

Public Relations Workshop Minutes

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
Marathon Office
503 107TH St. Marathon, FL 33050

February 20, 2024 11:20 am

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Public Relations Workshop on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Present Were: Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chair, Bette Brown, Secretary-Treasurer; Brandon Pinder, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Roget Bryan, Board Attorney. Jill Cranney, Commissioner was present via the telephone.

Employees Present: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Bruce Holden, Director of Finance; Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources; Edgar Delacerda, Director of Aerial Operations; Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer.

GUESTS PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *A motion was made by Chairman Goodman, seconded by Commissioner Brown and passed unanimously to approve Chairman Cranney to participate in the Public Relations Workshop via telephone. Commissioner Goodman asked the Board if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda, having none, the agenda was unanimously approved.*

Chairman Goodman announces the purpose of this workshop is to discuss frequently asked operational questions.

DISCUSSION: Andrea Leal, Executive Director, explained that this workshop was going to be reviewing some of the most frequently asked questions by the community regarding our operations. She turned the meeting over to Mikki Coss, Director of Operations, to answer the first question: "What is the truck spray schedule?" She gave an in-depth overview on the locations in the Keys where we can spray and what type of missions we can do in those areas. She advised we work closely with the U.S Fish & Wildlife Service, Florida Fish & Wildlife, and the State Parks when scheduling any truck or aerial missions.

Next was Edgar Delacerda, Director of Aerial Operations with the question of "Why do our helicopters fly so low?" He explained the regulations that the district must follow when flying and how to explain this to the community. Then he went more into detail with what the mission requirements might be and the flight patterns we must follow to allow for the most efficient treatment methods. He finished up with the limitations that we might run into and what factors may come into play when applying treatments.

Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer then went into the next question of: "What type of repellent do you recommend?" He gave a brief overview on the types of questions we get in regards to mosquito repellent and how to answer that correctly. Next was: "Do all mosquitoes transmit diseases?" He stated the Florida Keys are home to more than 50 different mosquito species but virtually all mosquito-borne disease in the Florida Keys in recent years can be attributed to the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito.

Last but not least was Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research who gave a presentation on No-See-Ums, one of the most frequent topics that come up when talking to the community. He explained the difference between no-see-ums and mosquitoes, and how difficult it would be to treat these bloodsucking flies in the Florida Keys. It is also important to mention that they are not vectors of human disease in the USA, so spending a large amount of money and resources on these would not make financial sense.

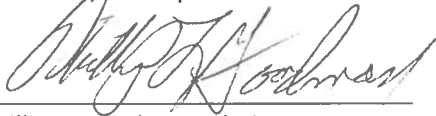
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Leal
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District



Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman



Bette Brown, Secretary-Treasurer

For additional information, please refer to www.keysmosquito.org.