

# Genetically Modified Mosquito Workshop Minutes

Florida Mosquito Control District  
Marathon Office  
503 107<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marathon, FL 33050

June 23, 2020 1:00 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a virtual Workshop on Tuesday, June 23, 2020.

**Present Were:** Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chair, Brandon Pinder, Secretary/Treasurer; Tom McDonald, Commissioner; Jill Cranney-Gage, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Dirk Smits, Board Attorney.

**Employees Present:** Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Joshua Kogut, Director of Aerial Operations; Bruce Holden, Financial Director; Chad Huff, PEIO; Chrissy Bloxom, Executive Assistant; Catherine Pruszynski, Research Biologist; Heidi Murray, Research Biologist; Michael Boehmler, Research Biologist.

**Invited Guest Present:** None

**Community Input:** None

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Commissioner Cranney-Gage, seconded by Commissioner McDonald and passed unanimously to approve the agenda.

Chairman Goodman stated that this workshop has been called for the purpose of introducing and discussing Oxitec's 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Mosquito Technology to the FKMCD Board.

## **Discussion:**

- Director Leal introduced Bob Eadie, Administrator of the Florida Dept. of Health in Monroe County. Mr. Eadie supports the Dept. of Health having as many options available as possible to fight mosquito borne diseases. Mr. Eadie talked about the changes in the technology and the issues with Covid-19. He endorsed the use of the genetic modified mosquito technology.
- Director Leal introduced Catherine Pruszynski, FKMCD Research Biologist. Ms. Pruszynski gave a presentation on the Aedes aegypti mosquito. She discussed the past outbreaks of Zika and Dengue in Miami and the Florida Keys. Ms. Pruszynski discussed the importance of the new technology since resistance is continuing and the Aedes aegypti mosquito is the primary vector of Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika.
- Director Leal introduced Oxitec CEO, Grey Frandsen. Mr. Frandsen read Oxitec's mission, which is to improve lives and livelihoods by developing safe, environmentally sustainable and highly effective solutions to control disease-transmitting and crop destroying insects. Oxitec is led by passionate individuals from the US, UK and 13 other countries. He introduced his US team. Oxitec has had a long history of public acceptance and community partnerships. Mr. Frandsen explained that Oxitec likes to listen, learn and engage in communities.
- Kevin Gorman, Head of Field Operations, gave a technology overview. Mr. Gorman explained the two safe genes, which are non-toxic and non-allergenic, that the male mosquitoes will carry. Mr. Gorman talked about the 4 key performances and operational benefits of OX5034. He discussed previous performances, partnerships, demonstrated safety, results from a trial use of the OX5034 in Brazil and the proposed small pilot project with FKMCD.
- Meredith Fensom, Head of Public Affairs, advised the Board that in an effort to be responsive, a web page has been set up at [www.oxitec.com/florida](http://www.oxitec.com/florida) that has all of the information on OX5034 in the Florida Keys.
- Grey Frandsen, CEO, went over the US Approvals and Endorsements of Oxitec Technology beginning in 2006 through to 2020.
- Nathan Rose, Head of Regulatory Affairs, discussed the review and approval process for the EPA and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- Ms. Fensom addressed the FAQ's about Oxitec's OX5034 mosquitoes.
- Chairman Goodman opened up a question and answer session for the board to ask questions of Oxitec.
  - Board members asked a number of questions which Oxitec representatives answered.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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*Andrea Leal  
Executive Director*

*Board of Commissioners  
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District*

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*Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman*

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*Brandon Pinder, Secretary-Treasurer*