

# Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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



## DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-de Xue



Thursday, February 8, 2024

Thursday, March 14, 2024 – 5:00 PM~ Regular Meeting

## MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Mrs. Gayle Gardner, Chairperson  
Mrs. Martha Gleason, Vice-Chairperson  
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mrs. Catherine Brandhorst, Commissioner  
Mrs. Trish Becker, Commissioner

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director  
Mrs. Amy Myers, Attorney

*Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.*

*Commissioner Brandhorst led Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag*

**ROLL CALL:** Chairperson Gardner noted ~ all were present

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** For Items not on the Agenda

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairperson Gardner called for approval of the Agenda as presented.

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

- Motioned by: Commissioner Gleason
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE: Accepted by Commissioner Gardner, LeBlanc, Gleason and Becker
- VOTE: Rejected by Commissioner Brandhorst
- **MOTION PASSED 4:1**

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

**A. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda with moving consent item #4 and #5 to new business #5 and #6 for discussion.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE: Accepted by Commissioner Gardner, LeBlanc, Gleason and Becker
- VOTE: Rejected by Commissioner Brandhorst
- **MOTION PASSED 4:1**

**Consent Items ~ APPROVAL OF:**

1. Chemical inventory
2. Minutes: Regular Board Meeting, January 11, 2024
3. Resolution for 2024 Officer Election Required by Supervisor of Election Office
4. Grant Agreement for Mentoring, Awarded by NACCHO (Moved to new business #5)
5. AMCD & FMCA Co-Sponsorship Agreement for Annual Workshop (Moved to new business #6)
6. Budget Calendar FY24/25

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Item 1: FMCA Tallahassee legislation meeting report ~ Commissioners**

- Commissioner Gleason began reporting Commissioner Gardner, Assistant Director Dr. Whitney Qualls, Business Manager Mr. Weaver, herself and the newly hired lobbyist Mr. Robert Hawken and met with Representative Cindy Stevenson, Speaker Renner's aides, Senator Hutson's legislative aide, and Senator Yarbrough's legislative aide. She noted they informed legislators that they agreed with HB 7013 as amended: removal of the 10-year voter reauthorization, addition of the 12-year term limits for board members, reduction of the mil cap from 10mil to 1 mil, and adoption of goals and metrics to assess District performance. Commissioner Gleason continued to report they asked legislators to support increasing FDACS percentage allocations to the Mosquito Control Districts (MCD) from the tire programs to 14% as we are currently at around 10%. She continued reporting Increasing funds helps small county programs become better prepared to respond to mosquito borne diseases. Commissioner Gleason mentioned they also stated the Governor has proposed a \$500, 000 dollar increase in the Florida Department of Agriculture (FDACS) allocation and that while we are grateful, we would like for them to consider increasing it to \$1 million dollars. Commissioner Gleason also mentioned in their meeting with Representative Stevenson, she did not mention any specific issues with AMCD, however she did say even if legislation dies on the floor this year, we must be ready for this to come around again. Commissioner Gleason stated while the proposed legislation has changed to our favor because of the removal of the referendum language, this was largely due to firefighter's association who lobbied to have it removed as the language addressed all special districts no just MCD's. She continued stating key issues driving bills that are before the House and Senate are due to AMCD's mosquito museum, Pasco counties estimated \$37 million headquarters. Lastly Commissioner Gleason mentioned Commissioner Gardner and herself attended the House State Affairs hearing on HB

7013, the committee voted unanimously to move the bill forward. Commissioner Gleason also mentioned in the future, Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA) press conferences should not be held the same time as committee meetings due to the fact that the committee was hearing the bill during the press conference.

- Mr. Weaver speaking as the President of the FMCA explained the FMCA press conference was booked well in advance and the committee hearing was not. He also mentioned if there was a way to not schedule them at the same time, the FMCA would absolutely not schedule them at the same time.

**Item 2: Public Relations Firm Report, Addendum & Resolution~ Mr. Robert Hawken**

- Mr. Hawken noted that Commissioner Gleason covered a lot during Tallahassee days and continued to explain he agrees with Commissioner Gleason, Senator Hudson was asked to put a bill on the Senate side regarding special districts and it was a priority of the speaker of the House. He continued to explain this happens quite frequently, either the House or Senate wants to pursue something and they have to find a companion on the other side, then it's their duty to find which legislators is actually promoting this particular issue. Mr. Hawken continued to explain in this case it was on the House side and the senator was just waiting to see what the product would like coming out of the House before the bill was advanced. He mentioned the House passed the bill, 1<sup>st</sup> of February, and as noted by Commissioner Gleason, there was a cap that put there and the re-establishment of every ten-year vote, of all the districts was pulled from the bill. Mr. Hawken continued explain there is one section in the bill that was alluded to the last section of the bill, that a special district had a work plan and that is, frankly a symptom of something that we really want.
- Commissioner Brandhorst has concerns about Mr. Hawken's scope of work over the next few months.
- Mr. Hawken reassured her he would continue to work on AMCD's reputation over the next few months and make sure the bill that was previously mentioned does not get presented for a vote again.
- Commissioner Gleason pointed out the only reason AMCD had to hire lobbyist is because the FMCA told our District to hire our own lobbyist because if it was our District or all the MCD's they would throw us under the bus.
- Mr. Weaver speaking as the FMCA President mentioned it was suggestion that the FMCA made to all the MCD's and most of the MCD's have hired their own lobbyist.

**A. A motion was made to approve the updated addendum, with the removal of "Statement of work," under the conditions Mr. Hawken gives regular updates and Mrs. Amy Myers version of the resolution.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioner's present
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Item 3: Financial Report and Budget Amendment ~ Mr. Scott Hanna, C.F.O.**

- Mr. Hanna reviewed the treasurer's report/vouchers with the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hanna also explained usually budget amendments are to amend over spending, however, the District earned more revenue than the budget originally anticipated.

➤ **Commissioner Gleason requested Mr. Hanna change the name from “SBA” to “Florida Prime”**

A. **A motion was made to approve the budget amendment as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioner’s present
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Item 1: RFP for Building, Vehicles & Equipment Storage~ Mr. Richard Weaver**

- Mr. Weaver began by reporting the Request for Proposal (RFP) was released by AMCD on January 8<sup>th</sup>, to develop a site plans, building plan, permitting and construction of the AMCD equipment storage building and north east property drainage. He continued explaining as of January 30<sup>th</sup>, AMCD has received 15 requests for the RFP documents. Mr. Weaver mentioned there was a mandatory pre bid meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> and the RFP closes on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the RFP is opened by staff February 27<sup>th</sup>, and the Board will get staff recommendations at the regular Board meeting on March 14, 2024.
  - **NO MOTION WAS PASSED ON THIS ITEM**

2. **Item 2: Discussion & Approval to Remove "Museum" from Side Sign ~ Commissioner Gleason**

- Commissioner Gleason requested this item be tabled until the regular board meeting on March 14, 2024 at 5:00 P.M., to give her more time to conduct research.

3. **Item 3: Discussion & Approval of AMCD to be a Subregional Collaboration Center of the Gulf South Training & Evaluation for Control of Vector-Borne Diseases~ Dr. Rui-De Xue**

- Dr. Xue began explaining if AMCD becomes a Subregional Collaboration Center of the Gulf South Training and Evaluation for Control of Vector Diseases program it will essentially pay for one full time personnel for the Education Center.

A. **A motion was made to approve giving Dr. Xue the authority to speak with the people at New Orleans and draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner Gleason
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioner’s present
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Item 4: Education Center Operation Plan Update ~ Dr. Rui-De Xue**

- Dr. Xue began explain due to unexpected circumstances the Disease Vector Education Center opening has been postponed for about two years and we plan to have a grand opening March 26, 2024 before the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop, assuming everything goes smoothly the new few weeks. Dr. Xue continued to explain the initial hours of operations would be 10:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Tuesday thru Saturday, Monday appointments only and closed on Sundays. He mentioned AMCD will have one full time position (5- year contract) but currently have one education specialist and one – two interns that will assist the operation until

AMCD hired the full- time position in the next few months. Dr. Xue explained a full-time entomologist is being hired to be in charge of the Education Center and Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) facility. He also mentioned annual inspections and monthly maintenance would be through professional contract services and update display content at least every five years, except adding important new emerging diseases and vector at any time. Dr. Xue continued to explain AMCD is creating an Education Center website and social medias, and conjunction with the website it will be linked to all local, state professional websites, and local tourist information agencies. He continued to mention AMCD plans to apply for grant funding from multiple Federal, State and local government agencies, industries and donors. Dr. Xue mentioned no tickets will be sold at the moment due to tax funded center but we will have a donation box similar to other government education centers. He continued to mention after two-three years of operation we may consider whether to sale tickets or not based on number of visitors, operation cost and progress. Dr. Xue explained we will have an attendance record by using sign in sheets and automated recording machine, as well as collect visitor satisfaction surveys on site and on the website. Dr. Xue updated the Board of Commissioners regarding the several grants related to the education center.

5. **Item 5: Grant Agreement for Mentoring, Awarded by NACCHO**

- Dr. Xue explained the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) award would fund a hurricane crisis mentorship between AMCD and NACCHO.

A. **A motion was made to approve the Grant Agreement for Mentoring, Awarded by NACCHO as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Becker
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioner's present
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Item 6: AMCD & FMCA Co-Sponsorship Agreement for Annual Workshop**

- Dr. Xue explained the AMCD and FMCA Co-Sponsorship agreement for the Annual Arbovirus Surveillance and Mosquito Control Workshop would not cost AMCD anything extra, it will allow AMCD to advertise the FMCA logo and possibly get more people to register knowing we are collaborating with the FMCA.

B. **A motion was made to approve AMCD & FMCA Co-Sponsorship Agreement for Annual Workshop as presented.**

- Motioned by: Commissioner Gleason
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- VOTE: Accepted unanimously by all commissioner's present
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**REPORTS:**

**Director** ~ Dr. Xue reported the employee performance evaluation should be done the end of this month for the annual performance evaluation and the annual progress report you see on your table.

He mentioned if you have any suggestions or correction for the annual program report, please let him know. Dr. Xue explained there will be an attachment in the March board meeting that doesn't need board approval. He mentioned AMCD hosted the Douglas Group for local pest control for pesticide training for their continued education and over 35 people came for training. Dr. Xue also mentioned AMCD hosted the Savannah Charter, Mosquito Control Division and the director brought 18 people with them. Dr. Xue mentioned when AMCD visited their facility around 20 years ago, we found inspiration from their facility to create the AMCD facility and they visited our facility to get ideas for their own facility. Dr. Xue explained AMCD has had quite a few tours from different groups visit lately and chat with our education specialist.

**Attorney** ~ Mrs. Amy Myers reported that they have ordered your sunshine law manuals and hope to have them in March 2024.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**Commissioner Gardner** ~ No comments.

**Commissioner Brandhorst** ~ Apologized for losing her temper earlier in the meeting.

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

**Commissioner Becker** ~ Asked lawyer Mrs. Amy Myers if it would be beneficial to have a public records custodian noted on our website, like a point of contact.

➤ Mrs. Amy Myers confirmed it would be beneficial.

**Commissioner Gleason** ~ Reported she was happy and tired and hopes everybody understands that question was not micromanaging. I'm just very cognizant that we have multiple things going up and I just want to make sure the staff can cover it.

**ATTACHMENTS: ~**

1. None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting at **7:19 P.M.**

**ATTEST**

  
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**Chairperson, Commissioner Gayle Gardner**

  
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**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 v*