

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

May 17, 2023

OPEN

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 1:02 p.m. 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, Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, Ms. Kathryn Townsend and Mr. David Stuart, Commissioners; Mr. Jake Abdalla, Legal Counsel; Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Director; Mr. Calvin Smotherman, Assistant Director; Mr. Chad Simon, Accounting Manager; Mr. Paul Spadoni, Aerial Supervisor; and Mrs. Sarah Malasovich, Office Manager. Advisor Dr. Dawn Wesson joined the meeting remotely.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

MINUTES

The minutes from the April 19 meeting were presented. Commissioner Englande noted that the minutes did not include discussion regarding the helicopter and malfunctions with its tank system, which will be added. The Board will table the review of the April minutes until the June 15 meeting. Additionally, the board requested to add New Business and Old Business to future agendas to create a holding place for action items. Chairman Stuart called for a motion to table the minutes approval. Commissioner Englande so moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerone, and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

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

Chairman Stuart called for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Commissioner Traina-Dorge so moved. Commissioner Townsend seconded 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 April. All charge accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Commissioner Englande will verify credit card purchases before the June meeting.

Commissioner Gerone moved to approve the credit card purchases review as presented, seconded by Commissioner Traina-Dorge. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON 2023 MILLAGE ADOPTION

There were no members of the public present.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2023 MILLAGE

Chairman Stuart read a resolution to adopt the 2023 millage at the rate of 3.35 mils. A vote followed as recorded here: Chairman Stuart: aye ; Commissioner Gerone: aye ; Commissioner Traina-Dorge: aye ; Commissioner Englande: aye ; Commissioner Townsend: aye. The Resolution passed unanimously.

ASSIGNED FUNDS PLAN

The LLA Best Practices disclosed that Unassigned Funds are less desirable than maintaining contingency funds in Assigned Funds accounts. The District prepared some scenarios to determine an appropriate amount to maintain. Noting that these scenarios are examples and suggestions, they do not represent a full plan or budget in case of such emergency situations. The District recommends a combined \$3.4 million assigned funds plan, divided over capital assets assigned funds, equipment maintenance or replacement assigned funds, and event-based contingency assigned funds for 2023 with the intention to review annually. Chairman Stuart requested a motion to approve the plan. So moved by Commissioner Gerone, seconded by Commissioner Englande, and passed unanimously.

AERIAL PROGRAM REVIEW

Aerial Supervisor Paul Spadoni began by introducing the Aerial Team. The Bell helicopter began aerial missions in May, 2023. Mr. Spadoni reviewed a timeline of the challenges encountered since the purchase and receipt of the helicopter. Due to license and hours at command requirements, the pilot was fully licensed and able to perform flights in July 2022, but the helicopter was not operational due to inspections and parts that needed to be replaced. Additionally, the spray system that was designed for the helicopter did not operate correctly. The forecast for the upcoming year is positive, but the district is purchasing back-up parts to help ensure continuous operation going forward as much as possible. The Dibrom product used for adulticide purposes is very corrosive and may cause damage to the aircraft should it leak from the tank. The District has switched to using Imperium, which is a water-based product and is both less corrosive and easier to remove from the aircraft.

Mr. Spadoni then reviewed the challenges faced since November for the Twin Otter aircraft. During inspection it was identified that the landing gear needed to be replaced, which has been completed. Pilot Hollis will complete required hours in the air frame and the District will then be able to continue with calibration and droplet testing, while applying for and receiving the Congested Area Plan in the near future. Following that receipt, the Otter should be operating aerial missions as needed.

Treatment plans are determined by Field Operations Supervisor Josh Foulon, based on whether the area is larger, more contiguous, etc., than the truck missions can treat.

CAMPUS EXPANSION

Director Caillouet updated the Board on the construction of the new building, noting that a tour is planned for later in the meeting. There have been no additional budget updates or disbursements. Completion timeline is estimated to be the end of September or October.

BOARD APPROVALS

- a. Travel – none

b. Contracts

1. Pilot Contract – GR Consulting LLC

Director Caillouet requested approval of the contract, noting that it is the same as a previous contract, just with an LLC instead of an individual.

2. Modeling and Statistical Analysis – M Consulting LLC

Director Caillouet requested approval of the contract, noting that it is the same as a previous contract, just with an LLC instead of an individual.

3. Senecio Mosquito Identification

Director Caillouet requested approval of an updated contract for Senecio, updating the timeline and improved terms for the (same) \$60,000 contract. The District has not yet paid anything towards the previously existing contract. Commissioner Stuart called for a motion to approve this contract, subject to legal review. The motion was so moved by Commissioner Traina-Dorge, seconded by Commissioner Gerone, and passed unanimously.

Chairman Stuart called for motion to approve replacement contracts for the contract pilot and statistical analyst. Commissioner Englands so moved, seconded by Commissioner Traina-Dorge, and passed unanimously.

c. Bids – none

d. Director's Time Card, Leave and Travel (April 16 – May 13, 2023) (Appendix 10)

Chairman Stuart reviewed the Director's time card, leave and travel for April 16 through May 13. Chairman Stuart called for a motion to approve the Director's time card, leave and travel. Commissioner Gerone so moved. Commissioner Traina-Dorge seconded the motion. Carried.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Director reviewed recent operational highlights and upcoming events:

- STPMAD Board of Commissioners Meetings
- DWTF Education and Outreach Committee and other Meetings
- AMCA Legislative Lobby Meetings
- ULL mosquitofish toxicity research planning
- Kiisa Leadership training
- STPMAD Crawfish Boil
- Lab Meetings at USDA Gainesville, FL
- LMCA Annual Meeting Planning
- OWTS Inspection Ordinance Planning
- STPMAD Staff Meetings
- Construction Meetings
- Millage Renewal Planning Meetings

- Senecio Mosquito ID Meeting
- Paylocity Service Meeting
- Mosquito habitat predictive modeling
- Memorial Day and Juneteenth Holidays

NEW FACILITY CONSTRUCTION TOUR

The board and advisors toured the new facility construction site earlier in the meeting. The Board departed to tour the new facility at 2:05 p.m., then returned from the tour at 2:27 p.m.

MOSQUITO CONTROL REPORT

Assistant Director Smotherman shared the monthly mosquito control report. There are still no arbovirus activity to report. *Culex salinarius* remained the top species collected by a significant margin. *Culex quinquefasciatus* counts are increasing. Director Caillouet mentioned that the adjustment to the IMM plan may have altered the counts to some extent. Ground adulticide missions have continued with approx. 80,000 acres treated. Approximately 1,200 miles were treated in larvicide missions.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Traina-Dorge. Commissioner Gerone seconded the motion. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peter J. Gerone" followed by a small, stylized mark that appears to be "KAC".

Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary