

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

MINUTES

Board of Commissioners Meeting

June 21, 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. Nick DeLisi, Entomologist and Lab Supervisor; and Mrs. Sarah Malasovich, Office Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

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

BOARD APPROVALS

1. Minutes_(Appendix 1,2) - the amended minutes from the April 19 meeting were presented. Chairman Stuart called for a motion to approve those minutes. Commissioner Englande so moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerone, and carried. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to accept the May 17 minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, and carried.
2. Credit Card Purchases – Commissioner Englande reviewed all credit card purchases for the month of May. All charge accounts were found reasonable, accurate and consistent with District purchasing policies. Commissioner Traina-Dorge moved to approve the credit card purchases review as presented, seconded by Commissioner Townsend. Carried. Commissioner Traina-Dorge will verify credit card purchases before the July meeting.
3. Travel – none
4. Director's Time Card and Leave (May 14-June 17)_(Appendix 3) - Chairman Stuart reviewed the Director's time card and leave for May 14 through June 17. Chairman Stuart called for a motion to approve the Director's time card. Commissioner Gerone so moved, seconded by Commissioner Englande, and carried.
5. Bids – none
6. Contracts
 - A. Unmanned Aircraft Liability Renewal_(Appendix 4): Director Caillouet requested approval of the insurance policy renewal, noting that the annual premium increased by \$975.
 - B. Official Journal_(Appendix 5): Director Caillouet requested approval to renew the contract with St. Tammany Farmer/The Advocate, at the same rates as before (\$4.62 per column inch). The Board selected the St. Tammany Farmer/The Advocate as the Official Journal of the District for July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2022.

- C. AGS GPS Agreement^(Appendix 6): Director Caillouet requested approval of this agreement for using a demo unit from the provider at no cost, but binding the District for any damages that the District may cause.

Chairman Stuart called for motion to approve all three contracts, noting the renewals have been reviewed by Legal Counsel without objection. The motion to approve the AGS GPS contract is subject to legal approval. Commissioner Gerone so moved, seconded by Commissioner Englande, carried.

7. Professional Development Invoice^(Appendix 7) – Director Caillouet applied and was accepted into Leadership St. Tammany, and requested the Board’s approval of the \$1,150 expenditure for this program (plus \$100 that is paid personally by participants). A motion to approve this expense was made by Commissioner Traina-Dorge, seconded by Commissioner Townsend, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Campus Expansion Update: Director Caillouet updated the Board on the construction of the new building, describing a potential delay due to availability of the electrical panel needed, which has a 200-day delivery window, but was ordered approximately eight months ago. Additional options are being explored.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Treasurer’s Report^(Appendix 8) - Accounting Manager Simon presented the Treasurer’s Report and summarized May disbursements, revenue, and vendor payments and reviewed the balances of the accounts. Commissioner Stuart called for a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Commissioner Townsend so moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerone, and carried.
2. Insecticide Efficacy Report – Lab Manager Nick DeLisi explained insecticide resistance in mosquito populations, explaining the need to test for this to ensure efficacy of treatment products. Studies were conducted on species *Culex quinquefasciatus* in the field. Tests demonstrated that 2022 field results indicated no reduction in abundance, but did indicate a decrease in the age of mosquitoes in areas that were treated by truck with deltamethrin and by air with naled, but not with resmethrin, treated by truck. The hypothesis is that the lowered age was due to older mosquitoes being killed by treatment, and younger mosquitos hatching overnight. Lab testing produced aligned results indicating a decrease in efficacy of resmethrin. The District will utilize remaining resmethrin for other species control and outside of peak mosquito season, and will apply malathion and deltamethrin by ground, and naled and deltamethrin by air to improve efficacy of operations. Commissioner Englande asked if the new facility will help with these studies. Mr. DeLisi confirmed that it will because the new insectary will accommodate more population and there will be more room for lab operations. Mr. DeLisi confirmed that the District is currently well staffed for the operations. Finally, Mr. DeLisi discussed visiting Gainesville with some lab staff members to observe genetic testing underway at that location, which the District will be able to do with the new facility. Specifically, genetic testing for *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* will provide rapid results and will lead to further resistance studies, as described by Mr. DeLisi, which may include numerous genetic modifications testing that could combat resistance in the future. Mr. DeLisi noted that this is not likely to be tenable in St. Tammany in the next several years. Director Caillouet informed the board that Mr. Delisi’s lab team has written a paper on this resistance study with the intent of publication in a scientific journal in the near future.

3. Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Inspections – Director Caillouet described the estimates of numbers of OWTS in the parish. This number was determined by identifying parcels of land in the parish that have at least one building and are not included in municipal sewage systems. The estimate is 42,675 OWTS in the parish. A study was performed on ditches with municipal sewage, ditches with OWTS and boat launches into waterways. On average those at OWTS have an average of 500 times the EPA-identified safe contact fecal coliform counts. The Parish Wastewater Task Force has proposed an ordinance requiring OWTS inspections every three years. If the OWTS does not discharge into surface the property owner would be exempt. Commissioner Traina-Dorge asked how the population would be educated of this program. Director Caillouet said the educational process would be included in the inspection component of this program. Commissioner Englande asked if the State Health Inspector should have responsibility for this program, as it currently does not. Director Caillouet reiterated that, currently, responsibility for OWTS maintenance is wholly on the property owner. He mentioned that changes to the state sanitary code might impact OWTS maintenance favorably. Currently, real estate transfers of property include an inspection of OWTS for clearance for electrical installation. Additionally, the parish is identifying potential funding sources for low-income homeowners for the inspections and/or modifications that are required following the inspections. This program will reduce the mosquito habitat, but not likely in a linear or predictable amount. A proposal has been made to try to provide the initial three year program at no cost to the homeowners, including a potential partial funding source from the District. The Board discussed whether this kind of funding would be within the District's purview.

Chairman Stuart asked for an update on the ULL Mosquitofish program. Director Caillouet updated that the ULL researchers came two weeks ago to collect fish and have begun to work on testing their survival and efficacy.

4. Hurricane Preparedness Plan (Appendix 9) – Director Caillouet reviewed the District's Hurricane Preparedness Plan, summarizing preparedness documentation, the review at the District's staff meeting, and the District's Hurricane Policy. The Hurricane Policy has been updated for 2023 to increase the requirements for the District to evacuate the aircraft, since there have not been damages to the aircraft locations based on the previous requirements. Commissioner Townsend detailed what her previous employer implemented on their preparedness plan, including confirming contact information and evacuation assistance plans. Assistant Director Smotherman confirmed that staffing was the biggest challenge following Hurricane Katrina as there was a labor shortage. Gasoline fuel availability is also a concern. Commissioner Traina-Dorge suggested having employees contact their supervisor, etc., following their arrival to their contact location. Additionally, having secondary contacts for each employee can ensure that everyone is safely reached, and creating a database of information prior to each event was suggested.
5. Calendar of Events – The Director reviewed recent operational highlights and upcoming events:
- STPMAD Board of Commissioners Meetings
 - Construction Meetings
 - DWTF Meeting
 - Mosquito Habitat Predictive Modeling
 - Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and Independence Day Holidays
 - Administrative Policy Manual Update Meetings
 - Paylocity Onboarding and Performance Review Evaluation Meetings
 - LMCA Annual Meeting Planning

- ULL Mosquitofish Research Collection
- STPMAD Staff Meetings
- IVLP Site Visit
- Adaptation Strategies Meeting
- Tammany Tech Interview
- Clarke Mosquito Control and Central Life Sciences Meetings
- Piloting of Mapping CPQ Hotspots
- CPR/AED Training
- GIS District Meeting

6. Mosquito Control Report - Assistant Director Smotherman shared the monthly mosquito control report. There remain no arbovirus data to report in St. Tammany Parish. *Culex salinarius* remained the top species but their numbers are decreasing. *Culex quinquefasciatus* counts are increasing but have experienced some declines, likely due to summer rainfall. *Culex nigripalpus* are beginning to increase as well. Ground adulticide missions have continued with approx. 100,000 acres treated. Approximately 1,800 miles were treated in larvicide missions. There have been a number of helicopter missions, covering more rural areas that do not have as much road network truck availability. Director Caillouet discussed a computerized system to assist with the decision-making for where to treat mosquito populations as well as determining truck v. airplane v. helicopter missions. Assistant Director Smotherman mentioned that the helicopter just underwent an annual inspection which will be administered in the winter going forward to increase its availability in the peak season.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Peter J. Gerone
Secretary

Appendix 1 – April 19, 2023 Minutes

Appendix 2 – May 17, 2023 Minutes

Appendix 3 – Director's Time Card May 14 – June 17

Appendix 4 – Unmanned Aircraft Liability Insurance Renewal

Appendix 5 – Official Journal Renewal

Appendix 6 – AGS GPS Agreement

Appendix 7 – Professional Development Invoice

Appendix 8 – Treasurer's Report

Appendix 9 – Hurricane Preparedness Policy