

Minutes of Board Meeting
Pasco County Mosquito Control District
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa, FL 33556
June 18, 2024

Regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at the District office on June 18, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

Those present from the District were Chairperson Evans, Treasurer Cox, Secretary Abbott, Executive Director Rogers, Nick McFaul, Michele Donagrandi, Jose Freundt, Edwin Martinez, Karen Mojica, and Maria Johnson, all representing PCMCD.

Lina Castro from InVision Advisors, Mary J. Fernandez, CPA from DG Perry CPA's and Advisors and Rich Bekesh, Spring Engineering, Inc. were also present.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Cox motioned to approve the agenda with the striking of item 7C; all approved.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Commissioner Cox motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; all approved. Commissioner Cox noted an item for discussion. He stated that he has heard some comments about the District being over budget. The Commissioner shared that the District, at Fiscal Year right now should be at approximately 75% usage of the budget. As of right now district spending is at 36% usage of the budget, which is running underbudget. He wanted to clear that up because there are folks out there making some misleading claims regarding the District's finances. Commissioner Cox also stated regarding the finances, last month the District earned \$52,900 on its Investment account. He stated this is a significant amount of money. Director Rogers made a point of clarification, stating that for those making such misleading claims, it should be noted that this month a different report is being shown. This is due to those that are completely misinterpreting them. Therefore, the new report will hopefully make it easier for those individuals to understand as the District is now reporting the Annual percentage of the budget spent and not the monthly percentage.

Public Comment:

Gary Joiner

Mr. Joiner resides in New Port Richey and Pasco County for 65 years. He had a question for the Commissioners and Director Rogers. His question was in regard to the property the District is building the complex on. He stated approximately 6 acres is zoned Commercial and the balance of it is zoned AR. According to Mr. Joiner, you can not build commercial property on AR. He then asked, "when do you expect to change the zoning? Or do you?" He demanded an answer. Commissioner Evans stated this is public comment. Mr. Joiner also stated that people ask him about financing and is asked these questions all the time. "The question is, when talking about 37 million dollars, people ask, who is the finance company or is the District doing bonds or whatever." Mr. Joiner stated he couldn't answer because the District does not have financing in place yet. He asked if we were expected to get financing anytime soon as he always thought that when you build or buy something you get financing first and then you do your project. Mr. Joiner also stated that we are spending thousands of dollars each month on this project, but we don't have financing to build the building. Commissioner Evans stated that financing will be in place. In regard to the zoning, the appropriate zoning is in place.

Cathy Julian

Ms. Cathy Julian stated she had everything written out so that she did not misstate anything. She said that a couple things came up as the Commissioners were speaking earlier. Ms. Julian stated she is not sure why the District should have spent 75% of the budget when we were at the end of this month (June), only 8 months into the budget year. Which she claimed was not 75% through the fiscal year. She also stated she reviewed the balance sheet the night before and she found some concerning things on the balance sheet and she finds it fascinating the commissioners just approved it and there was not discussion. She is wondering why, on the financial statements, account numbers change from month to month. "Why is

there no liability on the balance sheet for the helicopter loan?" "How are fixed assets listed as both fixed assets on the assets side and also on the equity side?" "Why is the provision for vacation of \$305,890 listed as both an asset and liability?" She questions variances between the budget on the website and the statements provided last month that were provided to Mr. Joiner, and she stated maybe she "is reading them wrong but that shows a discrepancy. Not a huge discrepancy but still a discrepancy." She stated she is not sure how to read everything on the budget but the year to date statement for April shows negative net income which she said seemed to be different from the published budget. She also stated the balance sheet is lacking detail for further analysis and that she would like to see a complete statement of financials. Ms. Julian reiterated that she already mentioned the account numbers changed from month to month on the financial statement. She stated her son would say, "not good man, her CPA says that that's a problem, other CPA's that have reviewed this statement say they are borderline illegal." She stated that she is not sure if this is true or not. Ms. Julian also shared that she was provided a letter dated Oct 10th from the Florida Department of Revenue and she is shocked that there was no collective activity or punishment for that. Commissioner Evans stated her allowed time for public comment was up.

Commissioner Cox asked to respond to Ms. Julian on a few things. He suggested Ms. Julian sit down with District Finance Manager to go over some things she has questions on. He also stated there are 50 some pages to the budget and if he has questions on them, he gets them answered by Director Rogers prior to attending the meetings so he is informed and is not in the business to directly embarrass someone or putting them on the spot in a public meeting. He stated other individuals conduct business that way and have done so in meetings in the past. He again reiterated that is not the way he operates. Ms. Julian stated she has 3 minutes to speak, so she is speaking. Commissioner Cox stated the fact of the matter is, the commissioners do have questions on all board documentation and spending, and that he gets all his questions answered prior to being at the Board meeting. He wants to get educated prior to what they are voting on.

David Wallis

Mr. Wallis originally did not sign up to speak but information was discussed earlier in the meeting and he wanted clarification. Commissioner Evans responded to please sign up quickly to speak. His clarification was that the Commissioners stated we spent ~30% and we are 8 months into the year. He asked if the District budgeted correctly or is there a lot of spending at the end of the year? Why the disparity of 30% instead of 75%. Commissioner Cox stated we are at 36% and cutting spending to not go over budget, stating that historically, the District runs under budget every Fiscal year. Part of that is that the District is retaining its overage so we can build the new campus. Commissioner stated we have eleven million dollars sitting in reserves to build the new campus. Mr. Wallis asked if the District was inflating the budget in order to compensate for the growth. Commissioner Cox also stated they are trying to prudent as far as how to expand the District and being good stewards of the tax payer's money. Commissioner Abbott added that we have a chemical building, that is one of the few in Florida that is climate controlled, and we take advantage of purchasing at the end of the season vs the beginning, where we can maximize incentives and cost saving measures. So based on the number of storms or hurricanes all comes into play there is a significant amount of money every year that is spent on chemical. He stated that is kind of the wild card when it comes to August and September time frame. Executive Director Rogers also shared that a large contributing factor was the money that was set aside for financing for the campus. We have been delayed in the process of this project, so the funding set aside for financing the project has not yet been spent. Commissioner Evans also stated we annual have an audit and just recently went through OPPAGA and passed.

New Business:

A. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Presentation, Mary J. Fernandez, CPA, CVA, DG Perry CPA's and Advisors

Ms. Fernandez stated she oversaw the 2022-2023 fiscal year and presented the firm's findings for the annual audit. She stated the District was in a sound financial position and there were no issues found in the audit. She then presented the findings to the Board.

B. Schedule September Board Meeting and Budget Hearings

Executive Director Rogers shared that the Board needed to schedule the September budget hearings and regular board meeting. The Board set the September meetings.

Dates are as follows:

- First Budget Meeting, September 4, 2024 5:01PM

- Board Meeting, September 18, 2024 3:00PM
- Final Budget meeting, September 18, 2024 5:01PM

C. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Amendment 01 – item was removed from agenda.

D. Marathon Road Discussion, M. Cox – Commissioner Cox presented information regarding ownership of Marathon Road. Directed Executive Director Rogers to seek District counsel to discuss presenting a formal request to the Pasco County BOCC to ask them to take ownership of the road.

E. District Legal Services Agreement – Executive Director Rogers sought Board approval to engage in an agreement with attorney Laura Donaldson of law firm Manson, Bolves, Donaldson, an Tanner. She stated she is well versed in Special District issues. Commissioner Cox did stated he researched Ms. Donaldson and spoke about her background. Director Rogers shared there is no retainer fee, payment will be made for services rendered. Commissioner Cox motioned to approved; all approved.

F. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget Draft – Executive Director Rogers presented the first draft of the 2024-2025 fiscal year budget for Board review.

Unfinished Business

A. Final Construction Document Presentation and Discussion, Rich Bekesh, Spring Engineering, Inc.

Architect Rich. Bekesh presented the final construction documents, going into detail on the campus design. He responded to questions from the Commissioners and Executive Director Rogers. Commissioner Cox commended Mr. Bekesh's team for all they have done on the project.

General Information

A. New Campus Update, InVision Advisors

Lina Castro, with InVision Advisors presented an update on the campus project stated Spring Engineering touched on a lot of it.

Commissioner Cox motioned to move into the RFQ process; all approved.

B. Director's Report and District Operations, A. Rogers

Executive Director Rogers shared that this week is National Mosquito Control week, and the District is conducting a number of events in the community. Mrs. Rogers shared that there has been a break in drought conditions with several inches of rain falling in the last few days. During the meeting and throughout the remainder of that day, both District helicopters were out, performing applications in areas with heavy rainfall, projecting nearly 1300 acres of planned treatment. She highlighted the importance of having 2 helicopters as comments have been heard of the question of why the District has two helicopters. Executive Director Rogers reiterated the need for two helicopters. After rainfall in the summer, mosquitoes go from egg to adult very rapidly and there is a short window where larvicide treatments will be effective. When inspectors search for larvae on Monday morning, often they are finding late-instar larvae, which means the window of treatment opportunity is rapidly declining. If the District is unable to treat mosquitoes in the larval stage, that means the applications are no longer proactive, and instead, reactive, once mosquitoes have hatched off as adults, disperse from their larval habitats, are a nuisance to humans, pets, and livestock, and have the potential to transmit deadly diseases. Ms. Rogers then updated the Commissioners on the EEE detections in Pasco and surrounding counties. She also shared and reiterated our boots on the ground rapid response to the Pasco detection, which occurred within 45 minutes of being informed of the case. Within 1.5 hr, helicopter applications to larval site in the area were performed and the same evening, an aerial adulticide application occurred. From there, the District continued to mount their formal response for several weeks post-detection. Director Rogers shared that Representative Holcomb and his Aide toured the District campus the night prior. She informed that the Representative left with thorough understanding of mosquito control operations after the tour and that she enjoyed having them visit. She informed the Commissioners she had just attended the Florida Association of Special District's annual conference. Being at the conference gave her additional valuable information and training on leadership, strategic planning, administrative policies and procedures, compliance, and much more.

C. Community Outreach and Education Report, M. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided an update on community engagement and outreach activities.

D. Safety Report, N. McFaul

Nick McFaul provided the safety and training report.

E. Arbovirus Report, A. Prasauskas

In absence of Agne Prasauskas at the Board meeting, Executive Director Rogers provided an update on the arboviral activity throughout the state and within Pasco County.

Good of the Order:

Commissioner Evans thanked numerous District staff and appreciated the hard work the team continues to do.

Meeting Adjourned:

Commissioner Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:17am; All approved. Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 9 July 2024

Attested:  _____