

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, March 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, March 12, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

**Board members in attendance:**

Ms. Gayle Gardner, Chair  
Mr. Tim Burton, Vice Chair – Absent due to car trouble  
Mr. Anthony Timis, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. Johnny Counts, Commissioner  
Mrs. Gina LeBlanc, Commissioner

**Also in attendance:**

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

*Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.*

*Commissioner LeBlanc led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.*

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**ROLL CALL:** All Commissioners were present (apart from Commissioner Burton) and constituted a quorum.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

➤ **No Public Comments**

**GUEST INTRODUCTIONS:**

Dr. Xue introduced the guests attending the meeting, Dr. Neoh and his two graduate students visiting from Tawain, and a graduate student from Bangkok, Thailand. They will participate in a two-month research and stay at dormitory. SIT staff were also introduced along with former Commissioner Brandhurst.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

- Motioned by: Commissioner Timis
- Seconded by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- 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**

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

**CONSENT ITEMS ~ APPROVAL OF:**

1. Board meeting minutes (February 12 at 5:30pm, 2025)
2. Ms. Olivia Sypes to attend AMCA annual meeting (partially funded by AMCA/Industry Scholarship) and Mr. Johnny Counts for AMCA DC Legislation Meeting
3. Emerging aerial spraying price adjustment due to pesticide and fuel price increase

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- No Public Comments

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Item 1: SIT Project update (PPT) and future ... Director, Dr. Xue (15 min)**

The Anastasia Mosquito Control District's Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) program uses species-specific, non-chemical methods to reduce mosquito populations and limit disease risk from Zika, Dengue, West Nile, Malaria and other viruses. The program includes year-round inspections, community education, laboratory rearing, and pilot releases of sterile male mosquitoes. Supported by USDA, CDC, and state funding, SIT integrates research, operational control, and outreach, with plans to expand mass production, leverage new technologies, and strengthen public and international collaboration.

**A. No Motion was made.**

**Item 2: Financial Committee Meeting report ... Commissioner, Mr. Timis (10 min)**

The committee reviewed potential property tax changes, preparing for up to a 50% reduction while maintaining essential operations and staff. Savings opportunities include travel, museum equipment, uniforms, capital outlay, and DVEC operations. With \$9 million in reserves and disaster costs largely reimbursed, the district remains financially stable with careful monitoring.

**A. No Motion was made.**

**Item 3: Quarterly Budget analysis ... CFO, Mr. Scott Hanna (10 min)**

Revenue is performing well, with property taxes collected at 93% of budget, grants on target, and miscellaneous revenue exceeding expectations of \$74,000, including proceeds from vehicle trade-ins. Interest income is slightly lower due to a recent drop in the federal funds rate. Expenditures are largely on track, with insurance premiums paid upfront and freight costs slightly over budget. Training expenses are above the benchmark at 51%, which is typical for the offseason, and public/promotion costs are slightly higher than planned. Overall, the district's financials are healthy and consistent with budget trends, with the next two quarters expected to see increased activity.

**A. No Motion was made.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item 1: Discussion about the concept/potential expansion to provide services to conjected residential subdivisions/area from other counties ... Director, Dr. Xue and Attorney Ms. Hodges**

The discussion centered on potential expansion of mosquito control services and related legislative changes, including serving neighboring counties. Implementation could take a few years, but the district currently has capacity with trained personnel, product/tool testing, and education programs.

**A. No Motion was made.**

**Item 2: FY26/27 budget procedure and instruction ... Director, Dr. Xue (10 min)**

The District's budget covers personnel/benefits (67%), operations (\$1M), and flexible capital projects (\$0.5–3.4M). Staff plan, draft, and review the budget in spring, hold two public hearings in September, and submit it for certification by October 1. Resident assessments to pay for mosquito control remain low, with millage rates will be based on property values and available reserves and decided in July Board meeting.

**A. No Motion was made.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

➤ None

**REPORTS:**

Director ~ This year, the District hosted the Florida Mosquito Control Association Fly-In, drawing approximately 200 attendees. Following the event, the District held its 21st Annual Arbovirus Workshop, which brought total participation to around 250 attendees overall. The workshop showcased the district's capabilities, technology, and professional expertise, earning recognition from commercial industries, and federal agency and State agency representatives, including CDC officials and military entomologists. Overall, the program strengthened employee skills, enhanced public education, and positioned the district as one of leading mosquito control authorities.

Attorney ~ No Report

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

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


**Commissioner Counts** ~ attended the Thursday evening Workshop informative and well-attended, appreciated the shared insights on mosquito control in Florida despite not being able to join all sessions.

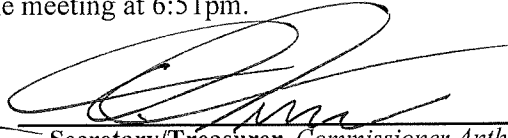
**Commissioner Timis** ~ Good discussion at the financial committee meeting; the board should continue monitoring the budget and look for opportunities to improve efficiency.

**Commissioner Gardner** ~ Thanked everyone

**ADJOURNMENT:** Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting at 6:51pm.

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.*