

Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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



DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, June 16, 2022

Next Meeting(s): Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 5:00 PM

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Jeanne Moeller, Chairperson
Mrs. Trish Becker, Vice-Chairperson
Mrs. Gayle Gardner, Secretary/Treasurer
Mrs. Catherina Brandhorst, Commissioner (arrived late at 5:28 P.M.)
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney
Glenn Harrell, Harrell Construction Co., Inc.

Chairperson Moeller called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Becker led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

ROLL CALL: Chairperson Moeller noted ~ All were present except Commissioner Brandhorst. Commissioner Brandhorst arrived at 5:28 P.M.

Awards: The Board presented a plaque to Mr. Scott Lunsford for training Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD) pilots for the past three years. The Board also presented a retirement award to David Strickland in appreciation for 25 years of service and dedication to AMCD.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: For Items not on the Agenda

- Gary Howell mentioned Saint Johns County (SJC) is developing everywhere. Mr. Howell continued explaining he's been speaking to local realtors about home buyers being uneducated about mosquitoes and mosquito control in the area, he suggested AMCD give local realtors Brochures to help inform homebuyers in SJC.

- Will Kelman stated Dr. Xue gave him and his wife the most incredible tour of the District. Mr. Kelman was very impressed with the District and as a result has decided to run for AMCD Board seat number two.

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

(Commissioner Brandhorst was absent for this motion)

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

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

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

(Commissioner Brandhorst was absent for this motion)

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

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

Consent Items ~ APPROVAL OF:

1. Treasurer Report
2. Vouchers (*Cancelled Checks*)
3. Chemical Inventory
4. Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, May 5, 2022 (5:00 P.M.)
5. Renewal of Auditor Contract
6. Travel Funds for Ms. Jackie Small, HR Director, Lee County Mosquito Control District to Audit AMCD Policy and Procedures (mileage, hotel, and per diem from June 27-July 1)
7. Consideration of Aircraft Engine Compressor Overhaul Bid
8. Dr. Xue Attends Latin American SOVE Meeting
9. Approval of Dr. Xue & Dr. Qualls to Collaborate with University of Wisconsin to Submit NIH Education Grant
10. Budget Amendments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Item 1: Discussion and Approval of Final Contract with Harrell Construction for SIT

- Mr. Harrell noted inside the board book is an amendment to the original contract and the purpose of the amendment was to bring the plans of design into conformity with the original contract.
- Commissioner Moeller stated she requested Mr. Flowers reviewed this contract to inform people how the District is able to add things to the contract for the SIT lab, but is unable to make additions to the Education Center contract. Commissioner Moeller made this request simply for education purposes.
- Mr. Flowers explained the Education Center contract differs from the SIT lab contract because the Board approved the SIT lab contract for design and build, instead of

approving one contract for build and then a separate contract for design. Mr. Flowers continued by explaining based on Harrell's recommendation the District structured, what is referred to as the "master contract," so when the phase where more construction will occur after design was complete, then the Board will approve the additional construction as an amendment to the existing contract. Mr. Flowers put it in simple terms, the Board approved one contract for both functions, construction of the detailed design that grew out the first part of the contract.

- Commissioner Moeller stated she believes the money invested in the SIT lab will pay for itself within a few years and truly believes our environment will improve as a result of the research AMCD will be doing in the SIT lab.

A. A motion was made to approve the Final Contract with Harrell Construction for SIT Lab

(Commissioner Brandhorst was absent for this motion)

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

Item 2: Approval of Revised Policy for Commissioners Participation in Meetings Via Communication Media Technology

Mr. Wayne Flowers

- Mr. Flowers stated over the last few months the Board has been discussing a desire to revise the policy "Commissioners Participation in Meetings Via Communication Media Technology," to provide more detailed language. He reiterated this policy is not intended to be used for convenience but under extraordinary circumstances and these revisions are an attempt to capture request made by the Board. Mr. Flowers stated the first change is a Commissioner may attend Board meetings via communication media technology no more than three times in a 12-month consecutive period and only due to extraordinary circumstances, as defined in the policy. He mentioned an exception would be if a Commissioner becomes temporarily physically disabled and is unable to attend Board meetings in person, the Board member may use this policy to attend via communication media technology no more than six times in a 12-month consecutive period with a written verification from a physician. Mr. Flowers mentioned he added a bit of variation to paragraph E, in the instance a Commissioner has a physical or other disability that keeps them from attending Board meetings in person for more than six times in a 12-month consecutive period, it will be evaluated by the Board on a case by case basis. Lastly, Mr. Flowers mentioned he added "other disability" for the Board's consideration, to provide variation for this policy.

A. A motion was made to approve revisions made to the Policy for Commissioners Participation in Meetings Via Communication Media Technology

- Motion by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- Seconded by: Commissioner Becker
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1: AMCA's Washington DC Legislation Meeting Report

Commissioner Trish Becker

- Commissioner Becker began by reporting Mr. Weaver and herself went to Washington D.C. in May and they had a great time at the AMCA conference. She mentioned this was her first time visiting in person. The previous year consisted of zoom meetings with our representatives, this year the focus was on all the variations involved in legislation and public health. Commissioner Becker mentioned they had a list of representatives to contact and she called as many as possible to discuss important issues regarding the AMCA's legislation issues and working with the EPA to possibly make changes to statues that limit mosquito control in areas that have been deemed endangered. Commissioner Becker stated congressman John Rutherford was not on the list for the conference. However, she called his staff to request a meeting and was notified Mr. Rutherford made time during lunch to meet with Mr. Weaver and Commissioner Becker. She mentioned they had the opportunity to give Mr. Rutherford a conference packet, as well as discuss why they were in Washington and the efforts AMCD is working towards.

○ **No Motion Was Made On This Item**

Item 2: FY 2022/2023 Draft Budget Discussion

Dr. Rui-De Xue

- Dr. Xue requested the Board contact him on any changes that need to be made in the FY22/23 budget; at the July 14, 2022 Board meeting staff will present the budget in more detail and at that time the Board will set the tentative millage rate. Dr. Xue recommended when setting the millage rate, consider what is going on in our local community, regarding inflation and other factors that are affecting SJC residents.

○ **No Motion Was Made On This Item**

REPORTS:

1. **Director** ~ Dr. Xue began his report by stating an email was received from the Center for Disease Control (CDC)'s Southeastern Center for Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases notifying the CDC grant for the center will be renewed for another five years, each year our District has one-two grant funded interns. AMCD will be hosting an open house June 30th from 3-7 P.M, it will be held in the Board room and a variety of local vendors, Adapco, University of Florida/ Agriculture Center, etc. have been invited to set up booths. Dr. Xue mentioned he contacted the Department of Health (DOH) about setting up a booth at our open house. Our staff will be meeting with the Acting Director on Thursday June 23rd. The District hired one more seasonal employee, two high school seniors started training as interns, three student volunteers from Ponte Vedra High School have started training, they work 20 hours a week from June-July and they'll be trained by Dr. Qualls and Dr. Pepper. Dr. Xue mentioned AMCD has advertised open positions for two Biological Technicians, one of the current Biological Technician is leaving at the end of June and the other was a grant funded Biological Technician who will leave for Texas University for her PH. D. education.
2. **Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Gardner ~ No Comments

Commissioner Becker ~ Tomorrow is the radio interview and I'd like to mention the open house on June 30th **(the Board came to a consensus to allow it)**. The education committee meeting went really well, the education specialist, Taylor Ballantyne, made some really good suggestions to invite some vendors to set up booths like the bee keepers, local veterinarians, etc. Just a reminder in two weeks the ninety-nine club, all female pilot group, will be visiting Saturday morning. I would like to write thank you letters to elected officials with the Board approval and request permission from the Board to invite Governor and FDACS Commissioner to a tour of the District **(the Board came to a consensus to allow both request)**.

Commissioner LeBlanc ~ Thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Brandhorst ~ Thanked the staff and Dr. Xue for all their hard work.

Commissioner Moeller ~ I met Judy Cowen at a wine and appetizer network a few weeks ago and she asked me about mosquito control because she didn't understand exactly what we do. So, I explained to her how mosquito control works and she got on the website and requested service. Phil, a seasonal inspector/sprayer, checked her home, and claimed he didn't see any signs of mosquitoes, he called her immediately and let her know. Phil reassured her that he would come back early the following morning. She thought to herself, "yeah right," but the following morning (before 9am), she got a phone call from Phil letting her know he found mosquito larvae in her bromeliads. Phil treated the plants and explained how she can treat them in the future. It wasn't 15 minutes later she received a message with a video of the mosquito larvae swimming around in her bromeliad plants. Judy Cowen said she's lived in this County for a very long time and has never received service like that. She wanted the Director, Supervisors, and staff to know how impressed she was and that if all the field staff were doing that, how can anyone complain about mosquito control. Someone sent me an article from the Ponte Vedra Recorder and I have sent it to all of you. It's dated 5/26, I read it and found a lot of errors that need to be corrected. If the Board doesn't have a problem with it, I would like to draft an opinion in response to the errors in the Ponte Vedra Recorder. Do I have consensus to do that?

(The Board came to a consensus to allow it)

July 13th Council of Aging (COA) is coming to AMCD for a tour, they will be taking a tour of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the morning, and after lunch they will be coming to AMCD for a tour. If Commissioner Becker is so inclined, I really would like her to do a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation while they're here to give them a good overview, unless someone has a problem with it.

(The Board came to a consensus to allow it)

Since we had the helicopter incident several months ago, I've been thinking about an issue. It's one of the first things I ever lobbied for the first time I went to Tallahassee, to put mosquito control pilots in the special risk category. Which means more money is put into their FRS benefits and they can retire at age 55 versus age 66. Unfortunately, based on the minimal research I was able to do at this point, only

fire rescue and sheriff officers are in the special risk category. Chris Lesser, president of Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA), and I had some emails going back and forth a few weeks ago. He finally agreed that if AMCD was willing to do the research and take it to the committee, Mr. Lesser will fully support bringing this topic back for the legislative session. When AMCD did this in 2008, we did not get strong talking points, we had no discussion prepared about why pilots need to be in the special risk category. Mr. Weaver will become the president of FMCA in November 2023 and this will give us an excellent opportunity to push it forward. Commissioner Becker is our secretary for the Commissioner section and hopefully I can convince her to take my place on the legislative committee in January, which is very important. I would like some consensus from the Board for me to continue to do this research. Whether we can get it in the legislation session this year or not I'm not so certain but I'm willing to continue working on it, even after I'm off this Board. I believe it's very important if we want to send people in the air in a million-dollar helicopter that we give them the best benefits possible. We have done that for all our field staff since I've been on this board and I think the pilots deserve the same. So, if no one has a problem with it I will follow through with this research.

(Board came to a consensus to allow it)

ATTACHMENTS: ~

1. None


ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 6:36 P.M.

ATTEST



Chairperson, Commissioner Jeanne Moeller



Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Gayle Gardner

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.