

Board of Commissioners  
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## **Minutes of Regular Board Meeting September 10, 2026**

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – Chairman Cox called the Pasco County Mosquito Control District Board meeting to order at 3:39 P.M.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Commissioner Abbott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. **Roll Call**  
  
Chairman Cox called the roll. Chairman Cox, Commissioner Evans, and Commissioner Abbott were present.  
  
District Staff: Executive Director Rogers, Nick McFaul, Jose Freundt, Agne Prasauskas, Sherry Burroughs, and Kevin Dale.  
  
Additional attendees: Pasco County Sheriff Deputy, Laura Donaldson (District Counsel), Jonathan Moore (InVision Advisors), Shanon Holm, Jeff Lucas, and Greg Fuher.
4. **Approval of Agenda** - Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the agenda; all approved, motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda** – Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the agenda; all approved, motion carried.
6. **Public Comment**  
Jeff Lucas, Shanon Holm, and Jonathan Moore provided comment.
7. **New Business**

### **A. RFQ 2526-04 Construction Manager at Risk Services, Firm Selection**

The District received four proposals in response to its solicitation for Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) services for the Campus Improvements Project. Following the initial evaluation and interview process, the committee ranked Verdex Construction LLC as the highest-ranked firm. The committee noted their extensive public-sector experience, including recently providing CMAR services for the Palm Beach County Mosquito Control campus renovation.

Staff recommended approval of Verdex Construction LLC as the selected Construction Manager at Risk firm and requested authorization to proceed with contract negotiations.

**Commissioner Evan motioned to approve Verdex Construction LLC for CMAR services; all approved, motion carried.**

Staff will proceed with negotiations in coordination with the District's Owner's Representative and District Counsel and will return to the Board for consideration of the negotiated agreement and final pricing.

Executive Director Rogers reported the initial programming phase began with the architectural design team and Owner's Representative. Two meetings have been held with the design team,

focusing on identifying operational needs, space requirements, functions, adjacencies, and infrastructure requirements that will inform the eventual design. Staff anticipate bringing additional programming information to the Board at a future meeting and will welcome the Construction Manager at Risk firm into the design discussions once a contract is finalized.

**B. Regional Public Health Concern – Dengue Virus**

Executive Director Rogers provided an extensive update regarding the regional dengue situation and the District's involvement in the response. The Florida Department of Health's most recent report identified 95 locally acquired dengue virus cases in Hillsborough County. The report listed two locally acquired cases in Pasco County; staff advised that an additional case had been confirmed and attributed to transmission in a neighboring county and another was potentially pending confirmation. Additional cases were also reported in Pinellas and Citrus counties, with more than 50 cases reportedly under investigation, primarily in Hillsborough County.

***Regional Response and Mutual Aid***

The District began increasing public education, surveillance, and mosquito control activities in known *Aedes aegypti* hotspot areas when the initial locally acquired dengue cases were identified in Hillsborough County in mid-August. PCMCD has issued press releases, posted educational information and videos advising residents to pay close attention to this developing, regional public health threat, worked with health and community partners, contacted the Pasco County legislative delegation and Board of County Commissioners, and requested assistance from constitutional officers in disseminating public health information.

Hillsborough County Department of Health requested specialized assistance from PCMCD based on the District's operational capabilities and experience with *Aedes aegypti* control and mosquito-borne disease response. Staff explained that effective *Aedes aegypti* control requires a fully comprehensive, integrated mosquito management approach that includes targeted adulticide applications, wide area larvicide applications, source reduction, enhanced surveillance, public communication, and community education.

The District entered into a mutual aid/interlocal agreement with Hillsborough County to provide mosquito control assistance. The agreement received the required prior approval from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, as defined by Florida Statute. Executive Director Rogers emphasized that the District's assistance to Hillsborough County would be managed so that the District could continue to meet its primary responsibility of protecting Pasco County residents.

The Board discussed the regional nature of mosquito-borne disease transmission and the movement of residents between Pasco, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Hernando, Citrus, and surrounding communities. Staff also reported that PCMCD assisted Hernando County with guidance and preparation of their ground-based adulticide and wide-area larvicide equipment for operational use.

***Emergency Management Assistance***

Executive Director Rogers reported that Hillsborough County had activated its emergency management system and formally requested additional assistance through Pasco County Emergency

Management. The requested assistance included personnel to conduct door-to-door public education, source reduction, and community engagement in Hillsborough County.

The Board discussed the potential use of Pasco County's emergency notification system to increase public awareness. Staff advised that the District had previously requested assistance with broader public notification and would continue coordinating with Emergency Management to push a dengue virus alert to all county residents.

***District Operational Capacity***

PCMCD has continued its proactive mosquito control operations throughout Pasco County while providing regional assistance to Hillsborough County in response to the ongoing dengue outbreak. At the time of the meeting, the District was operating with one helicopter while its second aircraft underwent unscheduled and extensive maintenance involving the tail rotor blade. This temporary reduction in aerial capacity underscored the operational challenges and vulnerabilities associated with relying on a single aircraft.

Staff emphasized that maintaining a minimum of two operational aircraft is essential to ensuring continuity of service, operational resiliency, and the District's ability to respond effectively to evolving public health threats. Aerial operations are a critical component of PCMCD's integrated mosquito control program, supporting timely, large-scale treatment efforts that cannot always be replicated efficiently through ground-based operations alone. Maintaining two aircraft provides essential redundancy during scheduled maintenance, unexpected mechanical issues, pilot or equipment availability constraints, and periods of increased operational demand. It also allows the District to sustain its primary responsibility to protect Pasco County residents while retaining the capacity to provide appropriate regional assistance when resources permit. This capability is particularly important during concurrent public health emergencies, severe weather events, and periods of heightened arbovirus transmission, when delays or interruptions in aerial treatment could compromise the District's ability to respond promptly to changing conditions.

The Board expressed support for maintaining sufficient aerial capacity to protect the health and welfare of Pasco County residents while allowing the District to provide appropriate regional assistance. The discussion reinforced the importance of maintaining two aircraft as a necessary operational safeguard to preserve service continuity, response readiness, and the District's ability to fulfill its mission under both routine and emergency conditions.

***Ratification of Mutual Aid/Interlocal Agreement***

District Counsel advised that the mutual aid/interlocal agreement should be formally ratified by the Board.

**Commissioner Evans motioned to ratify the mutual aid/interlocal agreement between Hillsborough County Mosquito Management and Pasco County Mosquito Control District; all approved, motion carried.**

The Board also discussed whether state assistance or funding may be available to support the regional response. Staff advised that discussions were occurring with the Florida Department of Health and Department of Agriculture regarding potential assistance and procurement needs. Staff further advised that the area requiring treatment in Hillsborough County was substantially larger than the area PCMCD could reasonably address while maintaining its Pasco County responsibilities. Staff informed that they have recommended that Hillsborough County engage an outside contractor capable of performing area-wide liquid larvicide applications by air to expand the treatment area to include more acreage than PCMCD is covering each week, as the epidemiological and entomological data proves warranted.

***Additional Aerial Application Equipment Request***

Executive Director Rogers requested authorization to proceed with three equipment purchases to increase and optimize the District's aerial liquid larvicide application capabilities. The proposed improvements included:

- Upgrading the existing boom system and replacing nozzles with atomizers;
- Creating a second liquid larvicide application system for the District's second aircraft to increase capacity with the atomizers

The total cost presented was approximately \$134,509, with the expenditure to be supported by available reimbursement funding PCMCD recently received.

Staff explained that the upgraded system would allow both aircraft to be equipped for liquid larvicide applications and would improve the District's ability to respond to *Aedes aegypti* and other mosquito-borne disease threats, increasing the capacity to conduct this methodology over larger areas.

The Board discussed the existing equipment, potential reuse or surplus of the current system, compatibility with the District's aircraft, manufacturer specifications, and expected lead time for the atomizers.

**Commissioner Abbott motioned to proceed with an expenditure of approximately \$135,000 for the additional spray boom and related equipment; all approved, motion carried.**

**C. Discussion of FY2026-2027 Strategic Plan**

The Board discussed the proposed FY 2026–2027 Strategic Plan. Staff noted that progress is monitored throughout the fiscal year and will be documented in the District's Annual Report, which is required to be completed by December 1 after the fiscal year closes.

**Commissioner Abbott motioned to approve the FY 2026–2027 Strategic Plan; all approved, motion carried.**

**D. Surplus Property Sale Assignment**

The Board considered the assignment related to the previously tabled surplus property sale. After discussion and review of the document, District Counsel confirmed that Board authorization was requested for execution of the document at closing.

Commissioner Evans motioned to authorize the Executive Director to execute the document at closing; all approved, motion carried.

## 8. Unfinished Business

### A. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Draft Budget

Executive Director Rogers reported that the FY 2026–2027 draft budget remained unchanged from the prior month's presentation. The proposed millage rate remained at the rollback rate, and the total budget amount was unchanged from the last draft reviewed. No action was required at this time, as the Board's budget hearing was scheduled to directly follow the meeting at 5:01PM.

## 9. General Information

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

Executive Director Rogers provided the following report.

- **Operational Statistics for August**

- 508 mosquito service requests were received during the month of August 2026, compared with 124 mosquito requests in August 2025.
- The District has received 84 public records requests year-to-date, with two awaiting payment and one currently remaining in progress.
- Staff collected 6,272 discarded tires thus far this year, eliminating potential mosquito production habitats and removing approximately 188,610 pounds of waste tires from the environment.
- Approximately 3,740 mosquito fish were distributed throughout the county to provide biological mosquito control in appropriate aquatic habitats throughout the year so far.

- **Employee Recognition**

The Executive Director recognized employees celebrating service anniversaries:

- Stelios Kalimnios – 11 years
- John Brookfield – 2 years

Executive Director Rogers also informed the Board that Matt Logan, Daniel Dozinski and Wilfred Bartle joined the District in August. She also recognized employees who received positive feedback from members of the public for their service and assistance, including Spencer Young, Shannon Thomas, Jacob Moore, Kyle Ruen, Alan Monroe, John Ash, and Hugh Liner. The Board expressed appreciation for the employees' professionalism and service to the community.

*Chairman Cox recessed the meeting at 4:54 p.m. to convene the budget hearing.*

*Chairman Cox reconvened the meeting at 5:06 p.m.*

### B. Arbovirus Report, A. Prasauskas

Director of Research and Surveillance, Agne Prasauskas reported that approximately 245,000 mosquitoes were collected through the District's surveillance program during August, compared with approximately 166,000 during August 2025.

Year-to-date, the District had responded to 26 Florida Department of Health alerts for suspected mosquito-borne disease cases. Eighteen cases had been ruled out, three remained pending, and five had been confirmed. The confirmed Pasco County cases included locally acquired dengue cases and one travel-related malaria case. Staff noted that one additional dengue case initially associated with Pasco had subsequently been attributed to Hillsborough County based on the individual's likelihood of mosquito exposure.

Staff also reported continued West Nile virus activity, including additional positive sentinel chickens. The Board discussed the significant regional dengue activity and the importance of continued vigilance, surveillance, public education, and mosquito control efforts.

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-data/population-surveillance/arbovirus-surveillance/>

| Arbovirus                   | Florida - 2026                                                             | Pasco County - 2026                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| West Nile Virus             | 2 human, 2 blood donor, 106 sentinel chickens, 1 horse, 16 mosquito pools  | 18 sentinel chickens (1-Apr, 5- July, 12-Aug ) |
| St Louis Encephalitis       | 1 sentinel chicken                                                         | n/a                                            |
| Eastern Equine Encephalitis | 41 sentinel chickens<br>3 horses                                           | n/a                                            |
| Dengue                      | 160 travel-associated dengue cases<br>111 local cases<br>16 mosquito pools | 2 local cases                                  |
| Chikungunya                 | 60 travel- associated -0 local case                                        | n/a                                            |
| Malaria                     | 37 travel-associated                                                       | 1 travel-associated case                       |

**C. Safety Report, N. McFaul**

Director of Operations, Nick McFaul, reported one vehicle incident during the reporting period in which a member of the public rear-ended a District vehicle. No injuries occurred, and the District vehicle sustained no damage.

**D. Community Outreach and Education Report, M. Johnson**

Sherry Burroughs, Director of Administration & Government Affairs reported that the District participated in several community events in the month of August, including the Community Impact Breakfast, where PCMCD was nominated for the Compassion and Community Partnership Award. Staff congratulated the Early Learning Coalition of Pasco and Hernando Counties on receiving the award.

PCMCD also participated in Gotcha Day at Pasco County Animal Services, providing education regarding mosquitoes, heartworm disease, and mosquito prevention for pets and attended the Greater East Pasco Chamber of Commerce's Annual Access of East Pasco event.

**10. Good of the Order**

The Board commended Executive Director Rogers and District staff for their proactive response to the regional dengue situation and for assisting neighboring counties while continuing to protect Pasco County residents.

The Board discussed the importance of the District's specialized mosquito control capabilities and expertise and the value of maintaining an independent mosquito control district capable of responding rapidly and effectively to mosquito-borne disease threats.

The Board also discussed additional opportunities to distribute dengue prevention information through the Pasco County school system and other community partners. Staff advised that existing dengue symptom and mosquito prevention materials could be provided for that purpose.

The Board discussed the possibility of utilizing radio or other public service announcements to increase public awareness. Staff advised that while there was not a specific budget line item dedicated to radio advertising, the District could explore community service announcements through existing media partners.

Staff proposed transitioning from printed Board packets to electronic Board packets using available District laptops, with the option of providing a printed agenda for notetaking. The proposal was discussed favorably by the Board.

**11. Meeting Adjournment** - With no further business, Commissioner Evans motioned to adjourn; all approved, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Date: 10/20/2026

Attested: 