



# MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Dr. Eugene A. Garcia III	Chairman
Dr. Peter J. Gerone	Secretary - Treasurer
Anthony Alfred	Commissioner
Dr. Andrew J. Englande Jr.	Commissioner
David C. Stuart	Commissioner

**DIRECTOR**  
Victoria G. Taylor

## MINUTES

### Board of Commissioners Meeting October 18, 2017

#### OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 12:54pm by Acting Chair Peter Gerone, October 18, 2017, in the District office at 62512 Airport Road, Building 23, Slidell, Louisiana.

Present were Mr. Anthony Alfred, Dr. A.J. Englande, Jr., Dr. Peter Gerone, and Mr. David Stuart, Commissioners; Dr. Ron Francis and Dr. Dawn Wesson, Advisors; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Mrs. Viki Taylor, Director and Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Assistant Director. Dr. Eugene Garcia, Commissioner and Dr. Bob Lowrie, Advisor, were absent. Guests included Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Supervisor of Field Inspectors and Mr. Ben Smith, Supervisor of Aerial Operations.

#### MINUTES

The minutes from the September 20 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Alfred. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. Carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was presented and discussed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by Commissioner Englande. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. Carried.

#### AIRCRAFT UPDATE

Supervisor of Aerial Operations Ben Smith reported that installation of the Twin Otter spray system is nearing completion. Droplet optimization tests will then be performed. The Islander's right engine gear box warning light was activated during departure for a spray mission. The exact cause has yet to be determined; however, an engine and gear box overhaul may be required. The cost for the airframe work on the Ag Husky exceeded the original quotation by \$3,000. Discussion followed. Commissioner Stuart moved to issue final payment to Innovative Turbine for the remaining balance. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

### **SPRAY TRACKING SOFTWARE REVIEW**

Supervisor of Field Operations Calvin Smotherman reviewed the spray tracking software for ground adulticiding and larviciding operations. This IT upgrade features spray routes, in-truck driver views, do not spray areas, average spray speed, mission data analysis, chemical application rates, etc., ensuring greater efficiency and improved communications.

### **PROPOSED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET**

Assistant Director Caillouet presented the 2018 Operating Budget for the Board's review. Proposed operating expenses are \$12,089,300 and anticipated revenue totaled \$8,080,662. The increase in expenses was mainly due to the bulk acquisition of the insecticide Scourge (\$3.9M), upgraded research and quality control for the laboratory (\$253K), and extensive unanticipated repairs on the Britten-Norman Islander Aircraft (\$180K). The Board will formally adopt the 2018 Operating Budget at the November board meeting/public hearing.

### **HEALTHCARE INSURANCE RENEWAL**

Director Taylor presented the renewal quote from United Healthcare. The group medical benefits decreased by \$5.00 per month for 2018. Commissioner Alfred moved to accept the healthcare renewal plan. Commissioner Stuart seconded the motion. Carried.

### **ETHICS POLICY CONFIRMATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING**

The Director reported that the Legislative Auditor's Office recommended that Boards and Districts create an ethics certification policy. All board members and employees must annually acknowledge and sign the policy, in addition to the annual state mandated online ethics training. Director Taylor presented a draft of the "Business Ethics Policy" for Board approval. The Board will review the policy before adoption at the November meeting.

Additionally, the state requires annual sexual harassment training for all board members and employees. After completing the training session, an acknowledgment statement must be executed and kept on file, along with the ethics certification.

### **BOARD ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE MANUAL FOR ST. TAMMANY PARISH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Director Taylor provided an Affidavit of Acknowledgment and Receipt of the Manual for St. Tammany Parish Boards and Commissions. Commissioners read and executed each affidavit and Legal Counsel Abdalla notarized the documents.

### **EPA GRANT**

Assistant Director Caillouet reported that an EPA grant was awarded to the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, in cooperation with the District, to study septic wastewater in Ozone Woods and Tammany Hills subdivisions. The study is an integrated approach to learn if the water quality of improved residential sewer treatment systems will result in a reduction in *Culex p. quinquefasciatus* larval populations. The District was awarded \$36K, over a two-year period, to fund water probes and student research assistants.

**UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

**LMCA Annual Meeting, Covington, LA, December 5-7**

The LMCA Annual Meeting will be held in Covington. Commissioners Alfred, Englande, Gerone, Stuart, and Advisor Francis plan to attend the meeting.

**AMCA Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO, February 26-March 2**

The AMCA Annual Meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. Commissioners Alfred and Gerone expressed interest in attending the meeting. Director Taylor plans to attend the meeting, but will personally assume the costs for the return airfare and lodging after February 28, her date of retirement. Commissioner Alfred moved to cover all of the Director's meeting and travel expenses. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT**

Assistant Director Caillouet reported that *Culex p. quinquefasciatus* populations spiked last month, due to the drought. The vector index remains low for human transmission of WNV. To date, 43 mosquito pools have returned positive for WNV, out of 5,218 submitted for testing. In addition, four human cases of WNV have been reported this season.

**NOVEMBER STPMAD BOARD MEETING SCHEDULING**

The November board meeting/public hearing date was changed to Tuesday, November 14.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Commissioner Alfred moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:19pm. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Peter J. Gerone  
Secretary/Treasurer