

# MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

David C. Stuart, *Chairman*

Dr. Peter J. Gerone, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Dr. Andrew J. Englande, *Commissioner*

Kathryn Townsend, *Commissioner*

Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, *Commissioner*

### DIRECTOR

Dr. Kevin A. Caillouet, *Ph.D., M.S.P.H.*

## **MINUTES**

### **Board of Commissioners Meeting July 20, 2022**

#### **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, at the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, 62436 Airport Road, Slidell, LA.

Present were Dr. A.J. Englande, Jr., Dr. Peter Gerone, Mr. David Stuart, and Ms. Kathryn Townsend, Commissioners; Dr. Ron Francis, Advisor; Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director; Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director; and Mr. Chad Simon, Accounting Manager. Commissioner Vicki Traina-Dorge attended the meeting virtually. Advisor Dawn Wesson and Legal Counsel Jake Abdalla were absent.

Guests included Lab Manager/Entomologist Nick DeLisi and Field Operations Supervisor Josh Foulon. Both employees attended the meeting virtually.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

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

#### **MINUTES** (Appendix 1)

The minutes from the June 15 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Englande and seconded by Commissioner Townsend. The motion carried.

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

Accounting Manager Simon presented the Treasurer's Report and summarized June disbursements, revenue, and vendor payments.

Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. The motion carried. The Treasurer's Report was approved in consideration of, and according to, the District's strategic operational and administrative priorities plan.

Commissioner Townsend reviewed all credit card purchases for the month of June. All charge accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Chairman Stuart will verify credit card purchases before the August meeting.

Commissioner Gerone moved to accept the credit card purchase review. Commissioner Englande seconded the motion. Carried.

### **MID-YEAR REVIEW - 2022 OBJECTIVES**

Director Caillouet provided a mid-year review of 2022 operational, research and administrative goals.

### **SICK LEAVE FOR PART TIME EMPLOYEES**

The Director reported that last year the Board approved sick leave for part-time employees with defined schedules. However, this benefit was not extended to part-time employees who do not work a specific schedule. Now that night drives are scheduled, there is no longer a distinction between these two classes of employees. Director Caillouet proposed a revision to the sick leave policy to extend sick leave to all full and part-time employees. Employees accrue 0.038 hours of sick leave for each hour worked.

Commissioner Townsend moved to provide sick leave for all employees, at an accrual rate of 0.038 hours of sick leave per hour worked. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

### **MANSONIA SPP. SOURCE REDUCTION UPDATE**

Lab Manager/Entomologist Nick DeLisi reported *Mansonia* larvae attach themselves to the roots of aquatic weeds, mainly water hyacinth and water lettuce. This enables the larvae to breathe through the roots and avoid surface predators and applied larvicides.

He reviewed the initial study of a 0.3-acre pond in Mandeville completely covered with water hyacinth. To control the origin of *Mansonia* habitat, three bi-weekly herbicide treatments were applied to no more than 1/3 of the pond at one time. Lab and field personnel observed successful source reduction over the 12-week study.

Field Operations Supervisor Josh Foulon reviewed the herbiciding equipment used during this study. Water quality loggers were used before, during and after herbicide treatments to measure and monitor dissolved oxygen levels. This data prevented unfortunate consequences to fish and other non-target organisms. The three biweekly applications were administered as follows: (1) a 2-gallon hand tank, (2) an ATV with a Shurflo pump for more volume, and (3) a drone to reach inaccessible terrain. Future treatments will be applied using a skid sprayer and UTV. Eventually, an invert spray system will be fabricated.

**SEWAGE-MOSQUITO REPORT** (Appendix 3)

Director Caillouet recently published a special report on sewage-associated mosquito production. St. Tammany Parish has more than 600 miles of roadside septic ditches, so the threat to public health from partially treated sewage is significant.

Parish President Mike Cooper appointed a Wastewater Task Force to address critical environmental water concerns throughout the parish. The goal of the task force is to explore avenues for improvement in wastewater quality and to educate property owners on proper treatment system maintenance.

**RETIREMENT RESOLUTION ROB KIVIAHO** (Appendix 4)

Chairman Stuart presented a resolution honoring retiree Rob Kiviaho's 25 years of service to the District and St. Tammany Parish residents. Mr. Kiviaho began employment on March 31, 1997 and made lasting contributions serving as a field biologist, inspector and larvicider. The resolution further recognized Mr. Kiviaho's significant personal achievements and invaluable contributions.

Commissioner Englande moved to accept the resolution as presented. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

**BOARD APPROVALS**

a. Travel - None

b. Bids

1. Commercial Property Renewal (Appendix 5)

The Director presented the commercial property renewal quote of \$69,042 from Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. Legal Counsel Abdalla reviewed and approved this tentative proposal. Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien continues to pursue additional cost-efficient policies for the July 28 renewal. Director Caillouet sought Board approval for this quote, contingent upon it being the lowest available price before the renewal date.

Commissioner Townsend moved to accept the tentative proposal of \$69,042 from Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

2. Voelkel McWilliams Construction Contract

Director Caillouet stated that construction contractor Voelkel McWilliams was awarded the lowest bid of \$7.31M (\$6.493M-base bid/\$817K-alternative) at the June meeting. Legal Counsel Abdalla reviewed and approved the construction contract. The Director sought Board approval for the contract.

Commissioner Englande moved to accept Voelkel McWilliams construction contract for the campus expansion. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

c. Director's Time Card, Leave and Travel - June 4-July 16 (Appendix 6)

Chairman Stuart reviewed the Director's time card, leave and travel for June 4-July 16.

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the Director's time card, leave and travel. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

The Director reviewed recent operational highlights and upcoming events.

- Cub Scout Day Camp Bug Hunt
- Juneteenth Holiday
- Q2 Report Planning, Layout Meeting
- Assistant Field Supervisor Interviews
- LMCA Annual Meeting Planning
- Clarke Mosquito Control and Central Life Sciences Visits
- RADsource SIT Visit
- Louisiana Workers Compensation Visit
- MSH Architects Meeting
- CDC Analysis Meetings
- Tangipahoa MAD Risk Mapping Meeting
- AMCA Researcher Fund Reviewers Meeting
- Emergency Relief Committee Meeting
- Pilot Hearing Coordinating Meeting
- Pilot Interviews
- RFP Finalized for Treatment Tracking Software
- Office Manager Position Planning
- Board of Commissioners' Meetings
- Staff Meetings

### **MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT**

Director Caillouet reported 44 mosquito pools (1.73%) returned positive for West Nile virus, out of 2,547 tested by the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) at LSU. West Nile virus has more than doubled, as compared with 17 positive mosquito pools for 2021. Thirty of the 44 positive pools were detected in *Culex quinquefasciatus*, 11 in *Cx. salinarius*, and one WNV positive pool in *Aedes albopictus*, *Ae. vexans*, and *Cx. nigripalpus*.

Assistant Director Smotherman reviewed the top five mosquito species for June. The most abundant species were *Cx. salinarius*, *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, *Cx. erraticus*, *Coquillettidia perturbans*, and *Ae. vexans*. Arbovirus trap collections of *Cx. quinquefasciatus* dramatically increased, as temperatures continued to rise. Ground adulticide treatments were comparable with 2021. The current tracking system is unable to record granular applications, so a RFP will be issued for an updated spray tracking system.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:21pm on a motion by Commissioner Englande and seconded by Commissioner Gerone. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Gerone  
Secretary

Appendices

1. Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Sewage-Mosquito Report
4. Retirement Resolution
5. Commercial Property Renewal
6. Director's Time Card

