

## Regular Meeting Minutes

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

August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 2:10 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Regular Meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the FKMCD Marathon office.

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

**Employees Present Were:** 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.

**Invited Guests Present:** Tina Wyatt, FBMC

**Community Input:** None

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Pinder and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

**Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Goodman requested to amend the agenda by postponing item 11c Resolution 2024-18 RFP 2024-06 Auditor to the September meeting. A motion was made by Chairman Brown, seconded by Commissioner Zuba, and passed unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bette Brown, Secretary/Treasurer, stated she had nothing to report.

**Attorney's Report:** Dirk Smits, Board Attorney, advised the statute for the bid for the new auditor was amended in the last five years which is why we needed to move that item to September. He also introduced Shauna Morris, a new attorney with his firm.

**Director's Report:** First, Director Leal recognized offshore field technician, Matt Jolley for 10 years of exceptional service and gave him a Certificate of Achievement. Director Leal then introduced Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research who gave a brief presentation to the board regarding the Oropouche (ORE-OH-POOSH) virus, which is currently spreading to other nations and is carried by specific mosquitoes and biting midges. There have been twenty (20) travel-related cases in the state of Florida in the past few weeks, most of which are coming from Cuba. In the upcoming months, we will continue to monitor this.

Director Leal gave an update on mosquito-borne diseases, stating that Dengue fever infections linked to travel and locally acquired cases are still rising in Miami Dade. In Monroe County, there have only been three local cases of dengue. Dengue is still unable to establish a significant presence in the Keys thanks to ongoing aerial and ground WDG efforts. July and August saw a slowdown in service requests, adulticiding, and larviciding which all peaked in June. The district has been reimbursed the full \$900,000 in grant money which has helped the budget immensely. A batch of male mosquitoes that have been "irradiated" is being worked with by the FKMCD labs in advance of a potential test deployment in the future. The males' heartiness and longevity is being investigated by the research team at FKMCD. Testing on mating competitiveness is being conducted with our wild females and the studies should be completed by January. A few landing rate counts on Big Pine are now being replaced by BG counters because of the persistent efforts of Dr. Catherine Pruszyński, the Lower Keys biologist.

Director Leal recently accompanied a small group of employees and Commissioners on a tour of the National Weather Service office located in Key West. On August 9, FKMCD filed its "bid" to continue mosquito control services for the US Navy Base at Boca Chica. It is envisaged that the Navy will announce its decision in late August or early September. This was a significant undertaking. After that, Bruce Holden provided an update on our FLClass account, showing \$53,000 in interest income for the month of July, with an average yield of 5.39%, according to Director of Finance Bruce Holden's analysis of the FLCLASS account summary and statement. We did utilize \$800,000 for operations and expect to continue utilizing funds for the remainder of the fiscal year, with no further deposits going into the account after the \$400,000 in grant monies that was deposited in July. The account balance is currently around \$11.2 million. We have earned \$410,000 in interest income for the year.

**Invited Speaker: Brandie Peretz; Epidemiology Program Manager; Florida Department of Health:** Chairman Goodman introduced Brandie Peretz and Fatima Garcia and explained that he had invited them to give an update on Dengue Fever cases in Monroe County. Brandie Peretz discussed how the health department finds cases within the community by working with the local healthcare providers. She then explained the process on reporting the cases to us and other steps they follow with the suspected case.

**Items for Board Discussion:**

**10a.) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update** – Chad Huff, the public education and information officer, gave a status report on the 75th anniversary celebrations and verified that the Open House will take place on October 8 from 4–7 p.m. He mentioned that there will be a naming ceremony and the unveiling of a big, inflated mosquito at the Open House. It will also be used at festivals and events throughout the community. We have been doing a lot of media coverage with the local dengue cases, and he has been reiterating the district's progress and our 75th anniversary.

**10b.) Service Milestone Policy** – The Board was provided with two possible improvements to the FKMCD service milestone policy for employees by Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources. Following a conversation in which the Commissioners expressed support for the suggested modifications, Human Resources will now proceed with drafting a policy item for future Board approval.

**Items for Board Review and Action:**

**11a.) Financial Reports** – The Director of Finance, Bruce Holden, explained the year-over-year report stating we are right where we need to be. He is expecting the next two months to go smoothly. A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Cranney, and passed unanimously, confirming the Board received the financial information from July of 2024 and the Board requests it be submitted for audit at the appropriate time.

**11b.) Resolution 2024-17: ITN 2024-05 Medical, Dental, Vision, Life and Disability Benefits** – A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION AND AWARD OF ITN 2024-05 MEDICAL, DENTAL, VISION, LIFE, AND DISABILITY BENEFITS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A motion was made by Commissioner Cranney, seconded by Commissioner Zuba, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-17 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously accepted.

~~**11c.) Resolution 2024-18: RFP 2024-06 Auditor**~~

**11d.) Resolution 2024-19: RFP 2024-07 Truck Mount Gas ULV Sprayers** – A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION AND AWARD OF THE RFP 2024-07 EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR TRUCK MOUNT GAS ULV SPRAYERS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-19 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously accepted.

**11e.) Resolution 2024-20: Performance Measures** – A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, APPROVING PERFORMANCE MEASURES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 189.0694, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Cranney, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2024-20 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously accepted.

**Good of the Order:**

Chairman Goodman discussed the next meeting of the Board to be held on September 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have the Regular Board Meeting at 3pm and the Final Budget Hearing at 5:05pm.

There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting 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](http://www.keysmosquito.org).*