

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting August 19, 2020

OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 1:07pm by Chairman David Stuart, in the St. Tammany Parish School Board Chambers, 321 North Theard Street, Covington, Louisiana.

Present were Mr. Anthony Alfred, 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. Advisor Dawn Wesson attended the meeting via video conferencing. Commissioner A.J. Englande Jr., Advisor Ron Francis and Advisor Bob Lowrie were absent. Guests included Accounting Manager Chad Simon, IT Specialist Weber Janssen, Aerial Operations Supervisor Paul Spadoni and Pilot Brandon Campbell.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

MINUTES

The minutes from the July 15 meeting were presented. Commissioner Alfred moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

Accounting Manager Chad Simon presented the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Alfred reviewed all credit card purchases for July. He reported that credit card accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Commissioners Gerone and Stuart will verify all credit card purchases before the September meeting.

Commissioner Alfred moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and credit card review. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

2020 MIDYEAR BUDGET REVIEW (Appendix 1)

Accounting Manager Simon presented the 2020 midyear budget review. As of June 30, expenditures totaled \$3,058,234 and year-end expenses were projected at \$7,191,803. The District received \$7,318,608 in ad valorem tax, interest earned, and refunds/reimbursements; a 12% variance from anticipated revenue of \$8,272,614. He also reviewed each department's actual midyear and year-end projected expenses.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Accounting Manager presented the five-year millage projections, anticipated revenue, and expenses. Two options were presented: (1) a steady decline in millage rates, with one probable millage increase or (2) a staggered increase/decrease in millage rates. The financial forecast projected an annual 6% increase in expenses that will likely exceed annual revenue.

Director Caillouet reviewed the assigned fund balance, which includes the campus expansion capital project (\$5.4 million) and the disaster contingency fund (\$3 million). A total of \$5 million remains unassigned in the fund balance.

Following discussion, the Board concurred that a consistent reduction in millage rates, while maintaining a contingency reserve, would be wise.

AERIAL OPERATIONS LONG TERM PLAN – HELICOPTER

Supervisor of Aerial Operations Paul Spadoni reported that the aerial fleet consists of the Twin Otter aircraft (120 gallons adulticide), Britten-Norman Islander (60 gallons adulticide), and the Ag Husky (marsh larvicide). The Islander and Ag Husky are undergoing extensive repairs; however, manufacturer support is limited due to the age of both aircraft. He proposed replacing the Islander and Ag Husky with an Airbus, Bell, or McDonnell Douglas helicopter. Incorporating a helicopter into mosquito abatement operations would enhance marsh larviciding and urban adulticiding, plus enable urban larviciding, inspection and surveillance. He reviewed a comparison of airplane and helicopter missions, acres treated, hourly operating expenses, chemical cost/gallon, and cost per acre.

Director Caillouet expanded on the pinpoint accuracy of helicopter applications, broad area applications by airplane, and ground ULV adulticide efficacy in suburban vs. rural areas. He noted that all three are essential tools for mosquito management. The Board was asked to consider the acquisition of a new or used helicopter, ranging between \$2-\$4 million.

Pilot Brandon Campbell reviewed helicopter safety aspects and provided information on the resale value of the Britten-Norman Islander (\$900K) and Ag Husky (\$120K).

Taking into account ongoing costly repairs and diminishing returns on older aircraft, Commissioner Alfred supported selling both airplanes and purchasing a helicopter. Commissioner Traina-Dorge suggested allocating the remaining unassigned funds for this purpose. The Director noted that the 2021 budget will include the purchase of a helicopter.

EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEY (Appendix 2)

Director Caillouet summarized the Employee Satisfaction Survey results. The survey yielded highly favorable responses from most workers. The survey also provides an avenue to receive opinion on areas of progress or issues requiring more attention. In addition, a suggestion box was placed in a common area to encourage employee ideas. The Director asked the Board to review the results of the survey before the September meeting.

CAMPUS EXPANSION

Director Caillouet met via phone conference with Parish President Mike Cooper, Parish Council Member Steve Stefancik, Slidell City Council Member Bill Borchert, Legal Counsel Abdalla, and the District Attorney's legal team to discuss the acquisition of the existing 3.10-acre footprint and the 3.5-acre expansion site. Legal Counsel Abdalla is working with Assistant DA Joseph Alphonse to draft a purchase agreement. Following property appraisals by the District and the Parish, a purchase price will be determined and a formal purchase agreement prepared. Negotiations with the City of Slidell to terminate the present lease will follow.

DISASTER RESILIENCY PLANNING

The Director outlined the planning process for the 15 potential disasters identified by supervisors. Each department will address one specific disaster each month, draft emergency guidelines to schedule training, communications, actionable items, debriefing and plan revisions. The protection of personal, organizational and public interests will be addressed, plus the geographic scale of impact and time-line.

PATENT UPDATE

Director Caillouet reported that the provisional patent is pending and product viability will now be evaluated. Several meetings were held with the EPA to discuss small business grant opportunities. In addition, the Director will pursue a nondisclosure agreement with a manufacturer to license, produce and market the intellectual property.

BOARD APPROVALS

A. Travel - None

B. Contracts - None

C. Director's Time Card (Appendix 3)

Chairman Stuart reviewed and approved the Director's time card for July 5-August 15, 2020. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the Director's time card as presented. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed the following recent and upcoming events.

- Hurricane Disaster Resiliency Meeting
- Property Acquisition Meeting with St. Tammany Parish and City of Slidell
- Drive-through Staff Lunch
- State Medical Entomologist Meeting
- Insecticide Resistance Meeting
- August Staff Meeting Planning
- NSF CH2N Grant Meeting
- EPS Research Program Officer Meeting
- August Staff Meeting
- EBS Consulting Meeting
- EPA SBIR Office Meeting
- Sewage Reform Meeting
- Hurricane Resiliency Planning
- September Staff Meeting Planning
- Pandemic Resiliency Planning
- September Staff Meeting

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Director Caillouet reported that the District received its first positive mosquito pool, out of 3,373 pools submitted this season for arbovirus testing. The positive pool was detected in *Culex nigripalpus*, a species that lays their eggs in rainwater ditches and typically peaks in the fall. *Cx. salinarius* populations decreased and a reduction in *Cx. quinquefasciatus* was observed over the past two months. The District recently received notification from the LA Department of Health of one asymptomatic human case of WNV from a blood donor. One WNV-infected equine was reported in April. A new arbovirus risk map was added to the website and is updated weekly.

Assistant Director Smotherman reported *Cx. salinarius* and *Cx. quinquefasciatus* decreased in July. *Cx. nigripalpus*, *Cx. erraticus*, and *Aedes atlanticus* increased and will likely remain active through the fall. To date, 12,482 miles were adulticided and 7,988 miles were larvicided by ground operations.

Advisor Wesson received approval for testing mosquito larvae against COVID-19 polluted water.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION

Director Caillouet announced that the September 16 and October 21 meetings will all be held at 1:00pm, at the School Board Chambers. In addition, the November public hearing (12:45pm) and regular meeting (1:00pm) are scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, at the School Board Chambers.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm on a motion by Commissioner Alfred and seconded by Commissioner Traina-Dorge. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendices

1. 2020 Mid-Year Budget Review
2. Employee Satisfaction Survey
3. Director's Time Card