

***Aedes aegypti* Workshop Minutes**

**Florida Keys Mosquito Control District  
Marathon Office  
503 107<sup>TH</sup> St. Marathon, FL 33050**

**April 25, 2023 2:01 PM**

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held an *Aedes aegypti* Workshop on Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

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

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

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Heidi Murray, Catherine Pruszyński, Lee Alwood

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** *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 the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District's operations and research for the control of *Aedes aegypti*.

**DISCUSSION:** The Executive Director, Andrea Leal, started the workshop by recognizing the employee of the quarter, Lee Alwood. She read the accolades from his fellow employees, presented his plaque, and his award. To start the workshop Director Leal turned it over to Mikki Coss, Director of Operations. Mikki reviewed the district's 2023 *Aedes aegypti* Operation Plans which included WDG Truck Missions, Backpack Missions, Aerial Missions, Sirenix Trap Set and boots on the ground. From 2022 to 2023, she wants to increase the number of WDG ground missions by half each year. Tire piles on Keys properties were brought up by Chairman Goodman. He expressed concern about the amount of time and material we were using to spray these properties. He enquired as to whether code enforcement could be able to step in to help get these tires removed. Director Leal responded that it might be possible and that she will get in touch with the county and the health department to find a solution before reporting back to the board.

Mikki stated that the boat yard in Key Largo, which is one of our *Aedes aegypti* hotspots, had nine Sirenix traps installed in April. Each week, the inspectors examine these traps to see if water needs to be added. The mosquitoes perish as a result of the sound frequency that the traps introduce into the water. They've had good success with the traps and weekly WDG backpack spraying on the land, which indicates a decline in population. The 2023 *Aedes aegypti* Research Plans, which consist of the In2Care Trap Set, Oxitec Project, ReMoa Tri Trial, and Seasonal Abundance, were then discussed. On April 18, 2023, we set up 25 In2Care traps in a boat yard that is around 2.5 acres, and she then played a movie demonstrating how these traps perform in the natural environment. The success of these traps and previous trials in Puerto Rico were the subject of a brief conversation between Director Leal and the Board.

Director Leal briefly discussed the Oxitec Project and emphasized that, other from certain population changes, the overall strategy will be the same as last year. With 12 locations in the region, they are carrying on the Household Study Project D, which was halted last year owing to a tropical storm and necessitated bringing them in from the field. Chairman Goodman expressed some reservations about the Oxitec boxes' durability against the elements and urged hope that they will explore such concerns in the future.

Heidi Murray, a research biologist, then took the floor to announce Remoa Tri, a brand-new adulticide from Valent Bio Sciences. In May, the district will be conducting a trial to evaluate the mortality response of Key West *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes to ground ULV application of ReMoa Tri adulticide. This will be carried out at our Marathon facility in collaboration with members of our staff and Valent Bio Sciences.

The subject of observing mosquito populations was then handled by research biologist Catherine Pruszynski. It is crucial for control operations, a component of the IMM program, to evaluate the relative size of the vector population, and aids in predicting and preventing disease outbreaks. FKMCD carefully tracks the numbers of *Aedes aegypti* larvae and adults. Catherine went over information on the *Aedes aegypti* catch rate from all locations of the Keys that had been gathered since 2009. The human population's susceptibility to disease, mosquito survival, vector competence, and human blood index are some characteristics that play a role in disease transmission. The board discussed the expense of combating *Aedes aegypti* and disseminating this information to the public as it concluded the workshop.

Next month's workshop, according to Chairman Goodman, will focus on the budgetary process.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

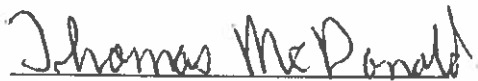


Andrea Leal  
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners  
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District



Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman



Thomas McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer

For additional information, please refer to [www.keysmosquito.org](http://www.keysmosquito.org).