

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Public Meeting June 17, 2020

OPEN

The public meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 1:01pm by Chairman David Stuart, in the St. Tammany Parish School Board Chambers, C. J. Schoen Administrative Complex, 321 North Theard Street, Covington, Louisiana.

Present were Mr. Anthony Alfred, Dr. A.J. Englande, Jr., Dr. Peter Gerone, Mr. David Stuart, and Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, Commissioners; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director; and Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director. Dr. Dawn Wesson, Advisor, attended the meeting via video conferencing. Dr. Bob Lowrie and Dr. Ron Francis, Advisors, were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

MINUTES

The minutes from the May 20 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. Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

Commissioner Traina-Dorge reviewed all credit card purchases for May. She reported that credit card accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Commissioner Englande will verify all credit card purchases before the July meeting. Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the credit card review. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - ADOPTION OF 2020 ADJUSTED MILLAGE

Chairman Stuart opened the floor for public comment on the adoption of the 2020 adjusted millage rate. There were no members of the public present.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2020 ADJUSTED MILLAGE AFTER REAPPRAISAL/ REASSESSMENT (Appendix 1)

Chairman Stuart set forth the Millage Resolution and called for a motion to adopt the 2020 reassessment/reappraisal adjusted millage rate of 3.71. The motion to adopt the 3.71 adjusted millage rate unanimously passed with Commissioners Alfred, Englande, Gerone, Stuart, and Traina-Dorge voting in favor of the resolution.

YEAS - 5 NAYS - 0 ABSTAINED - 0 ABSENT - 0

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - ADOPTION OF THE 2020 INCREASED MILLAGE

Chairman Stuart opened the floor for public comment on the adoption of the 2020 increased millage. There were no members of the public present.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE INCREASED MILLAGE FOR THE 2020 TAX ROLLS

Chairman Stuart set forth the adjusted millage rate of 3.71 and the increased millage rate of 3.90. The Chairman presented a subsequent Millage Resolution, and called for a motion to levy an increased millage rate of 3.90 upon the 2020 tax rolls. The 3.90 mils do not exceed the adjusted maximum millage, nor the previous year's millage. The motion to adopt the increased millage rate of 3.90 mils unanimously passed with Commissioners Alfred, Englande, Gerone, Stuart and Traina-Dorge voting in favor of the resolution. (Appendix 2)

YEAS - 5 NAYS - 0 ABSTAINED - 0 ABSENT - 0

Chairman Stuart then presented the Millage Affidavit. The document was executed by Director Caillouet and notarized by Legal Counsel Abdalla.

IN-FLIGHT AERIAL SPRAY DRIFT MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

The District received two In-Flight Aerial Spray Drift Management Proposals as follows: Adapco, Inc. and Ag-Nav, Inc. Commissioner Alfred moved to authorize management to review and make a recommendation regarding the proposal that best fits the criteria set forth in the request for proposals document. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. The motion carried. Management will present its findings at the July 2020 meeting.

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE (Appendix 3)

(Boards & Commissions Guide, Sexual Harassment, Ethics Training, Business Ethics)

Director Caillouet stated that commissioners are required to satisfy Louisiana Legislative Auditor annual compliance. Each commissioner was asked to complete the 2020 Louisiana Board of Ethics online training, review the Louisiana Business Ethics Policy, read the Louisiana Boards and Commissions Guide, and view two sexual harassment training videos.

CAMPUS EXPANSION

Director Caillouet reviewed the current lease and the projected \$14M loss should the District expand its campus and continue the land lease with the City of Slidell. Slidell City Council Member Bill Borchert proposed that the District buy approximately six acres of airport property directly from St. Tammany Parish, including the 3.10-acre footprint and the additional 3.5-acre proposed expansion site. Slidell Mayor Greg Cromer and Parish Council Member Steve Stefancik also expressed support for the airport land acquisition. Parish Council Member Stefancik is currently investigating the purchase process. The cost to acquire the property was estimated between \$50-\$100K. The Board agreed that the Director should pursue more information regarding the possibility of purchasing the land.

ADDRESSING INEQUALITY AND DIVERSITY (Appendix 4)

The Director presented a “Diversity and Inequality Statement”. He asked the Board to review the document that addressed: (1) mosquito abatement efforts triggered solely by data identifying areas of need for mosquito management, (2) the varying impact on low income households of decentralized sewage and *West Nile virus* transmission, and (3) proactive recruitment of minorities to target a more diverse job applicant pool at all levels.

The Board commended Director Caillouet for addressing inequality in neighborhoods with decentralized sewage and for working toward greater diversity in the agency.

UPDATE ON INVENTION DISCLOSURE

Director Caillouet provided an update on the invention disclosure. The patent attorney found similar products and patents, but none that appear to have the same functions. The attorney believes the idea may be patentable, cost ~\$20K, and take 18 months for approval. The invention would provide public utility monitoring to improve water quality.

BOARD APPROVALS

A. Travel - None

B. Contracts - None

C. Director’s Time Card (Appendix 5)

Chairman Stuart reviewed and approved the Director’s time card for May 10-June 6, 2020. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the Director’s time card as presented. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed recent and upcoming events.

- LMCA Annual Meeting Planning Committee meeting
- NOMTCB data scientist discussion
- Sewage Reform Economics meeting
- June staff meeting
- ASTHO insecticide resistance focus group meeting
- COVID-19 Phase II initiated June 5
- Sewage Reform Economics meetings
- WNV transmission modeling research meeting
- July staff meeting
- Disaster mitigation and resiliency planning
- Daily laboratory, field operations and director updates
- Weekly IT, lab, and supervisor/department head meetings
- Monthly safety committee, staff meeting preparation, and monthly/quarterly report planning meetings

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Assistant Director Smotherman reported that *Culex quinquefasciatus*, *Anopheles crucians*, *Coquillettidia perturbans*, *Cx. salinarius* and *Cx. erraticus* have been the most abundant species this year. An increase in *Aedes canadensis* was also noted in arbovirus collections. This season no mosquito pools have returned positive for WNV. To date, larviciders have treated 1,631 acres of septic ditches and night drivers have sprayed more than 249,138 acres. A brief discussion on genetically modified mosquitoes and ongoing studies followed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:07pm on a motion by Commissioner Alfred and seconded by Commissioner Englande. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendices

1. Millage Resolution 1
2. Millage Resolution 2
3. Annual Compliance
4. Addressing Inequality and Diversity
5. Director's Time Card

