

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, August 11, 2022

Next Meeting(s): Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 5:00 PM
Thursday, September 15, 2022 – 5:30 PM ~ First Public Hearing
Thursday, September 29, 2022 – 5:30 PM ~ Final Public Hearing

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, August 11, 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. Brandhorst, Commissioner
Ms. Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Mr. Wayne Flowers, Attorney
Dr. Gordon Patterson, History Professor, Florida Institute of Technology
Ms. Joanna Nelson, Epidemiologist, Department of Health

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

- Gary Howell asked if Anastasia Mosquito Control District (AMCD) has a place for visitors to sign in at Board meetings, to which Commissioner Moeller confirmed sign in sheets are located at the front desk.

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 Gardner
- Seconded by: Commissioner Brandhorst
- 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 Gardner
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- 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, July 14, 2022 (5:00 P.M.)
5. Increasing \$250/month for District Attorney due to inflation and task increase
6. 18th Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop (March 28-30, 2023)
7. AMCD's Proposal for two (2) symposia (Action Threshold and Applied Research) for the AMCA Annual Meeting
8. Quarterly Budget Analysis
9. Budget Amendments
10. Authority of District Director to sign MTA (Material Transfer Agreement), NDA (Non-disclosure or Confidential Agreement), Arthropod Control Plan, and Intelligent Property Agreement (copy right and trade mark) after District Attorney review

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item 1: How Disease Vector Education Impacts Public Health?

History Professor Dr. Gordon Patterson, Florida Institute of Technology

- Dr. Patterson thanked the Board and praised AMCD for the outstanding service provided to the community. He mentioned visiting mosquito control districts around the world and believes what is happening at AMCD, especially with the education center, is remarkable. The Dr. Patterson gave a presentation about the history of vector-borne diseases and mosquito control. In the presentation he highlighted monumental dates and people throughout history that made a significant impact on the discovery of vector-borne diseases and the development of mosquito control. The Board thanked Dr. Patterson for attending the meeting and the wonderful presentation.

- **No Motion Was Made On This Item**

Item 2: AMCD & UF's Ph.D. Student Project Update (Annual Report)

Kai Blore/Dr. Rui-De Xue

- Dr. Xue informed the Board he will be giving the annual student project report, Mr. Blore had a family conflict and could not attend the meeting. Dr. Xue explained Mr. Blore is a full-time biological technician at AMCD, a Ph.D. student enrolled at University of Florida (UF) and in his second year of the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) two-year grant funded research project. The research grant is in collaboration with UF, and funds all tuition/research. The grant title is "Evaluation of nanoparticle encapsulated permethrin formulations against 3 species of adult mosquitoes: *Aedes aegypti*, *Culex quinquefasciatus*, and *Anopheles quadrimaculatus*," and the purpose of the research project is to reduce adulticide application rate, improve operation efficiency and to prevent pesticide resistance.

○ **No Motion Was Made On This Item**

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1: Report about the FMCA/Special District Meeting Regarding Auditing Special District Accountability

Mr. Richard Weaver

- Mr. Weaver explained the Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) held a meeting on July 21, 2022 for the special district accountability working group. Adriane Rodgers kicked off the meeting reminding the group that independent mosquito control districts are very important, that all special districts and the FMCA should work together to ensure everyone is on the same page during the process of the audit. He reviewed a brief outline of what was discussed in the meeting and what is needed to be sent to the group for the audit report, due in September 2023. Chris Lyons did a review of a few key points, mosquito control districts (MCD) were not singled out, MCD will be reviewed by Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA), OPPAGA will accept written questions when they're ready but as of right now it's too soon. A few key talking points, MCD should work together to stay on the same page, MCD should put together questions and submit them to Adrian, all districts will send a 5-year history of their respective millage rates/ad valorem taxes and MCD should befriend their local legislation. Mr. Weaver noted MCD were not originally included in the audit, MCD were added due to an issue with Pasco County, were removed, and then added again when AMCD received bad publicity for developing the education center. The next special district accountability working group meeting is anticipated to be held on September 28, 2022.
- Commissioner Moeller commented when the article regarding the education center was released Representative Stevenson contacted Representative Renner and Senator Hudson without reaching out to AMCD for more information. In 2010 the County tried to take over the District and Cindy Stevenson, a Commissioner at the time, was on the forefront and this may be a continuation of that incident. She suggested the rest of the Board should be prepared for a repeat in history and advised to win a local bill they should create controversy.

- **No Motion Was Made On This Item**

REPORTS:

Director ~ Dr. Xue invited Ms. Joanna Nelson, epidemiologist at the Florida Department of Health (DOH), to report on mosquito borne diseases. Ms. Nelson reported the DOH is seeing an increase in dengue fever cases in the Caribbean and over 100 reported cases are from Cuba alone. This season Saint Johns County reported our first confirmed EEE virus case in a horse, our first confirmed WNV case in a sentinel chicken and no reported human cases. Ms. Nelson thanked the Board and staff. Dr. Xue reported Ms. Jackie Small visited the district to audit policy/procedures and the employee handbook. He continued explaining she interviewed a handful of staff and the Commissioners, attached is a report of Ms. Smalls suggestions based on what she found. Ms. Small will be visiting AMCD to finish her work from August 16th-18th, Dr. Xue asked the Board to contact him to arrange a time to meet with her. Ms. Small mentioned reviewing the commissioner handbook, a few policies, job descriptions and possibly speaking with some staff during her visit. Dr. Xue stated once her work is complete Ms. Small will send another report. Dr. Xue is proposing the district form a committee to make necessary revisions to the employee handbook, job descriptions, commissioners handbook and policy/procedures based on Ms. Smalls itemized suggestions.

Attorney ~ Mr. Flowers had nothing to report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Gardner ~ Thanks the staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Becker ~ Thanks the staff for all their hard work and thanks to the Board for allowing me to attend last meeting via phone. I'm a little concerned about Commissioner Brandhorst the last couple of years I've gone out of my way to protect you but you were absent last meeting without notifying anyone. So, the Board unanimously passed a vote to send a letter to the governor and each member has a copy of the letter that was written. I believe you have done great things while on this Board, and it would be better for your reputation to resign rather than be dismissed. Two different groups of kids from the summer camp with Parks and Recreation did a tour of the district recently and they really enjoyed learning about mosquitoes and mosquito control.

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

Commissioner Brandhorst ~ Thanks the staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Moeller ~ Thanks the staff for all their hard work and stay safe in this heat. The next Board meeting is September 15th at 5:00 P.M. and then we will break at 5:30 P.M. for the First Public Hearing. The Final Public Hearing will be held on September 29th at 5:30 P.M. The Board will need to set the tentative millage rate at the First Public Hearing, keep in mind we can lower it but we cannot raise it.

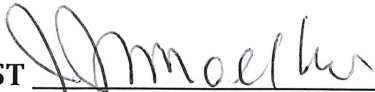
ATTACHMENTS: ~

1. None

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 5:52 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.