xue and Dr. Qualls work hours (40 hours per person) to participate in Alliance's Humanitarian Expedition for Malaria Control Project in Mali, January 15-20, 2021.
8. Travel for Commissioner Trish Becker's visit to South Walton County Mosquito Control
9. Agreement between One-derings, LLC and AMCD for Natural Repellent test \$30,000
10. Quarterly Budget Analysis (3rd quarter – Calendar year – July, August, September 2020)
11. Budget Amendments ~ Increase Beginning Fund Balance - \$683,104.72

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item 1: Approval of Committee Recommendation for Health, Dental, Life Insurance ~

Mr. Don Lohr, Herbie Wiles Insurance Company

- Mr. Lohr stated that he met with the Committee and went over the options and that their recommendation was for the renewal of the current insurances. The renewal rates from Florida Blue were modest, coming in at less than predicted. Dental and life had flat renewal rates at no change. Commissioners requested how Covid may change rates and Mr. Lohr stated it would possibly have an impact on rates next year but he doesn't think it will be significant.

A. A motion was made to approve the Committee Recommendation for the Health, Dental and Life Insurance as presented.

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

Item 2: Recognition and Congratulations for Retirement and End of Terms for

Commissioners' Don Girvan and Gary Howell ~ Commissioner Jeanne Moeller

- Commissioner Moeller presented a plaque to Commissioner Don Girvan for his retirement and to Commissioner Gary Howell for his end of term as commissioners for the District. Pictures were taken at this time. Other Commissioners thanked them also for their service to the Board and the District.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item 1: Authority for Staff to Purchase Military Surplus Helicopter ~ Dr. Rui-De Xue and Mr. Dana Smith

- Mr. Smith presented to the Board the recommendation to approve the purchasing of a second helicopter from military surplus. He provided research and what the cost would be. Fort Rucker is getting rid of their Bell 206 helicopters which had been used for training new pilots in the military and had been purchased at 2.2 million each. These helicopters are now being sold for \$180,000 and we would be purchasing them government to government. Non-government individuals on the open market that want to purchase these same helicopters will be paying between \$400,000 and \$520,000 each, as advertised on gov.com.
- A. **A motion was made to approve purchasing two Bell 206 helicopters at \$180,000 each, from the Military Surplus, to add them to our fleet.**
 - Motioned by: Commissioner Girvan
 - Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
 - VOTE: Accepted by Commissioners' Girvan, LeBlanc, and Howell
 - VOTE: Opposed by Commissioners' Moeller and Becker
 - **MOTION PASSED 3:2**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mrs. Catherine Brandhorst requested information on the difference in the helicopter we want to purchase and the one we already have and are there any repairs that need made now? Mr. Smith, Chief Pilot/Aviation Manager and Mr. Bruner, A&P aircraft mechanic, explained the process including repairs.

Item 2: Arbovirus Surveillance Program Report (Ppt) ~ Dr. Steven Peper,

- Dr. Peper gave an overview of the Surveillance Program and introduced himself. He gave an overview of his background: BS at Brigham Young University, Idaho, in Ecology, Wildlife, and Fisheries; then his MS at Frostburg State University, in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology; then his Ph.D. at Texas Tech University in Environmental Toxicology, focusing on Vector-borne and Zoonotic Diseases; he is now focusing on his MPH, through the Texas Tech University, Health Sciences Center, focusing on Public Health ramifications of vector-borne diseases. He then discussed the Molecular laboratory, Arboviral Screening using Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which is a way to detect pathogens in a sample; the sentinel chicken program which is a way to detect exposure to pathogens and using sentinel chickens is safe for the community as they are dead-end hosts, meaning they don't maintain the pathogen. Dr. Peper went over what they have done to get the program going this year.
 - **THERE WAS NO MOTION ON THIS ITEM**

REPORTS:

1. **Director** ~ Dr. Xue stated there were 2 positive chickens for EEE, one positive SLE and one WN; everyone worked hard this year and during this year, due to COVID, AMCD cancelled the Arbovirus Workshop, group travel, and several group meetings; thanked all employees for their hard work this year; we used our aerial program this year for hot spots; there are lots of grants being written and bringing in money which helped created new jobs to help our program and he thanked the science team; he thanked the Board and employees; we only had 3 seasonal employees this year; he stated that he learned a lot from both of the Commissioners' Howell and Girvan and thanked them both. He welcomed the two new

Director (Cont'd) ~ Commissioners coming on Board in January. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

2. **Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers stated that he didn't have a formal report but he stated that it has been a pleasure to work with Commissioners' Girvan and Howell, as they have provided great leadership to the Board. He also stated he missed the Christmas luncheon this year and wished everyone best holiday wishes.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Girvan ~ wants to add a motion:

- A. **A motion was made to increase commissioner reimbursement, to begin next year, for the AMCD Board Chairperson, from \$100 to \$300 per month, for miscellaneous expenses, such as, non-reimbursed local travel costs, phone, office supplies, and internet.**
 - Motioned by: Commissioner Girvan
 - Seconded by: None
 - **MOTION FAILED due to a LACK of a SECOND.**
 - B. **A motion was made to increase commissioner reimbursement to increase from \$100 to \$200 per month for the other four commissioners for the same miscellaneous expenses.**
 - Motioned by: Commissioner Girvan
 - Seconded by: None
 - **MOTION FAILED due to a LACK of a SECOND.**
- Mr. Flowers stated that the Board created the policy for the \$100 per month but under Chapter 388, Commissioners compensation is limited to \$4,800 annually. Florida Statutes, Chapter 112.1061 deals primarily for travel expenses, not copies or working from home, etc. If the Board decides to pay the increased amount, he recommended that they allow staff to make inquiries as to the rational basis for the increased amounts. Commissioner Moeller stated that if any Commissioners were interested in further discussion of this topic, to let Dr. Xue know and to request that he put it on the Agenda for January 2021.
- Commissioner Girvan stated it has been a wonderful experience and would like to comment on the outstanding work Mr. Richard Weaver has done; Mrs. Kay Gaines, a great manager; Dr. Qualls is an ace in bringing in funds and grants and Mr. Scott Hanna is one of the best CPA's that he has worked with.

Commissioner LeBlanc ~ she commended the staff; has received positive comments on staff; the full team – office staff, scientists, and technicians, have done a fabulous job and thanked them all.

Commissioner Howell ~ he thanked everyone, stated it has been fabulous and appreciates Dr. Xue, Mr. Flowers and the Board and all they do.

Commissioner Becker ~ she reminded everyone to continue wearing masks and social distancing; has participated in many food chair programs representing AMCD and at each event, she has assisted giving out approximately 44,000 pounds of food and she herself has handed out approximately 14,000 masks; suggested everyone call an old friend, or meet a neighbor you haven't met or possibly donate clothing or blankets to the homeless or donate to a charity; has kept up with the Educational Committee; done live readings at different schools and on Zoom; has

walked around with Representative Rutherford who was very impressed with the AMCD operations and also did a tour of AMCD with his opponent, Mrs. Donna Deegan; Folio Weekly did a story with her and Dr. Qualls and they would like to do a follow up; she has learned a lot in the six week course with people from around the world; thanked the technicians for doing the clean-up of the Armstrong area where they picked up 200 tires. Thanked Commissioners' Howell and Girvan for their service and looks forward to working with the new commissioners. Merry Christmas to all.

Commissioner Moeller ~ she stated several months ago the Board gave her permission to head up the Appropriations budget for \$890,000; the House Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee has not been set yet but there are 31 senators on the two committees that she and Dr. Xue will contact and send several letters and would like permission from the Board for her and Dr. Xue to sign the letters. December 18, 2020 is the St. Johns County Commissioner meeting on appropriations, she encouraged all to attend and said she would give a three minute speech at the meeting, about the SIT proposal; thanked the staff for all they have done this year; she also missed the Christmas luncheon this year but thinks it was the safest thing to do because of COVID; Merry Christmas and have a happy two week vacation.

Dr. Rui-De Xue also commented that Ms. Charolette M. Hall is retiring next Friday, after 13 years of service; she is an excellent Administrative Assistant; back in 2007, out of 185 applications, we picked her; last week we published the Administrative Assistant position on the Indeed website and have collected 85 applications; he thanked Ms. Hall and appreciates her service; he will miss her, she helped him a lot, even with his English.

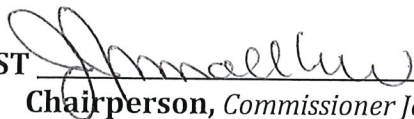
ATTACHMENTS: ~

1. None

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 6:50 P.M.

ATTEST



Chairperson, Commissioner Jeanne Moeller



Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner ~~Don Girvan~~

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.