

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting November 19, 2019

OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 12:59pm by Chairman David Stuart, 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, Mr. David Stuart, and Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, Commissioners; Dr. Ron Francis, Advisor; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director; and Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director. Dr. Bob Lowrie and Dr. Dawn Wesson, Advisors, were absent. Guests included Mr. Nick Delisi, Lab Manager/Entomologist and Mr. Jeff North, Adapco.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Stuart opened the floor for public comment. There were no members of the public present.

MINUTES

The minutes from the October 16 meeting were presented. Commissioner Englande moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

Director Caillouet presented the Treasurer's Report. Chairman Stuart and Commissioner Gerone reviewed all credit card purchases for October and reported that credit card accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Chairman Englande will verify all credit card purchases before the January meeting. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and credit card review. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

The Director is still awaiting a response from the District Attorney's office on Legal Counsel Abdalla's contract and compensation.

ADOPTION OF 2020 OPERATING BUDGET (Appendix 1)

Director Caillouet presented the proposed 2020 Operating Budget. Projected revenue totaled \$8,281,601 and expenses were estimated at \$9,351,979. The increase in expenditures is largely due to the planned capital expansion of the facility (\$1,700,000), leased helicopter adulticiding and larviciding services (\$375,000), and Islander aircraft refurbishment and repairs (\$114,500).

Commissioner Traina-Dorge resolved to adopt the 2020 Operating Budget as presented. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

INSECTICIDE RESISTANCE - NICK DELISI

Lab Manager/Entomologist Nick DeLisi reported that insecticide resistance exists in the parish, specifically in the ground and aerial adulticides resmethrin (Scourge), sumithrin and prallethrin (Duet), and naled (Dibrom). Topical bioassays are now the standard for resistance testing, supplementing wind tunnel tests. He reviewed dose response lines to quantify resistance and provided bioassay results for all ground and aerial adulticide products. Resistance was apparent in *Culex quinquefasciatus*, evidenced by a decreased susceptibility toward Scourge, Duet and Dibrom. He noted that resistance does not mean ineffectiveness, as all insecticides currently remain efficacious at labeled rates. In 2020, lab personnel will continue resistance studies, evaluate alternative adulticide product rotations with Deltamethrin and Malathion, and reevaluate spray thresholds. To date, resistance has not been found in larvicide products.

PESTICIDE BIDS

In response to the public bid notice, five pesticide bids were received as follows: Adapco, Clarke Mosquito Control Products, Gaubert Oil, Target Specialty Products, and Univar. (see attached)

Chairman Stuart authorized management to review and select the lowest responsive pesticide bid or the most cost-effective bid based on application rates. Management will provide its findings at the January 2020 meeting for Board approval.

HEALTHCARE RENEWAL (Appendix 2)

The Director presented the healthcare renewal for 2020. The current plan experienced a slight reduction in monthly premiums; however, single and family out-of-pocket maximums more than tripled. Director Caillouet presented and reviewed four additional options for employee healthcare coverage. Following discussion, Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept Blue Cross/Blue Shield Gold Preferred Care PPO coverage. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

SALARY SCHEDULE

Director Caillouet presented the 2020 Salary Range Schedule for each position. He stated that each employee will receive a 1.8% cost of living increase for 2020, based on the consumer price index.

Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the 2020 Salary Range Schedule as presented. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS/MERIT RAISES

The Director reported that employees are also eligible to receive up to an additional 2.0% increase, based on performance evaluations, unless the employee has reached their maximum salary range.

CAMPUS EXPANSION UPDATE

Director Caillouet stated that preconstruction due diligence continues. The wetlands mitigation permit process could take up to nine months to complete. Programming plans and 3-D designs were presented for the training room, laboratory identification room, and entrance. Legal Counsel Abdalla mentioned that the lease agreement from the City of Slidell is still pending.

Legal Counsel Abdalla reported that Heather Durr, et al vs. Atlantic Specialty Company, STPMAD, et al lawsuit was settled.

Commissioner Traina-Dorge and Legal Counsel Abdalla both left the meeting at 2:15pm.

BOARD APPROVALS

A. Travel

LMCA Annual Meeting, Baton Rouge, LA, December 3-5, 2019

The Director distributed hotel accommodations and per diem to Commissioners Alfred and Gerone.

AMCA Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, March 16-20, 2020 (Appendix 3)

Commissioners Alfred, Englande, Gerone and Stuart plan to attend the meeting.

CDC Vector Control Focus Group, January 8-12, 2020

The Board approved Director Caillouet's travel to Fort Collins, CO, to participate in the CDC Division of Vector-Borne Diseases Vector Control Focus Group. CDC will cover or reimburse most, if not all, expenses.

B. Contracts - Innovative Turbine

The Director reported that Legal Counsel Abdalla reviewed and approved the renewal contract with Innovative Turbine for Islander aircraft repairs and Twin Otter maintenance. Commissioner Alfred moved to accept the contract with Innovative Turbine. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

C. Director's Time Card - (Appendix 3)

Chairman Stuart reviewed and approved the Director's time card for October 13 - November 16, 2019. Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the Director's time card as presented. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed recent operational highlights and upcoming events.

- Participation in STPSO Health Fair
- Tangipahoa Healthy Waters Group sewage and mosquito presentation
- Participation at Monster Mash, Whispering Forest Elementary, and Touch-a-Truck
- LMCA Board of Directors meeting
- Clearwood Jr. High Math and Science Night
- LSU Entomology Symposium for graduate students
- Ecko 360 LIDAR vendor presentation
- Hosted Adapco scientists topical insecticide resistance training
- Insecticide resistance conference calls with Harris County, TX and USDA
- STP library presentation by Lab Manager/Entomologist Nick DeLisi
- CDC Focus Group conference call on vector control management
- Children's Museum of St. Tammany STEM Fest Mobile Lab
- STPMAD Thanksgiving Pig Roast
- Valent Biosciences Wide Area Larvicide Symposium
- LMCA 2019 Annual Meeting
- 2020 Department Planning Meetings
- Director participation in CDC DVBD focus group meeting, Fort Collins, CO

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Director Caillouet reviewed West Nile virus vector populations of *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Cx. salinarius*, and *Cx. nigripalpus*. The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) reported 43 WNV-infected mosquito pools, out of 4,059 submitted from 20 sites for arbovirus testing. At this time last year, 65 out of 4,086 pools returned positive for WNV. LADDL also reported one infected SLE and two infected EEE mosquito pools. The Louisiana Department of Health & Hospitals reported one WNV-NID and one WNV fever case in St. Tammany Parish, and 16 human cases in Louisiana, down from 80 cases last year at this time.

Assistant Director Calvin Smotherman reported vector abundance declined due to cooler temperatures. Since resuming in February, ground larviciding operations treated a total of 4,029 acres of roadside septic ditches. In addition, ground adulticide operations sprayed 881,622 acres year-to-date.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Commissioner Alfred moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Gerone
Secretary/Treasurer

Appendices

1. 2020 Proposed Operating Budget
2. Healthcare Renewal
3. Director's Time Card