

# Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jeanne Moeller, Chairperson  
Trish Becker, Vice-Chairperson  
Gina LeBlanc, Secretary/Treasurer  
Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner  
Gayle Gardner, Commissioner



## DIRECTOR

## DISTRICT

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, August 12, 2021

Next Meeting(s): Thursday, September 9, 2021 – 5:00 PM

## MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Jeanne Moeller, Chairperson  
Mrs. Trish Becker, Vice-Chairperson  
Gina LeBlanc, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mrs. Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner  
Ms. Gayle Gardner, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director  
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney

Chairperson Moeller called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Brandhorst 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 Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gayle Gardner
- 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 Brandhorst
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gardner
- 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, July 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
5. Approval of 17 workshop on Feb 28/2022 before AMCA meeting in Jacksonville
6. Approval of host of the FMCA/Military Fly-In Class in middle of January, 2022

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Item 1: Discussion and Approval of the company for construction of the SIT mass rearing facility based on bidding and committee recommendation**

- Mr. Weaver began the discussion stating the district had two companies place a bid. The two companies that placed their bids were Compass Group and Harrell Construction. AMCD had a committee review the bids and that committee included Commissioner Moeller, Dr. Qualls, Scott Hanna, Kay Gaines, and himself. Mr. Weaver explained the prices equal the scores, so, Harrell Construction ended up with a score of 93.6 with a point price of \$2,099,361.00. Compass group ended up with a score of 86.6 and a point price of \$2,254,826.00. Making Harrell Construction the low bidder. The construction time was close for both companies and sales tax were about the same. Mr. Weaver requested that the board approve this item with a 5-10% override.
- Commissioner Moeller confirmed with Mr. Weaver the last construction project was approved with a 10% override.
- A. **A motion was made for the Approval of Harrell Construction to construct the SIT building with a 10% override.**
  - Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
  - Seconded by: Commissioner Leblanc
  - VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
  - **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

*~ The Board gave consent for the chairperson to sign the contract after Mr. Flowers and the staff has reviewed it and approved it.*

**Item 2: AMCD and UF's Ph.D. Student Report (Ppt) ~ Kai Blore**

- Mr. Blore began his presentation stating he works at AMCD (Anastasia Mosquito Control District) full time in the lab, and will begin his own research in collaboration with University of Florida. Mr. Blore stated that earlier in the year he applied for an FDACS (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services) grant titled, "Evaluation of Nanoparticle Encapsulated Permethrin Formulations Against Three Species of Adult Mosquitoes: *Aedes aegypti*, *Culex quinquefasciatus* and *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*," and was approved. The grant covers his tuition for the next two years. This research is important because insecticide resistance is increasingly becoming a problem around the world. The research will investigate the effects of nano formulated insecticides and how nanomaterials can exhibit beneficial properties that differ from the original material and the goal of this research is to improve efficacy of existing insecticides. Mr. Blore will split his research into two separate years.
  - **NO MOTION WAS MADE**

**Item 3: Discussion and Approval of Commissioner Brandhorst to Attend the FMCA Meeting, Duck Key, November 16-18, 2021**

- Some of the Commissioners expressed concern for Commissioner Brandhorst to attend the FMCA (Florida Mosquito Control Association) meeting in Duck Key due to her recent decline in health. Commissioner Brandhorst confirms she feels well enough to attend and she looks forward to learning more about mosquito control. However, to be safe she requested Dr. Xue give her a week to think it over before she makes her final decision.

**A. A motion was made to approve Commissioner Brandhorst to attend the FMCA meeting in Duck Key**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gardner
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Item 2: AMCD's Education and Applied Research Symposium at AMCA Annual Meeting was not discussed. It is information to be shared.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 1: Discussion and Approval of the updated policy for Commissioners**

- The discussion began with Commissioner Moeller stating a change in AMCD's policy for education expenses. A lot of employees within the district utilize the Continued Education Fund to further their degrees but never has the district paid for a commissioner to continue their education. As requested, Mr. Flowers came up with a new policy stating "Except as provided in Section 112.061(8), Florida Statutes, payment or reimbursement for Commissioners for continuing education expenses, such as those described in the continuing Education Policy for District Employees, is not provided by the District."

**A. A motion was made to accept the Continuing Education Expenses Policy in Section 112.061 (8), Florida Statutes, as is**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE: Accepted by Commissioner Moeller, LeBlanc and Gardner
- VOTE: Opposed by Commissioner Becker and Brandhorst
- **MOTION PASSED 3:2**

**REPORTS:**

1. **Director** ~ Dr. Xue began his report stating the amount of rain has increased recently causing an increase in service request. He reported eight sentinel chickens have tested positive for EEE (eastern equine encephalitis). The District has been working on ground and ariel application. Covid-19 cases have risen in Saint John's County and AMCD has had four positive cases, one being himself. The Department of Health suggested if employees do not exhibit symptoms after 10 days they should return to work. AMCD had four intern students from Ponte Vedra High School complete a six-week internship and in that time, they learned a lot about mosquito control. As of today, the program of the Seventh International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Vector- borne Diseases has been completed. He mentioned that there will be several interesting topics and Dr. Qualls will present an overview of collaborating applied research projects and benefits at AMCD. At the September Board Meeting Dr. Xue will report how Covid-19 has

impacted AMCD over the last year. The District had five positive cases last year and five positive cases this year.

2. **Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers; had no report.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Leblanc** ~ Thanks the staff, they are doing a phenomenal job.

**Commissioner Brandhorst** ~ Thanks the board for approving her to go on the trip to Duck Key, she has been looking forward to it and hopes that Covid-19 does not cause the meeting to be canceled.

**Commissioner Becker** ~ Today I did my third in person field trip with Parks and Recreation, the kids loved the first field trip. However, this time I went to the recreation center and did a presentation, due to the Covid- 19 scare within the district. My trip to Washington DC was really great, I visited 12 different museums, one of them was the Smithsonian of Natural History. The museum had an infectious disease exhibit titled "Outbreak." It was about how different outbreaks start and I found it very interesting. I start class Monday and I will need to do a 60-hour internship this semester. I am hoping to complete my internship at AMCD with Dr. Xue and the Board's approval.

**Commissioner Gardner** ~ No comments.

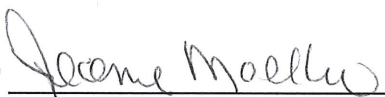
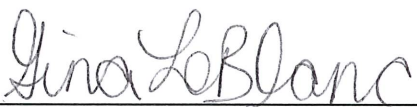
**Commissioner Moeller** ~ No comments.

**ATTACHMENTS: ~**

1. None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 5:57 P.M.

ATTEST  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson, Commissioner Jeanne Moeller**      **Secretary/Treasurer, 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.*