

Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Gayle Gardner, Chairperson
Tim Burton, Vice Chair
Anthony Timis, Secretary/Treasurer
Johnny Counts, Commissioner
Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner



DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Dr. Rui-De Xue

Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 5:30 PM ~ Regular Meeting

MINUTES

The regular Board meeting for the Anastasia Mosquito Control District of St. Johns County was held on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

Board members in attendance:

Ms. Gayle Gardner, Chair
Mr. Tim Burton, Vice Chair
Mr. Anthony Timis, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Johnny Counts, Commissioner
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner – Via Phone

Also in attendance:

Dr. Rui-De Xue, Director
Ms. Lawsikia Hodges

Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Timis led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: All Commissioners were present and constituted a quorum.

- A. A motion was made to permit Commissioner LeBlanc to attend via phone**
- Motioned by: Commissioner Burton
 - Seconded by: Commissioner Counts
 - VOTE: Accepted by all Commissioners
 - **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

1st PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD: no public comments were made

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda as presented.**
- Motioned by: Commissioner Burton
 - Seconded by: Commissioner Timis
 - VOTE: Accepted by all Commissioners
 - **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

- A. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda with agenda item #5 moved to New Business #3**
- Motioned by: Commissioner Timis

- Seconded by: Commissioner Burton
- VOTE: Accepted by all Commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

CONSENT ITEMS ~ APPROVAL OF:

1. Board meeting minutes (January 15 at 5:30pm, 2025)
2. Budget Calendar
3. Board members and staff to attend AMCA annual meeting and Washington Legislation meeting
4. Host the Florida Entomology Society's annual meeting at AMCD facility, July 13-16, 2026
- ~~5. Authority of staff to survey, update, and amend District's annual and sick leave pay~~

2nd PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD: No public comments were made

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Update on AMCD's database, mapping, and phone app software ... Frontier Precision

Chad Minter provided an update on the Field Seeker software project, noting that data migration and customization are largely complete, though the timeline has been extended due to system complexity. The project remains within the \$211,315 budget, with no additional costs anticipated. The system is hosted through ArcGIS Online with a \$12,000 annual maintenance fee, and staff training and testing will continue prior to full deployment.

A. No Motion was made.

2. Lobbying RFP Discussion... Director, Dr. Rui-De Xue

The Board discussed issuing an RFP for an additional lobbying firm, as the current contract expires in March, noting that the District is also represented by the Florida Mosquito Control Association (FMCA). Concerns were raised about potential duplicative services and costs, and the Board emphasized refining the scope to focus on issues directly impacting the District while avoiding unnecessary or overlapping lobbying efforts.

A. A Motion was made to postpone consideration of the lobbying RFP until the April meeting

- Motioned by: Commissioner Timis
- Seconded by: Commissioner Counts
- VOTE: Accepted by all Commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FMCA Dodd course and Tallahassee Legislation reports ... Director, Dr. Xue

The Board received an update on the DoD course and the Tallahassee legislative report. Dr. Xue also highlighted the upcoming workshop, noting participation from representatives of the Navy, the CDC, and other industry partners.

A. No Motion was made.

2. AMCD Applied Research Program update... Science Manager, Dr. Joe DiClaro

Dr. DiClaro provided an update on the District's science and education programs, emphasizing their support of operational activities, including Sentinel Chicken virus surveillance and Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) initiatives. He also highlighted ongoing grant funding, recent publications, and collaborative partnerships. Education programs continue to offer valuable student training opportunities, while community engagement remains a key focus for emerging research efforts, including projects involving genetically modified mosquitoes.

A. No Motion was made.

3. AMCD Sick Leave and Retirement Policy

The Board authorized staff to update and amend the District's annual sick leave and retirement payout policy, subject to future Board review and approval.

A. A Motion was made to update and amend the District's annual sick leave and payout policy for Board review and approval

- Motioned by: Commissioner Timis
- Seconded by: Commissioner Counts
- VOTE: Accepted by all Commissioners
- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3rd PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD: No public comments were made

REPORTS:

Director ~ Dr. Xue reported that preparations for next month’s workshop have been completed, and all training and technical needs for the upcoming season are in place. District received more than 50 applications for IT position, and 4 top qualified applicants were selected and interviewed, resulting in two top candidates being recommended. One has been hired after 2nd interview, and he will start from March 2. Overall, operations and staffing continue to run all business smoothly.

Attorney ~ No report

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Timis ~ Requested a Finance Committee meeting on March 10 at 5:30 p.m. to review the budget in preparation for potential property tax legislation, with staff directed to provide proper Sunshine Law notice. He also suggested that Attorney Hodges review all board agendas and items prior to finalization to ensure compliance with Florida statutes and reduce liability for the board.

Commissioner Burton ~ No comment

Commissioner Gardner ~ Reported attending the Dodd meeting and noted she did not attend the Tallahassee meetings due to weather related issues.

Commissioner Counts ~ Reported being unable to attend recent meetings due to prior commitments, noted the recent deep freeze, and stated he will catch up on ongoing matters and familiarize himself further with district operations.

Commissioner LeBlanc ~ No comment

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting at 6:45PM

ATTEST 
 Chairperson, Commissioner Gayle Gardner


 Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Anthony Timis

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.