

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, August 13, 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, August 13, 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

Also in attendance:

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

Chairperson Gardner called the meeting to order.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

➤ No Public Comments

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A. A motion was made to approve the Agenda

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A. A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda

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

CONSENT ITEMS ~ APPROVAL OF:

1. Board meeting minutes (July 7th at 5:30pm, 2026).
2. Organize 22nd Annual Workshop, AMCD, March 22-25, 2027
3. Board Members attend FMCA annual meeting, Ponte Vedra, FL, November 9-12, 2026, and AMCD hosts other Commissioner tours during FMCA meeting.
4. MOU between DACS & AMCD for report
5. NDA between AMCD & Insensory, Inc., AI trap evaluation
6. QIASprint Connect System to replace old one on approved budget (\$60,000 sole source)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- No Public Comments

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item 1: Discussion and approval of awarding Floridian Partners as AMCD legislation lobby firm to serve AMCD's State legislation for Six Months for \$4,000 per month ... Director, Dr. Rui-De Xue (10 min)

- Dr. Xue contacted/reported that Florida Partners was willing to provide legislative lobbying services for six months at \$4,000 per month to cover the state legislative period based on our Board direction. He recommended awarding the modified RFP and authorizing staff and legal counsel to prepare the contract for placement on the next meeting's consent agenda.
- The Board discussed the value of retaining a dedicated lobbyist in addition to FMCA advocacy, the November property-tax constitutional amendment, limits on using public funds for ballot advocacy, potential future District expansion into neighboring counties, and the need for representation in Tallahassee regarding funding and legislative issues.

A. A motion was made to award the RFP bid to Floridian Partners as AMCD's legislative lobby firm for six months

- Motioned by: Commissioner LeBlanc
- Seconded by: Commissioner Burton
- VOTE:
 - YES: Commissioners LeBlanc, Burton, Gardner, Counts
 - NO: Commissioner Timis
- **MOTION PASSED (4-1)**

Item 2: Discussion and approval of AMCD's goals/objectives and performance measures for FY 26/27 for website update ... Director, Dr. Rui-De Xue (10 min)

- Dr. Xue presented the annual update to the District's goals, objectives, and performance measures required for the new fiscal year and explained that the updated information must be published on the District website by October 1. He stated that the updates were primarily regulatory and did not substantially change the District's ongoing priorities.

A. A motion was made to approve AMCD's goals/objectives and website updates for FY26/27

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 1: Update on AMCD's aerial crafts program ... Assistant Manager of Aviation, Mr. Morgan

Duett (15 min)

- Mr. Duett provided an overview of the District's aviation program, including helicopter operations, maintenance needs, UAS and airboat support, and long-term fleet planning. He noted that the aging Bell 206 fleet is requiring increased maintenance and that replacement parts are becoming more difficult and costly to obtain, including an estimated \$44,000 drive-shaft replacement requirement for two helicopters by August 2029.
- The Board discussed fleet life-cycle costs, safety, payload and treatment efficiency, and future replacement options. Mr. Duett compared the District's Bell 206 aircraft with the Airbus H125 now being used by several Florida mosquito-control programs, noting the H125's larger payload, greater treatment capacity, and reduced ground time.

A. No motion was made

ITEM 2: Summary Report about Drone applications for Larviciding ... Drone Pilot, Mr. Kyle Arber (15 min)

- Mr. Arber reviewed the District's UAS program, including mosquito treatments in hard-to-access areas, airboat-based operations, LiDAR mapping, and field testing. He reported that the program has improved access, efficiency, safety, and targeted treatment.
- Mr. Arbor identified limited battery life and discontinued manufacturer support as key concerns and recommended future consideration of a larger replacement drone and support for a second UAS pilot position. The Board discussed equipment needs, battery technology, and future program planning.

A. No motion was made

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- No public comments

REPORTS:

Director ~ Dr. Xue thanked the aviation and UAS teams for their work and noted that the aviation program is one of the District's largest operating programs, at approximately \$1 million per year including salary with benefits, insurance, parts, and related costs. He advised that major capital decisions should continue to be evaluated in light of the pending property tax issue.

Dr. Xue also reported that AMCD hosted the 108th annual Florida Entomological Society meeting July 13-15, 2026, with 132 registrants and strong participation from university faculty and graduate students. He reported continued activity at the Education Center, including two new interns and visiting students from Korea, and summarized his recent international presentations and technical visits in Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand focused on artificial intelligence, mosquito-vector control, and emerging technologies. He further reported that National Geographic personnel would be visiting the District to film operations and research activities and provided updates on upcoming congressional visit and World Mosquito Day outreach event.

Attorney ~ No Report

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner LeBlanc ~ Thanked staff for all their hard work.

Commissioner Burton ~ No Comment

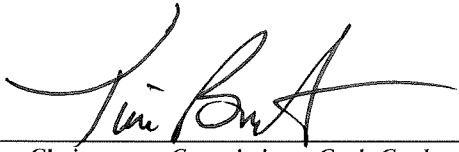
Commissioner Gardner ~ No Comment

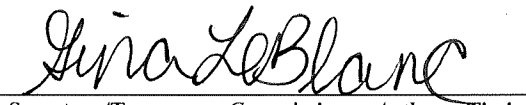
Commissioner Timis ~ Commended the District for lowering the millage rate while continuing to provide quality services and emphasized continued attention to cost control in light of possible property-tax reform.

Commissioner Counts ~ Expressed appreciation for the aviation and UAS presentations and for staff's proactive approach to maintaining major equipment and planning ahead for future needs.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairperson Gardner adjourned the meeting at 6:32pm.

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.