

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

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, September 9, 2021

Next Meeting(s): Additional Special Meeting; Thursday, September 23, 2021 – 5:00 PM
Final Public Hearing; Thursday, September 23, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Regular Mtg.; Thursday, October 14, 2021 – 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, September 09, 2021, at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was interrupted at precisely 5:30 P.M. for the First Public Hearing and then when that completed at 5:37 P.M., the regular meeting reconvened.

Board members in attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney
Mr. Matt Baker, Thompson Baker Insurance Company

Vice Chairperson Becker called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Becker Led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
Commissioner Brandhorst led the invocation.

ROLL CALL: Vice Chairperson Becker noted ~ Commissioner LeBlanc, Gardner and Herself were present.

- Commissioner Brandhorst arrived at 5:01 P.M.
- Commissioner Moeller arrived at 5:04 P.M.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: For Items not on the Agenda ~ None

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

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

- Motioned by: Commissioner Gayle Gardner
- Seconded by: Commissioner Catherine Brandhorst

- VOTE accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

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

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

➤ *Chairperson Moeller Began Moderating the Meeting*

Consent Items ~ APPROVAL OF:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Vouchers (*Cancelled Checks*)
3. Chemical Inventory
4. Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, August 12, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.
5. No November Board meeting due to the FMCA meeting
6. Cintas Uniform Contract Renewal
7. Budget amendment

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item 1: Update on Education Building Construction ~ Greyson Matthewson, Compass Group

- Mr. Mathewson started his update notifying the board of important activities that occurred between July 7, 2021 and August 31, 2021. These activities included the Underslab MEP rough being completed, PEMB concrete slab on grade poured, PEMB Masonry stem wall erected, exterior rough grade of site complete, photograph for the wall mural was taken and is being reviewed for the best layout for the full-size mural and location of photograph. The Metal Trusses for Cracker House was also released in that time frame. The Saint John's County building permit was released on July 8, 2021 and the set design for elevation plans are 65 percent complete. He continued explaining the fire alarm permit drawings are complete and scheduled for permit submission. There is \$432,235.00 contracted to Saint John's County, that's 17 percent of the contract amount and 1-2 percent are ready to come on board. There is \$2,983.19 in tax savings with \$5,934.28 in process. The PEMB steel market is still experiencing production delays due to back log from the Covid-19 Pandemic, resulting in the building production being delayed 30 days. The metal building is scheduled to be delivered onsite, to receive and begin erection, on 11/04/2021. Finally, the project is projected to be complete by May 13, 2021.

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

early. It became more difficult to recruit seasonal employees, intern students and put limitations on visiting scientist. Covid – 19 made AMCD unable to perform community outreach, public education, public visits, office visit with vendors and industry representatives. AMCD had 20 suspected cases and 11 confirmed cases, since 2020, requiring testing for anyone who came in contact. The pandemic had significant impact on education programs, workshops, annual meetings and local school programs. The budget was impacted due to employees taking sick leave, increased (Protected Personal Equipment) PPE and frequent sanitation practices. Dr. Xue thanked the Board for their support, all employees for their hard work and all collaborators/ vendors that kept the district running.

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

Item 2: Discussion and Report of Helicopter Incident on August 16, 2021 ~ *Dr. Rui – De Xue*

- Dr. Xue began discussing the events of the helicopter incident at St. Johns Golf Course on August 16th. The helicopter hit a tree when taking off, causing damage to the blades. Therefore, the Chief Pilot had to do an emergency landing. The staff brought the helicopter back to hangar after the (Florida Highway Patrol) FHP inspection and permitted by the (Federal Aviation Administration) FAA to remove the helicopter from the incident site. The Chief Pilot was sent to drug testing after bringing the helicopter back to AMCD and was stopped from flying until negative results were received. The Chief Pilot's drug testing result came back negative and he received an employee verbal warning, along with safety training provided by a special instructor. Although no people were harmed and no houses were damaged in the incident the District has learned a lot and took this as a lesson. Several representatives from the AMCD's helicopter insurance agency inspected the helicopter and told staff that the insurance will cover all repair cost. Dr. Xue proposed the Board make a vote to allow the District to pay for parts to repair the helicopter now and allow the insurance company to reimburse the District for repair cost once the helicopter is fixed. Resulting in the helicopter returning to normal operations at a faster pace. Commissioner Moeller and himself had a teleconference with the County Administrator Mr. Hunter Conrad to discuss the incident and the plan for the future. AMCD will continue to conduct low flight larviciding and adulticiding, however, staff may not land the helicopter on the golf course or parks for trapping or dipping larvae, except for emergency landing.
- Mr. Smith, Chief Pilot, thanked the District for the training he received earlier in the year, it provided him with knowledge to successfully land the damaged helicopter with no fatalities or injuries.
- After a quick discussion the Board came to the conclusion, they would like more time to review Dr. Xue's proposal. Therefore, that will allow the Board to make a decision that is best for the tax payers and the District. The Board decided to add a special meeting on September 23, 2021 at 5:00pm to take place before the Final Public Hearing.

○ **NO MOTION WAS MADE ON THIS ITEM**

REPORTS:

1. **Director** ~ Dr. Xue; there were nine sentinel chicken positives with (eastern equine encephalitis) EEE, mostly in June and July, and none positive for (west Nile virus) WNV. However, our neighboring counties and Georgia have had positive WNV cases. Our former Education Specialist took a job teaching, as a result, the committee held interviews for the open position. There were five applicants for the Education Specialist position, three were selected for the interview, two out of those three were intern students. The position was filled by a grant funded intern student, employed through University of Florida. Once the grant funded position ends, they will start the Education Specialist position on October 4, 2021.
2. **Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers; I've spent a good amount of time over the last month working with Mr. Weaver and Jason Harrell on the contract for the SIT building. The contract has been signed and completed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner LeBlanc ~ Thanks the staff, I know this has been a stressful time for many reasons. I'm glad everyone is safe and thank you for everything you have done.

Commissioner Brandhorst ~ I'd like to tell Mr. Smith I am very proud of the way he handled the situation. He did a great job.

Commissioner Becker ~ None

Commissioner Gardner ~ I'm thankful it was an incident and not an accident. It's a blessing everyone was able to walk away unharmed and the helicopter can be fixed.

Commissioner Moeller ~ I just want to thank the staff for everything. I did call Mr. Smith the day of the incident and tell him I was pleased there was no physical damage. I know a lot of the staff has been very busy with so many of their staff absent. I appreciate the fact that they have all stepped up.

ATTACHMENTS: ~

1. *None*

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 6:58 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.