

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting August 17, 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, Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, and Ms. Kathryn Townsend, Commissioners; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Dr. Ron Francis, Advisor; Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director; Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director; and Mr. Chad Simon, Accounting Manager. Advisor Dawn Wesson was absent.

Guests included Mr. Jim Tonglet, Ericksen Krentel and Mr. John Case, Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien. Virtual guests from Adaptation Strategies included Chief Executive Grasshopper Mendoza, Chief Scientist Andrea Calvin, Chief Visionary Officer Steve Picou, and Environmental Water Quality Scientist William Pestoff.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

MINUTES (Appendix 1)

The minutes from the July 20 meeting were presented. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Traina-Dorge and seconded by Commissioner Englande. Carried.

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

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

Commissioner Townsend 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.

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

Commissioner Traina-Dorge made a motion to accept the credit card purchase review. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. Carried.

AUDIT EXIT CONFERENCE - JIM TONGLET, ERICKSEN KRENTEL (Appendix 3)

CPA Jim Tonglet, Ericksen Krentel LLC, presented the 2021 audit exit conference. The agency received a clean audit opinion, with no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control and no instances of noncompliance materials or findings related to the financial statements.

One Louisiana Legislative Auditor best practices finding was noted as follows: written budgeting policies and procedures did not address "monitoring and amending" the budget during the period January 1-July 31, 2021. The written policies for budgeting were amended to include "monitoring and amending" the budget; therefore, no management corrective action plan was deemed necessary.

Commissioner Englande moved to accept the audit report for the year ending December 31, 2021. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY INSURANCE - JOHN CASE, LDCV

John Case of Lowry-Dunham, Case & Vivien presented an overview of the current commercial property insurance market. Commercial property rates have increased substantially due to worldwide disasters. To maintain the current limits of coverage, the policy was split between two companies: Kinsale Insurance (primary) and Gotham Insurance (excess). Mr. Case also noted that the administrative building is underinsured for the actual square footage and replacement cost value. Discussion followed.

PLAN FOR SELF-INSURANCE

Considering the significant commercial property insurance increase, a subcommittee comprising Chairman Stuart, Legal Counsel Abdalla, and the Director was formed to evaluate existing and future insurance needs. Director Caillouet proposed amending the assigned \$3M mosquito-borne outbreak and disaster contingency fund to include self-insurance.

MIDYEAR BUDGET REVIEW (Appendix 4)

Accounting Manager Simon reviewed the midyear budget analysis and the proposed amended budget for 2022. He reported the delayed delivery of the Bell Helicopter, increased campus expansion costs, and elevated fuel expenses negatively impacted the budget. The amended budget will be brought before the Board at the September 21 meeting for approval. A public hearing will be held at 12:45pm to receive public comment on the amended budget, before the 1:00pm regular meeting.

LiDAR PROJECT

Director Caillouet stated a request for proposals was issued for the upcoming LiDAR project, which will be used to predict mosquito larval habitats. Sole source proprietor Geiger-mode LiDAR allows large array collection from multiple angles and a high sample rate of 204 million samples per second. Geiger-mode LiDAR also provides numerous angles and images underneath tree canopy cover. The cost for Geiger-mode LiDAR is approximately \$85k to image the parish. The cost could be reduced by half, if previously imaged data is available. A full proposal and contract for Geiger-mode LiDAR will be presented at the September meeting.

SEWAGE MONITOR DEVELOPMENT - ADAPTATION STRATEGIES, LLC

Director Caillouet reviewed the upcoming two phases of the sewage monitor development. Phase 1-build prototypes for field testing and Phase 2-evaluate mosquito production impact, downstream water quality and survey homeowners.

The Director has consulted with Adaptation Strategies, a Louisiana-based company focused on water quality and integrated water management. Chief Executive Grasshopper Mendoza brings a decade of integrated water management advocacy to this team. One of their primary issues is wastewater. Chief Scientist Andrea Calvin spent two decades directing the water quality program for the Pontchartrain Conservancy. Environmental Water Quality Scientist Will Pestoff is a certified wastewater operator and former Pontchartrain Conservancy employee. Chief Visionary Officer Steve Picou possesses well-rounded expertise in small wastewater sectors. The Adaptation Strategies team is very passionate about the sewage monitor development project and understands the importance of marketing this device.

Director Caillouet will present a scope of work at the September Board meeting for a consultation contract with Adaptation Strategies.

CAMPUS EXPANSION

Director Caillouet reported that campus expansion construction begins next week. The estimated completion of the new building is October 2023. Renovation of the existing facility should be finished by April 2024.

SALE OF 1985 FUEL TRUCK

Director Caillouet sought a resolution to publish a public notice to accept bids for the sale of the 1985 fuel truck, which is beyond economic repair. The suggested minimum bid price is \$1,000. Bids would be opened at the September 21 meeting.

Commissioner Townsend moved to accept bids for the sale of the 1985 fuel truck, at a minimum bid of \$1,000. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

BOARD APPROVALS

a. Travel - None

b. Bids

c. Contracts - Commercial Property Insurance Renewal

The Director requested retroactive approval of the commercial property insurance renewal totaling \$95,256.23. Kinsale Insurance provided the primary policy at \$68,519.48 and Gotham Insurance the excess coverage for \$26,736.75. Commissioners had previously approved an estimate for the commercial property insurance premium at the July 17, 2022 meeting, but the premium had since increased.

Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the commercial property renewal at a cost of \$95,256.23. Commissioner Townsend seconded the motion. Carried.

d. Director's Time Card, Leave and Travel - June 4-July 16 (Appendix 5)

Chairman Stuart reviewed the Director's time card, leave and travel for July 17-August 13.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed recent operational highlights and upcoming events.

- Pilot Position Interviews
- Office Manager Hiring Meetings
- Central Life Sciences Visit
- Councilman David Fitzgerald Visit
- Councilwoman Maureen O'Brien Meeting
- Field Biologist Rob Kiviaho's Retirement
- Employee Satisfaction Survey Launched
- Waste Water Task Force Meeting #3
- Geiger-mode LiDAR Vendor Meeting
- Wastewater Grant Meeting
- Hyacinth Remote Sensing Vendor Meetings
- Pilot Patrick Riley Began Full Time Employment
- CDC/Tarleton State University Visitor
- Field Operations and Lab Planning for 2023
- Vendor Presentation - Management of Aquatic Plants
- Departmental 2023 Budget Discussions
- Board of Commissioners - Monthly Meetings
- Monthly Staff Meetings

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Director Caillouet reported 67 mosquito pools (2.3%) returned positive for West Nile virus, out of 2,962 tested by the Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (LADDL) at LSU. The Louisiana Department of Health also reported two human cases of WNV. Forty-three of the 67 positive pools were detected in *Culex quinquefasciatus*, 15 in *Cx. salinarius*, four in *Cx. nigripalpus*, three in *Cx. erraticus*, and one in *Aedes albopictus* and *Ae. vexans*.

Assistant Director Smotherman reviewed the top five mosquito species for July. *Cx. salinarius* abruptly increased as a result of freshwater produced by daily storms, followed by *Cx. quinquefasciatus*, *Cx. nigripalpus*, *Cx. erraticus*, and *Mansonia* spp. Ground adulticide and larvicide treatments were comparable with 2021.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42pm on a motion by Commissioner Traina-Dorge and seconded by Commissioner Gerone. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendices

1. Minutes
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Ericksen Krentel Audit
4. Mid-Year Budget Review/Amended Budget
5. Director's Time Card