

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting February 17, 2021

OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 1:00pm by Chairman David Stuart, in the St. Tammany Parish School Board Chambers, 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; Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director; and Outreach and Media Specialist Jennifer Bushnell. Advisor Dawn Wesson joined the meeting via video conferencing at 1:40pm. Advisor Ron Francis was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

MINUTES (Appendix 1)

The minutes from the January 20 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 (Appendix 2)

Commissioner Englande reviewed all credit card purchases for the month of January 2021. All credit card accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Commissioner Traina-Dorge will verify credit card purchases before the March meeting.

Director Caillouet presented the Treasurer's Report and reviewed disbursements, revenue, and vendor payments for the month of January. High-yield interest rates have fallen to a modest range, largely due to the decreased federal fund rate.

Commissioner Gerone moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and credit card purchases review. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

ANNUAL COMPLIANCE (Appendix 3)

Sexual Harassment Training, Ethics Training, Business Ethics Policy

Annual compliance guidelines and documents were distributed to all commissioners as follows: sexual harassment prevention training videos (2), the Louisiana Board of Ethics online training, and the Business Ethics Policy and Acknowledgment. Commissioners were asked to complete all annual compliance by the March 17 meeting.

CAMPUS EXPANSION UPDATE

Legal Counsel Abdalla and Director Caillouet met with the Slidell Mayor and City Attorney to continue lease termination discussions. A settlement of \$307k was negotiated; however, the mayor's office is currently investigating the potential impact on existing FAA grants for airport development. The City of Slidell also requested a "right of first refusal" should the District decide to sell either or both properties. The final proposal will require Slidell City Council approval.

COMMUNICATING CHANGES TO NALED EXPOSURE RISK

Outreach and Media Specialist Jennifer Bushnell presented communications priorities for 2021, as they relate to the EPA's 15-year risk assessment of Naled and proposed recommended changes. Full and final guidelines should be released in 2022.

EPA communication requirements for Naled have been posted to the District's website as follows: 24-hour advance spray notice, remain indoors with closed windows during spraying, do not allow children to play outside for four hours post treatment, if outside during spraying rinse skin and eyes, wash fruit and vegetables, cover outside items or rinse anything that cannot be covered, place children's toys inside, bring pets and pet items indoors, and contact doctor or regional poison control for adverse reactions.

The District currently posts spray schedules on its website and offers a treatment notification system to advise residents of the spray schedule via text, email or telephone. In 2021, the treatment notification system will be promoted and advertised through broadcast news, print, digital, and social media. A diversified approach should identify and reach all demographic backgrounds.

Commissioner Traina-Dorge recommended informing residents without computer access through mailings or flyer distribution. Commissioner Englande suggested using the school system as a tool to connect with parents. Mrs. Bushnell addressed the concern of notifying residents without computer access and noted print and other traditional media sources may reach these residents.

Director Caillouet reviewed the margin of exposure taking into account droplet size, release height, wind speed, and application rate. New guidance recommends a lower application rate of 0.05 lbs a.i./acre at a 300' release height for Naled aerial applications, including steps to take following a spray treatment. The District currently applies Naled at a rate of 0.075 lbs a.i./acre at the recommended 300' release height. District aircraft are in the process of recalibrating to comply with new standards, in preparation for the 2021 mosquito season. This recalibration will ensure aerial applications of Naled are at safe levels.

INTEGRATED MOSQUITO MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director reported that the Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) Plan outlines best practices for nuisance reduction and mosquito-transmitted disease risk mitigation. The IMM Plan will be posted on the District's website with a link for public comment. A public notice will also be published in the St. Tammany Farmer to receive public comment on the plan. Comments will be collated and distributed to each commissioner before the March meeting.

BOARD APPROVALS

a. Travel - none

b. Contracts

1. Jet Fuel Bid

The District received one bid: Sun Coast Resources, Inc. for +\$0.4625/per gallon, plus additional components pricing. Commissioner Alfred moved to award the bid, subject to the review and approval of Director Caillouet. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

2. Ag Husky Bid

One bid was received after the deadline from Airspray Kenya Ltd. for \$104k. After consulting with Legal Counsel Abdalla and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office, the Director learned the bid could be opened and awarded if it met the minimum bid requirement of \$100k. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the bid for \$104k for the sale of the Ag Husky. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

3. Contingency Aerial Adulticide Contract

One bid was received from Vector Disease Control International for contingency aerial adulticide services at \$0.75/acre. Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the bid. Commissioner Alfred seconded the motion. Carried.

c. Director's Time Card - Chairman Stuart reviewed and approved the Director's time card for January 7-30, 2021. Commissioner Alfred moved to accept the Director's time card. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried. (Appendix 4)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed the following recent and upcoming events.

- Chemical Spill Disaster Planning
- Lease Termination Negotiations with Slidell Mayor
- Annual Staff Training Planning Meetings
- Integrated Mosquito Management Plan Meeting
- Staff Meeting Planning
- Bell Helicopter Demonstration
- Airbus Helicopter Virtual Meeting
- Helicopter Bid Process Discussion
- LMCA Annual Meeting and Spring Workshop Committee Meetings
- Manuscript Preparation Meeting

- Active Shooter Disaster Planning
- Hiring Process Review Meeting
- Virtual AMCA Annual Meeting
- March 15 Larviciders Return
- Board of Commissioners Monthly Meetings
- President's Day, Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras Holidays

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

The Director stated five WNV-infected mosquito pools returned positive out of 323 sampled this year, as compared with seven positive pools out of 4,000 in 2020. Positive pools were located in Madisonville, Folsom, Mandeville and Lacombe. One ground adulticide operation was employed to treat the zones with positive mosquito pools.

Assistant Director Smotherman reported increased mosquito activity in surveillance traps due to warmer weather. *Culex salinarius* populations dramatically increased in January, while *Culex nigripalpus* remained low. As temperatures continue to warm, *Culex quinquefasciatus* populations are expected to increase.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-DIRECTOR'S PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Commissioner Alfred moved to enter executive session at 2:00pm to discuss the Director's performance evaluation. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to close the executive session and return to the regular session at 2:20pm. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

Commissioner Alfred moved to grant the Director a five (5%) percent salary increase for 2021. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23pm on a motion by Commissioner Alfred and seconded by Commissioner Englande. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendices

1. Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Annual Compliance
4. Director's Time Card

