

# MOSQUITO ABATEMENT

## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

### MINUTES

#### Board of Commissioners Meeting September 3, 2025

#### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners, St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, was called to order at 2:13 p.m. by Chairperson Vicki Traina-Dorge, at the St. Tammany Parish Mosquito Abatement District, 62436 Airport Road, Slidell, LA.

Present was a quorum consisting of Dr. Vicki Traina-Dorge, Ms. Terri Lewis Stephens, Mrs. Kathryn Tonwsend, and Mr. Glen Boyer, Commissioners. District employees present were Dr. Kevin Caillouet, Executive Director; Jennifer Bushnell, PIO; Chad Simon, Finance Director; and Sarah Malasovich, HR and Office Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENT – No other members of the public were present.

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL'S TRANSPARENCY & RESOURCE ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITTEE (TRAC) - Executive Director Caillouet updated the board on the most recent actions related to the TRAC program including publications in local newspapers. A public records request has been requested by the Advocate for the letter to the Disciplinary Board of the Bar Association, which will be fulfilled this week. An additional statement and press release have been prepared to respond to the recent public commentary and the board was asked to review these documents to recommend a response. Discussion about the draft responses ensued with recommendations of edits. Finally PIO Jennifer Bushnell notified the board that LMCA/AMCA member from Baton Rouge Kristen Healy was contacted by Tommie Galloway, Joe Impastato and Mary Burckell from St. Tammany Parish, and will continue to communicate with these requestors. Chairperson Traina-Dorge stated that any continued investigation is outside of the Home Rule Charter. Commissioner Townsend expressed concern about the appointments of the Board Commissioners by the Parish Council. Additional discussion ensued. Executive Director Caillouet reminded the board of the timeline of upcoming deadlines including getting onto the ballot at the October 2 Council meeting. Commissioner Townsend suggested that Leadership and other programs provide opportunities for continued education.

SETTING MILLAGE RATE FOR 2026 ELECTION – Executive Director Caillouet reviewed the growth rate as presented by the Parish Assessor and historical data, as well as future plans for service and capital expansions to allow additional control of mosquitoes and their habitats. When discussing the services that could be provided in the future, including habitat/vegetation remediation, fee-for-service, grant funding and other options were discussed. Commissioner Stevens suggested the district has the potential to expand to include other species including, under the current charter, “other biting arthropods” or expanding the charter to include rodents etc.

2026 MILLAGE RENEWAL PLAN – Executive Director Caillouet reviewed a plan prepared that shows the internal and external factors influencing the planning for the future Millage rate. The District is preparing the 2026 budget including a one time cut back of 5% overall. Commissioner Townsend asked to confirm that there will not be personnel cuts, and Executive Director Caillouet confirmed that. Commissioner Boyer discussed the growth experienced in the parish over the last several years, confirming that it is very high. The District noted that the recommended growth rate has been much smaller than the actuals and recommended utilizing actuals for the planning determinations. Commissioner Stevens mentioned that the District was approved at 4.2 Mills in 2016 and that a reduction of at least a Mill (down to 3.2 Mills) would be needed to be well received. Executive Director Caillouet presented four scenarios to recommend the rates to request. Discussion

about each scenario ensued. Commissioner Townsend recommended 2.9 Mills. Commissioner Stevens suggested 2.99 Mills. Commissioner Traina-Dorge recommended 3.0 Mills. Commissioner Stevens mentioned that there are three voting opportunities in 2026 that can be undergone. Commissioner Townsend stated that rolling the millage to below 3.0 Mills shows the District's and its board's intent to support the parish while funding operations at the District. Commissioner Stevens reminded the board that this is a public health initiative. Chairperson Traina-Dorge reviewed "revenue-neutrality" and how this concept is not possible within the current structure since it would not allow for growth of expenses. Executive Director Caillouet reminded the board that this process was to allow the taxpayers to have room to pay a new millage to support the District Attorney's functionality. Commissioner Boyer suggested that the voters could make that choice at the time of the first election. Commissioner Stevens agreed, stating that the clients of mosquito abatement are the residents, not the council. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to propose 2.99 Mills. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boyer, and carried with the following vote: Commissioner Stevens – aye; Commissioner Boyer – aye; Commissioner Traina-Dorge – aye; and Commissioner Townsend - Nay.

**2026 MILLAGE RENEWAL PLAN** – PIO Jennifer Bushnell discussed a communications plan prepared to support the District through the millage process. The plan included hiring a campaign consultant, and utilizing tools such as voter contact tracking apps, voter databases, social media interaction, speaking engagements and advertisements. Ms. Bushnell recommended utilizing Sam Caruso for this resource, who consulted with the St. Tammany Library for their last renewal election. Ms. Bushnell described the process and the timeline under which the District would operate to accomplish the widest campaign success. Executive Director Caillouet stated that the proposal would be presented at the next board meeting for the board's review and approval. Commissioner Stevens suggested adding a line item for millage and other advertising expenditures.

**CESSATION OF PAYMENT TO DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE** – Executive Director shared that some research has indicated that there are legal restrictions to pay the \$500 stipend to the District Attorney's office for representation. Six years ago, the District requested information from the DA about this process and whether this is the correct amount to pay. There is further information that the DA may not be the mandated legal representative for the District but by collecting the compensation that was provided monthly, an implicit contract occurred. Further, the District Attorney has represented to the District that they are the only authorized legal counsel for the District. The District recommends discontinuing this monthly payment.

**ADJOURN** – In final, the board agreed to edit the draft communication(s) in response to the article posited by the journalist Willie Swett with the New Orleans Advocate, along with the response to the Public Records Request. A motion to adjourn at 3:50 p.m. was made by Commissioner Boyer, seconded by Commissioner Townsend and carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Townsend  
Vice Chairperson