

**Minutes of Board Meeting**  
Pasco County Mosquito Control District  
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556  
April 9, 2024

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on April 9, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Those present from the District were Chairperson Evans, Treasurer Cox, Secretary Abbott, Executive Director Rogers, Nick McFaul, Michele Donagrandi, Edwin Martinez, Jose Freundt, Karen Mojica, Agne Prasauskas, Vinny Dourado, and Maria Johnson, all representing PCMCD. Lina Castro and Andrew Pupke from InVision Advisors were also present.

**Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Cox motioned to approve the Agenda; all approved.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Commissioner Cox motioned to approve the consent agenda; all approved.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Joiner:

Mr. Joiner shared that he received dozens of phone calls, saying "Thank You for spraying their neighborhood for the second time, in three years." Also, he stated that yesterday when he came to the District office to pick up the public records he requested, they were incomplete. Per Mr. Joiner, the records did not show the insurance or the salaries. Mr. Joiner stated, "these are expenses for the month that he wanted to compare everything to the budget."

**New Business:**

Quarterly All-Star Award Presentation: Chairperson Evans stated this new All-Star Award will be given Quarterly to a Pasco County Mosquito Control District employee. Mr. Vinny Dourado was awarded the very first All-Star Award! Commissioner Evans shared that this award is to celebrate his achievements, to acknowledge his hard work, dedication, and team values to PCMCD. Mr. Dourado expressed he was honored, overwhelmed, and never expected to win the award for merely doing the job he is supposed to do. Commissioner Cox, Commissioner Abbott, and Director Rogers also expressed their many thanks to Mr. Dourado as well.

**Unfinished Business:**

Commissioner Abbott asked about OPEB Liability Insurance. Executive Director Rogers responded and answered further questions from Commissioner Abbott.

**General Information:**

- A. Campus Update: Lina Castro, with InVision Advisors presented an update on the campus design. The bid for the roadway improvements, offsite utilities, and lift station was published and completed this past month as was the bid opening forum. Two bids were received, and the review committee had questions that would need to be answered prior to making a selection. The site permit submission is still in-process and Spring Engineering, Inc. has been communicating with the various review departments at the County, responding to questions as they arise. There was further discussion on additional geotechnical work that is still required. The audio visual, security, access control, furniture, automatic fuel management systems, RFQs are ready to be presented to Executive Director Rogers for review. Further discussion ensued.
- B. Director's Report and District Operations: Executive Director Rogers addressed the comment from Mr. Joiner earlier during public comment. She asked that the record reflect that if Mr. Joiner requests public records, he needs to be specific on the records he is requesting. She then stated the records that Mr. Joiner requested are the exact records that were provided to him. If he wishes to seek additional information, the Executive Director again asked that he be specific on what information he is seeking. Director Rogers also shared the history and timeline



of events for the relocation of the PCMCD campus. Rogers stated that Mr. Joiner, as former Commissioner of 16 years with the Pasco County Mosquito Control District, was the one who came up with the idea to relocate the PCMCD campus as he stated during the March board meeting in 2020. She also noted Mr. Joiner made no suggestion in staying at the current location, nor building a satellite office out East. Director Rogers also clarified that Mr. Joiner brought a realtor friend to that board meeting asking the board to hiring that individual to help PCMCD find property located in the Gowers Corner area, to be more centrally located in the County. Commissioner Abbott reiterated the new campus was not influenced by any employee's home location, but that it was all 3 Board members at the time who agreed to it. He stated he thinks it's a great location. Director Rogers responded by stating the new location will continue to provide our rapid, quality, customer service that most of the County has seen from PCMCD. She also stated the new location will help us provide more coverage out East and better service to all of Pasco County in its entirety. Commissioner Evans stated that he agreed wholeheartedly, stating that the campus now is on a postage stamp property and the County is growing exponentially. He continued to state that he was at the Founders Day parade, and he heard from many citizens that they appreciate the PCMCD. Commissioner Evans also said the campus buildout was absolutely necessary to meet the needs of the rapidly growing County. Executive Director Rogers then commented on some of the questions that had previously come from individuals in the room, specifically addressing those regarding the helicopters now in use at the District. She stated, "it is 100% irrelevant on the number of seats in the helicopter, as the purpose of the helicopters is for utility, carrying capacity and payload, not seatbelts." She further stated that the Airbus H125 helicopter (those the District owns) is very well known in the aviation industry for being a utility ship and one to be built as a workhorse and not for luxury or passenger transport. The Pasco County Mosquito Control District is not the first mosquito control district to purchase the same H125 helicopters. The Florida Keys Mosquito Control, Lee County Mosquito Control, Brevard Mosquito Control, Charlotte County, Pinellas County Mosquito Control, and East Flagler Mosquito Control each have either one or numerous H125's in their fleet. Director Rogers wanted to also reflect on the record, that the Commissioners on the Board at the time of purchasing the 2 H125 helicopters included Mr. Joiner. In fact, it was Mr. Joiner who signed the lease-purchase agreement for the helicopters. Commissioner Abbott reiterated that it was a great decision to purchase the helicopters, "in fact one of the best decisions in the history of our Aviation program." Commissioner Evans also reflected that these helicopters replaced the older fleet that "belonged in the Smithsonian," as it was a public and employee safety issue and that the District is no longer having to pay for the hangars that stored the fixed wing aircraft. Commissioner Cox shared that he wasn't on the Board when it was decided to buy the helicopters but that the Board made the right decision at that time and the reason why PCMCD needs the helicopters is the demographics in Pasco County. He also stated that when more people move into the County, that increases the demand for treatment. He also stated that when Pasco County is completely developed, there will still be a minimum of 30% of land mass of Pasco County that is undeveloped. The only way to effectively treat those areas is with helicopters. Commissioner Cox said the District needs to continue to be supportive and anyone that does not believe this is not looking long-term and is basically trying to make a campaign issue out of that. Director Rogers continued to share her Director's report by stating the PCMCD has been ramping up surveillance and control efforts over the last month as the sentinel chickens are now back out in the field for weekly mosquito-borne disease monitoring and the ULV trucks are up to full capacity now. She also continued by stating we are identifying additional UAS/Drone treatment sites. This has been an effective additional tool used, especially in the communities where there is a very small preserve or conservation areas completely surrounded by homes in a dense neighborhood. Additionally, the PCMCD hosted the annual FDACS Regional Roundtable workshop for the first-time last month. The programs represented were the highest number of programs that attended and PCMCD is proud to have hosted this very successful and productive workshop.

- C. Community Outreach: Ms. Johnson provided an update on community engagement and outreach activities.
- D. Safety Report: Nick McFaul stated PCMCD completed two of our bigger annual training sessions, Spill Response workshop and Annual Label Safety Training, and In-House Safety review. This goes over all the vehicles, chemicals, and new processes that we will take into the season. Mr. McFaul also shared that our second pilot will be attending Airbus Factory Training in Texas. He also stated we are almost done with ATV/UTV training, partnering with Code Enforcement. Annual helicopter calibrations were performed, and Mr. McFaul stated we are set for the season. Lastly, he stated no injuries reported this month.

E. Arbovirus Report: Agne Prasauskas provided an update on the arboviral activity throughout the state and within Pasco County.

**Good of the Order:**

Commissioner Cox shared that he attended the last PCMCD Open House and wanted to thank Cathy Julian for attending and taking the time to be there. She remarked "It was very informative." Commissioner Evans shared he was at the Chasco parade and thought PCMCD did a phenomenal job being in the parade. Commissioner Abbott asked a question to InVision Advisors regarding the incinerator and use of the byproduct in the campus design. Lina responded to the questions from Commissioner Abbott. Commissioner Evans also shared that he hears from members of the public that Education Specialist, Ms. Mojica is out and about training people and shared his appreciated for all she does.

**Meeting Adjourned:**

Commissioner Cox made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 A.M.; all approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 14 MAY 2024 Attested: 