

Pasco County Mosquito Control District
2308 Marathon Road, Odessa FL 33556
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
January 21, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Abbott called the Pasco County Mosquito Control District Board meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Abbott led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

Chairman Abbott called the roll. Chairman Abbott, Secretary Cox, and Treasurer Evans were present.

District Staff: Executive Director Rogers, Lindsay O'Reilly, Edwin Martinez, Agne Prasauskas, Jose Freundt, Maria Johnson, Nick McFaul, Karen Mojica, and Desiree Edwards.

Additional attendees: Amanda Weaver (citizen), John Kubb (citizen), Cathy Julian (citizen), Laura Donaldson (District Counsel, Teams), and Pasco County Sheriff Deputy.

Agenda Amendment and Reorganization of Board Officers

Prior to approval of the agenda, Executive Director Rogers requested an amendment to reorder the agenda so that the New Business item concerning the Reorganization of Board Officers would be addressed earlier in the meeting, ahead of the Consent Agenda and Public Comment.

The Board reached consensus to approve the requested amendment and proceeded directly to Item 7A, Reorganization of the Board.

The Board discussed and confirmed the officer rotation for the 2026 calendar year. It was agreed that Commissioner Cox will assume the role of Chair, Commissioner Evans will serve as Secretary, and Commissioner Abbott will serve as Treasurer.

Commissioner Cox motioned to approve the reorganization of Board Officers; all approved.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Abbott motioned to approve the agenda; all approved.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Evans motioned to approve the consent agenda; all approved.

Public Comment

Mr. John Kubb addressed the Board and stated that after reviewing the District's website for the first time in several years, he was impressed by the significant improvement in content and transparency. He noted the extensive information now available online, including operational activities, photographs, announcements, and educational materials. Mr. Kubb commended staff for their efforts in public communication and transparency, acknowledged the contributions of multiple team members, and expressed appreciation for the District's openness in sharing its work with the public.

Ms. Cathy Julian addressed the Board and expressed concerns regarding the lack of discussion of the financial reports, the carryover of funds from the prior year, and increases in employee benefits, chemicals, and capital outlay. She stated that supporting financial documentation was not available on the website. Ms. Julian further asserted that the Board meeting should not have occurred due to the Board packet and financial materials not

being published in advance, which she stated was required by Florida law. She indicated that she had communicated these concerns via email just prior to the meeting and then expressed additional concerns regarding transparency, public scrutiny, and compliance with state statutes, stating that the attention the district is generating through outreach efforts is negative attention and not good.

Ms. Laura Donaldson, District Counsel, addressed public comments regarding meeting notice and posting requirements. She clarified that pursuant to Section 189.069, Florida Statutes, the District is required to post agendas on its website but is not required to post supporting materials. She noted that prior requirements to post all available materials were eliminated by legislative changes to statutes in 2020. Ms. Donaldson further stated that the District properly noticed the meeting in accordance with statutory requirements, including advance publication of meeting notices, and that Sunshine Law requires only reasonable notice of meetings, not the posting of materials online. She confirmed that the District is in compliance with all applicable notice and website posting requirements and is not in violation of Florida law, and therefore the District has the right to continue the meeting.

Chairman Cox thanked District Counsel Laura Donaldson for providing live fact-checking during the meeting. He noted that no other members of the public had signed up for in-person comments and acknowledged a request for the public to have the option to watch the meeting live and provide comments online in the interest of transparency and inclusivity. Chairman Cox inquired whether anyone participating online wished to provide public comment, noting that allowing online comment would slightly deviate from current policy and suggesting the Board may consider amending the policy to permit this option. He indicated he had no objection to online participation.

While observing the meeting online, Ms. Amanda Weaver through the Teams meeting chat feature expressed support for online participation and requested clarification on whether public speakers must be Pasco County residents, raising concerns regarding potential intimidation of speakers and First Amendment rights. Ms. Weaver also inquired about electronic access to board packets, emailed records, and community outreach through HOAs to improve public awareness. She acknowledged the District's efforts to address public concerns in agenda items.

Chairman Cox further discussed allowing online public comment and asked how participants could be verified. Board members expressed concerns about potential misrepresentation and agreed to maintain public comment for in-person participants only. Chairman Cox confirmed support for allowing the public to view meetings live.

District Counsel Laura Donaldson noted that meeting chats are part of the public record and suggested researching how other local governments manage remote participation if the Board wishes to revisit the policy. She will provide a proposed process at a future meeting.

New Business

B. Check-Signing Rotation by the Board

Discussion was held between the Board and Executive Director Rogers regarding the District's check signing process. Executive Director Rogers noted that the transition to biweekly electronic check signing provides a detailed, user-friendly interface and sought guidance on whether to maintain the monthly rotation of check signers among Board members or consider an alternate approach, such as designating the Treasurer to sign all checks. Board members discussed the process, noting the historical monthly rotation was intended to reduce the burden on individual Commissioners visiting the office in person every week of the year. The Board agreed that while the current process works effectively, now due to the fact that all Commissioners have access to the electronic portal, further consideration was required once Commissioner Evans (who is up for his monthly check signing rotation) had an opportunity to work through the new portal. The Board concluded that the item could also be revisited if needed after engaging with the new auditing firm to ensure proper checks and balances.

C. Audit Firm Selection

Executive Director Rogers informed the Board that the Audit Selection Committee met on January 7, 2026, to review and evaluate proposals submitted in response to the district's solicitation for auditing services. Finance Director Freundt reported that the Committee recommended Grau and Associates to provide auditing services moving forward.

Commissioner Evans motioned to approve Grau and Associates as the District's auditing firm and authorized staff to negotiate the contract; all approved.

D. Ratification of Legal Services Contract

Chairman Cox introduced the item regarding the ratification of the legal services contract. Laura Donaldson explained that her law firm was recently restructured, with each partner forming their own firm at the start of the 2026 calendar year, and Executive Director Rogers requested ratification to allow Ms. Donaldson to continue providing legal services to the District now through Florida Environmental, Fire and Government Law, P.A.. It was noted that the proposed contract reflects an hourly rate of \$300 with no fixed term, allowing the Board to terminate services at any time. The Board expressed satisfaction with the services provided and interest in continuity.

Commissioner Evans motioned to ratify the legal services contract of Laura Donaldson as the District's legal counsel; all approved.

Unfinished Business

A. Surplus Property Contract

District Counsel Donaldson provided an update on enforcement actions and agency coordination regarding the subject property, including code enforcement activity and communications with county and water management officials. The County has initiated code enforcement action, and the matter remains under review.

Commissioner Evans motioned to ratify the First Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement executed in December 2025 and to approve the minutes of December 22, 2025, emergency meeting of the Board; all approved.

District Counsel Donaldson advised that the purchaser requested an additional 30-day extension due to the ongoing county enforcement process. She presented a proposed second amendment establishing firm rezoning and closing deadlines to protect the District while allowing the investigation to continue. The Board discussed the amendment and related impacts on the property. This additional amendment does not alter the closing date at all, just extends the inspection period to allow for the investigation to continue and a determination to be reached.

Chairman Cox motioned to approve the Second Amendment to the Purchase and Sale Agreement, granting the purchaser an additional 30-day extension of the inspection period; all approved.

General Information

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

Executive Director Rogers addressed transparency and public access to Board materials, noting that while Florida law does not require the District to post Board packets online, the District voluntarily did so in 2025 as an added transparency measure. After evaluating the significant staff time, costs, and ADA compliance requirements associated with posting extensive documents to the District website, staff determined that adjustments were necessary. Beginning with the January 2026 meeting, the full Board packets will instead be printed and available in a publicly accessible binder in the Board room at least 30 minutes prior to each Board meeting for public review prior to the start of each meeting. This administrative decision maintains public access, ensures compliance with associated laws, and balances transparency with fiscal responsibility.

The Board discussed and inquired about ADA compliance requirements for posting Board packets online. Staff explained that all documents posted to the District's website must be converted to meet ADA accessibility standards. This conversion is charged on a per-page basis, with costs increasing as the number of overall pages increases, resulting in higher expenses for larger packets. Staff noted that, from a fiscal standpoint, it is more responsible to make a physical copy available to the public rather than repeatedly posting large Board packets online month after month. In addition to the financial impact, the conversion process requires administrative time and resources to prepare and manage.

District Counsel added that ADA noncompliance has resulted in litigation against other governmental entities, underscoring the importance of adherence to accessibility requirements. The Board supported maintaining transparency while managing cost and risk. Consensus was reached to continue providing printed Board packets for public review at District headquarters prior to meetings, with copies available under public records rules on request. Commissioner Abbott requested that staff explore how other local governments address ADA compliance for online materials and bring back options for future consideration.

Executive Director Rogers then addressed recent public attention directed toward the District, emphasizing that transparency and public engagement are core organizational values. She stated that, as a taxpayer-funded public health agency, the District has a responsibility to ensure the community understands its mission, operations, and use of public funds. Ms. Rogers highlighted that public awareness of mosquito control activities supports accountability, strengthens community trust, and promotes informed dialogue regarding the District’s role in protecting public health, supporting economic stability, and enhancing quality of life in Pasco County. She reaffirmed the District’s commitment to maintaining transparency and proactive public communication. District Counsel reaffirmed the District’s commitment to transparency and public accountability, noting that open communication and public access to information are consistent with both statutory requirements and good governance practices.

Rogers also highlighted recent employee retirement education efforts, her presentation to the Florida Coordinating Council on Mosquito Control regarding the Pasco One Health Alliance, attendance at the Florida Association of Special Districts Legislative Forum, and legislative outreach with newly sworn in Senator Ralph Massullo. She concluded by recognizing positive public feedback on District outreach efforts and acknowledging Mr. McFaul, Operations Director, for three years of outstanding service with the District.

B. Community Outreach and Education Report, M. Johnson

Community Engagement Director Johnson reported on recent outreach activities, highlighting the District’s continued emphasis on public education, mosquito prevention, and community involvement.

C. Safety Report, N. McFaul

Operations Director McFaul reported no incidents or training for the past month.

D. Arbovirus Report, A. Prasauskas

<https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/mosquito-borne-diseases/surveillance.html>

Arbovirus	Florida - 2025	Pasco County - 2025
West Nile Virus	6 human, 7 asymptomatic blood donors, 1 horse, 1 duck, and 402 sentinel chickens	31 sentinel chickens
St Louis Encephalitis	4 sentinel chickens	n/a
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	9 horses, 2 emus, 1 emu flock, 1 goat, and 62 sentinel chickens	1 sentinel chicken (July)
Dengue	429 travel-associated dengue cases, 62 local dengue cases, 4 mosquito pools	2 travel-associated dengue case 1 travel-associated dengue case (July)
Chikungunya	328 travel-associated	2 cases
Oropouche	1 travel-associated	n/a
Malaria	49 travel-associated	1 case (August)

Arbovirus	Florida - 2026	Pasco County - 2026
West Nile Virus	4 sentinel chickens	n/a
St Louis Encephalitis	n/a	n/a
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	3 sentinel chickens	n/a
Dengue	12 travel-associated dengue cases	n/a
Chikungunya	51 travel- associated -1 local case	n/a
Oropouche	n/a	n/a
Malaria	2 travel-associated	n/a

Executive Director reported on current arboviral activity in Florida and provided detailed updates on the District’s operational research and surveillance activities on behalf of Research and Surveillance Director Prasauskas.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Abbott requested that the private road agreement for Marathon Road be addressed next month to explore steps for moving it forward.

Commissioner Evans thanked staff for their efforts and expressed anticipation for an uneventful 2026.

Chairman Cox inquired about the district’s new health insurance plan. Administrative and Talent Manager O’Reilly reported mixed reviews due to the switch from PPO to a single HMO plan, and initial issues with TASC. Chairman Cox suggested exploring partnerships, such as with Premier, to provide additional employee services.

He also asked about the District’s notification system and app usage. Executive Director Rogers reported approximately 500 sign-ups and encouraged ongoing outreach, while Community Engagement Director Johnson noted that QR codes are included in presentations and on district vehicles to promote the service. Chairman Cox commended staff for their work in maintaining safety and engagement.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Chairman Cox reported on upcoming meeting and event dates.

Meeting Adjournment

Commissioner Evans motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 A.M; all approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 2/12/

Attested: 