

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting June 16, 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 Mosquito Abatement District, 62512 Airport Road, Building 23, Slidell, Louisiana.

Present were Dr. A.J. Englande, Jr., Dr. Peter Gerone, Mr. David Stuart, Ms. Kathryn Townsend and Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, Commissioners; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Dr. Ron Francis, Advisor; and Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director. Advisor Dawn Wesson, Assistant Director Calvin Smotherman, and Accounting Manager Chad Simon joined the meeting via video conferencing. Former Commissioner Anthony Alfred was a guest at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman David Stuart opened the floor for public comment. No comment.

MINUTES (Appendix 1)

The minutes from the May 26 meeting were presented. Commissioner Englande moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES (Appendix 2)

Accounting Manager Simon presented the Treasurer's Report and summarized May disbursements, revenue, and vendor payments. Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried. The Treasurer's Report was approved in consideration of, and in accordance with, the District's strategic operational and administrative priorities plan.

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

PART-TIME SICK LEAVE

At the May meeting, part-time sick leave was postponed for the Board to consider this proposal further. The Director again sought approval of sick leave for scheduled part-time employees, at a rate of 0.0385 hours per hour worked. This benefit would not be extended to part-time employees who do not work a specific schedule, nor university students who are receiving educational credit for work. Part-time scheduled employees can accrue up to 240 hours of unused sick leave. Unused sick leave is not considered an earned wage and must either be forfeited or transferred (up to 80 hours) into the sick leave donation pool upon separation of employment. Part-time sick leave benefits would ensure workplace fairness and protect the health of all employees. Commissioner Gerone moved to approve sick leave for scheduled part-time employees. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

INVENTION UPDATE

Director Caillouet reported that the intellectual property provisional patent was approved. The full patent, prototyping, field evaluation study, and manufacturing and license are estimated to cost between \$70-\$100k. Two potential development partners have expressed considerable interest in the concept and will submit proposals by July 12. The Director suggested convening a subcommittee to review presentations by both parties and to provide a recommendation to the Board at the July meeting. The St. Tammany Parish Council will be asked to consider enacting an ordinance for this public health device, which would be available to parish residents at cost. To avoid a potential conflict of interest, the Director will request an advisory opinion from the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Commissioners Englande and Townsend, and Advisor Wesson volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

CAMPUS EXPANSION UPDATE

The Director stated that the land survey to subdivide the property was completed. The Slidell City Council will consider the lease termination and the "through the fence" agreement at its June 22 meeting. Legal Counsel Abdalla mentioned that once the Slidell Planning Commission approves the land survey, the closing to transact the land purchase will be scheduled.

BOARD APPROVALS

a. Travel - none

b. Bids - none

c. Contracts (Appendix 3, 4, 5)

1. Bell Helicopter Purchase Contract - The Director reported that the final configuration price for the Bell Helicopter purchase is \$4,002,460, with an anticipated delivery in November. Legal Counsel Abdalla is currently reviewing the contract and provided comments for Bell to address. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to approve the Bell helicopter purchase contract, contingent upon final approval of the contract by Legal Counsel Abdalla. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

2. Pontchartrain Conservancy (LPBF) Research Agreement - Director Caillouet presented an \$18k research agreement between the Pontchartrain Conservancy (LPBF) and the District. The District will serve as a research subcontractor to determine the effect of repair and remediation of onsite wastewater treatment systems on WNV vector mosquito populations in Lacombe, LA. The period of active field work will be May to September 2021 and 2022. Commissioner Englande moved to approve the Pontchartrain Conservancy Research Agreement, contingent upon legal review and approval. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

3. Unmanned Aircraft System Insurance - The Director presented the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) proposal providing \$1M liability and personal injury and \$20k physical damage, for an annual premium of \$2,067. Two District employees are licensed to operate the recently acquired drone. The UAS will apply granular and liquid larvicides and herbicides, primarily in marshes and inaccessible neighborhood ponds. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to approve the UAS insurance for \$2,067, contingent upon Legal Counsel Abdalla's review and approval. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. Carried.

d. Director's Time Card (Appendix 6)

Chairman Stuart reviewed and approved the Director's time card for May 9-June 5, 2021. Commissioner Gerone made a motion to accept the Director's time card. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. Carried.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed the following recent and upcoming events.

- Internal Invention Development Meetings
- Pontchartrain Conservancy (LPBF) Research Meeting
- Invention Development Partner Meeting-High Performance Solutions
- Invention Development Partner Meeting-Adaptation Strategies
- Invention Development Advice Meetings-ADAPCO and Frontier Precision
- June & July Staff Meetings
- June & July Board of Commissioners Meetings
- Disaster Planning Hurricane Review
- Insurance Review LLA Requirements LDCV, Gilsbar, AJG
- Slidell City Council Meeting
- Independence Day Holiday
- Emergency Relief Committee Meeting
- July 12 Proposal Deadline for Development Partners
- CDC Sewage Project Meeting

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

The Director stated five WNV-infected mosquito pools returned positive out of 2,101 (0.23%) sampled this year. No mosquito pools have returned positive since January. As temperatures continue to increase, WNV will replicate in mosquitoes at an accelerated pace.

Assistant Director Smotherman reported *Culex salinarius* remained the most abundant species. *Culex quinquefasciatus* populations dramatically increased and will soon overtake *Culex salinarius* as the primary vector. Due to adverse weather throughout the season, ground adulticide operations were cancelled 18 times and ground larviciding 11.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02pm on a motion by Commissioner Traina-Dorge. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendices

1. Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Bell Helicopter Contract
4. Pontchartrain Conservancy Agreement
5. UAV Insurance
6. Director's Time Card