

# 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, December 8, 2022

Next Meeting(s):  
Thursday, January 19, 2023 – 5:00 PM ~ Regular Meeting

## MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

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

*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

- Ed Slavin thanked Commissioner Moeller for her dedication and time on the AMCD Board of Commissioners.

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

**A. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Consent Item #8, postpone until the January 19, 2023 Board Meeting.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Brandhorst
- 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, October 13, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.
5. Move January Board Meeting from Jan. 12, 2023 to Jan. 19, 2023 at 5:00 P.M.
6. Holiday Bonus Checks
7. Revise Operation Manager Job Title/Position to Assistant Director
8. Updated Employee Handbook
9. FMCA Annual Meeting Summary Report
10. Approval for Commissioners to Attend Dodd Short Course, (Feb. 2, 2023), Gainesville, FL
11. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Budget Analysis
12. Budget Amendment

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

**A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda with the addition of Unfinished Business #4.**

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Item 1:** SIT Building Update

*Mr. Glenn Harrell*

- Mr. Harrell first thanked Commissioner Moeller for the opportunity to work with her and congratulations on her end of term. Mr. Harrell then explained the SIT (Sterile Insect Technique) project is suffering supply chain delays, shortages and back orders. He mentioned they have been able to avoid many cost increases and delays by pre-ordering the largest and most expensive pieces need for the project. Mr. Harrell explained these factors have brought on shortages of manpower and aggregate based supplies, such as, concrete block, concrete and asphalt base/dirt fill. Mr. Harrell reassured the Board they have been able to maintain the schedule, however, they see no relief in the near future and have lost about 30 days due to these conditions and confusion with the county fire department. Mr. Harrell reassured the Board that Harrell construction is in track to finishing the SIT building in March 2023.

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

**Item 2:** Discussion and Approval of Committee Recommendation of Health, Dental, Life Ins.

*Mr. Don Lohr, Herbie Wiles*

- Mr. Don Lohr spoke about the insurances offered including the Committee recommendation on renewing our current Florida Blue Health Insurance (with a 5.86% decrease), United Concordia Dental Insurance (no increase) and Guardian Life Insurance

(no increase). Commissioner Moeller mentioned that the health insurance is a little over \$100,000 under what AMCD budgeted for this fiscal year.

**A. A motion was made to approve the Committee Recommendation of Health, Dental, Life Ins.**

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

**Item 3:** Discussion and Approval of Commissioner Brandhorst to attend the AMCA Annual Meeting, Reno Nevada, February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

*Commissioner Catherine Brandhorst*

- No discussion took place for this item.

**A. A motion was made to approve Commissioner Brandhorst to attend the AMCA Annual Meeting, Reno Nevada, February 27<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Brandhorst
- Seconded by: NONE
- **MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF SECOND**

**Item 4:** Discussion and Approval of CDC (Center for Disease Control) Grant Application for Training and Evaluation Center

- Dr. Xue began explaining he would like to recommend the Board approve AMCD staff and himself to apply for the 5-year CDC grant for Strengthening Training, Evaluation and Partnerships in Prevention and Control of Vector-borne Diseases. He went on to explain the District has been preparing for this kind of CDC & WHO (World Health Organization) Collaboration Center for training and evaluation for many years. Dr. Xue mentioned AMCD has done the creation and training of the GLP (good laboratory practice), increased and improved the related budget, professional staff, facility, tools/equipment, and many partnerships with federal, state, university, industry, and local communities, including internationally. He continued explaining our District has been recognized and awarded for training/mentoring other programs by three national associations (NACCHO, AMCA, and ESA) and conducted/published many evaluations of commercial products, new technology, projects/programs for the prevention and control of mosquitoes and other vector-borne diseases. Dr. Xue mentioned the title of the proposal will be “CDC's Southeastern Training and Evaluation Collaboration Center for Prevention and Control of Vector -borne Diseases.” This proposal will be partnered with Lee County Mosquito Control District (CMCD), FDACS (Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services), Georgia Department of Health (DOH), North & South Carolina DOH, University of Florida (UF), University of North Florida (UNF), MosquitoMate, and ADAPCO to provide the hand-on training and evaluation of the products and technology marketing in 4 states. The 5 year-grant, averaged at \$1.75 million per year, will benefit the District's programs and reputation.

**A. A motion was made to approve the CDC Grant Application for Training and Evaluation Center**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Moeller

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item 1:** Intern Student Project Report

*Dr. Whitney Qualls*

- Dr. Qualls gave an overview of student interns for 2022. She explained AMCD has trained 79 students since 2005. Dr. Qualls noted one graduate student (Kassidy Caride, Florida State University), one undergraduate (Shealyn Proflias, Rutgers University), four Academy of Biotechnology and Medical Research part time high school students (Arthi Ramaswamy, Iulia Berianu, Jace Lim, & Keats Reddick) and two full time high school students (Maddox Kaufenberg & Jonathan Shugart.) for the FY2022. She pointed out the intern’s strengths and mentioned their favorite part was being out in the field and learning the field of science has a lot more to offer than they realized.

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

**Item 2:** AMCD Financial Investment Update

- Dr. Rui-De Xue suggested the District move funds from the WellsFargo account to the SBA account because the interest rate is higher. Some expressed concerns about the early 2000’s market crash and the possibility of that event occurring again. Mr. Scott Hanna mentioned investments always come with risk, however, he assured the Board the qualification process has become more selective making the market a little more stable than the early 2000’s.

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

**Item 3:** Recognition and Congratulations to Commissioner Jeanne Moeller for End of Term, 2022 Chairperson & 16-years of service on AMCD Board of Commissioners’

*Commissioner Trish Becker*

- Commissioner Becker read the flower vase and presented it to Commissioner Moeller for appreciation of her 16 years of dedication as an AMCD Commissioner and serving as the 2022 chairperson. She then took the time to say a few kind words of her own. At this time pictures were also taken.

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

**REPORTS:**

**Director** ~ Dr. Xue reported the mosquito season has been very unusual this year. Normally by November the mosquito season is over, however, the District is receiving around 200 calls per day. Dr. Xue mentioned increasing education, operations and surveillance to be prepared for a similar situation November 2023. He also reported one confirmed human case of WNV and one confirmed EEE in a horse, as well as, one travel related dengue fever case. Dr. Xue thanked the staff for all their hard work. He also thanked Commissioner Moeller for her contribution to the growth of the District and wished her farewell.

**Attorney** ~ Mr. Flowers said his farewells and thanked Commissioner Moeller for her time on the AMCD Board, mentioning her unique set of skills and lack of hidden agendas.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Gardner** ~ Thanked the staff and wished Commissioner Moeller well in her future endeavors.

**Commissioner Becker** ~ Thanked the public for re-electing her and to all the candidates for making appearances at the meeting.

**Commissioner LeBlanc** ~ Thanked the staff for all their hard work, especially with the recent mosquito outbreak.

**Commissioner Brandhorst** ~ Thanked Commissioner Moeller for convincing her to run for the AMCD Board and expressed how much she would miss her.

**Commissioner Moeller** ~ Noted it would be hard to sum up 16 years serving on the AMCD Board in three minutes but she'd give it her best shot. Commissioner Moeller took her time recognizing and thanking individuals that played a significant role in the growth of AMCD, from the past and present. She mentioned milestones (good and bad) that played a significant role in the expansion of the District. She noted her integrity never wavered during her time serving, and thanked the staff for their patience, support and education throughout the years.

**Public Comments:**

- Gary Howell thanked Commissioner Moeller for her time with AMCD and mentioned how it was an honor to get the chance to work with her.


**ATTACHMENTS:** ~

1. None

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Moeller adjourned the meeting at 6:29 P.M.

**ATTEST**

  
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**Chairperson, Commissioner Gayle Gardner**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**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.*