

Pasco County Mosquito Control District

2308 Marathon Road, Odessa FL 33556

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting

March 11, 2025

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 Alliance to the Flag.

Roll Call

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

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

Additional attendees: Lina Castro (Invision Advisors, Inc.), Gary Joiner (Citizen).

Approval of Agenda

Executive Director Rogers requested an item be added to the agenda for discussion- Rescheduling of May Board Meeting. The May Board meeting is currently scheduled for the same week as the AMCA's Washington Days in DC from May 12, 2025, to May 15, 2025. The Board voted unanimously to approve the change.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Cox noted that Items C and D under Unfinished Business in the February minutes had the same title and needed to be revised. Item C should be titled "Marathon Road Discussion," and Item D should be titled "Surplus Property Discussion." Commissioner Evans then moved to approve the consent agenda, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Commissioner Abbott called for public comment. No public comment.

New Business

Unfinished Business

A. Monthly Financials Sign-Off Process Discussion

In an ongoing discussion to provide additional review of financial transactions, Finance Director Freundt informed the Board that the requested list of February's paid transactions, along with all supporting documentation, has been provided to Commissioner Cox. He also mentioned that these records are available for review by all Commissioners.

Director Rogers noted that Commissioner Cox is the first to review the financial transactions in this new format using the Smartsheet platform. She welcomed any feedback or suggestions for improvement, emphasizing the importance of making the information easy to navigate.

Commissioners Cox and Abbott asked questions and discussion ensued. Administrative Manager O'Reilly and Finance Director Freundt explained the software and clarified how the monthly link will be shared to access the previous month's financial transactions that have already been reviewed by multiple staff members and 1 commissioner.

Commissioner Cox expressed concerns about spending practices and emphasized the importance of ensuring the District is not being overcharged. Director Rogers assured him that staff are consistently conducting price comparisons to secure the best value for District purchases. In addition, Commissioner Cox requested that all requisitions include clear and detailed descriptions to enhance transparency.

Director Rogers thanked the Commissioners for their feedback and reaffirmed the District's commitment to transparency in all activities.

B. Property & Liability Insurance Update

Finance Director Freundt reported that the District's insurance coverages have been reviewed by two consulting firms and presented the findings and confirmed that our existing policy is adequate regarding needed coverage, and no changes are recommended at this time.

In response to a request from Commissioner Abbott, Finance Director Freundt agreed to contact insurance providers to obtain quotes for various deductible tiers. He will present those findings, along with options for self-insurance, at the next Board Meeting.

C. Marathon Road Discussion

Director Rogers reported that there are no new updates at this time. A letter is currently being drafted; however, progress has been delayed due to a family emergency involving the individual at the attorney's office assigned to the project. The letter is expected to be completed and presented to the Board by the next meeting.

D. ITB Surplus Property Discussion

Commissioner Abbott, Director Rogers, and Administrative Manager O'Reilly met with representatives from a realty group to discuss their interest in potentially serving as a broker to sell the surplus property. A proposal package was provided to the Board in advance for review and discussion.

During the meeting, the Board considered several alternative options for handling the surplus property, including:

- Following up with previous bidders
- Exploring the possibility of rezoning/entitling the property
- Issuing a new solicitation for sealed bids with modifications
- Contacting interested parties who did not submit bids to consider the due diligence timeline they might require
- Reaching out again to the Pasco Economic Development Council (PEDC) for assistance
- Consulting with land use attorneys, as recommended by Lina Castro of Spring Engineering

Commissioner Cox agreed with Commissioner Abbott on the importance of exploring all alternatives before engaging a broker. Commissioner Evans suggested marketing the property as residential to increase interest and supported revisiting past bidders and involving the PEDC. He added that using a broker and rezoning should be considered if other options are exhausted.

Lina Castro will coordinate with staff to reconnect with the PEDC and will report their findings at the next Board meeting. She will also facilitate introductions between the Commissioners and land use attorneys, and present a discussion on a potential 30-day due diligence period.

General Information

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

Director Rogers has been working closely with legal counsel and Ms. Castro on the solicitation document for rebuilding the District's Odessa campus. A meeting is scheduled to take place following the Board meeting to review and, ideally, finalize the document for Board distribution and feedback.

Administrative Manager O'Reilly, along with other staff members, has been working diligently on the FEMA reimbursement applications for Hurricanes Helene and Milton. The team is compiling and submitting all required supporting documentation, although there is some uncertainty regarding how federal spending limitations may affect the process. Commissioner Abbott noted that Congressman Gus Bilirakis' office has offered their support and will assist the District however possible.

In addition, Administrative Manager O'Reilly has been collaborating with the team to develop a more efficient method for tracking chemical inventory in the warehouse. The new system has been in testing with select field staff over the past few months and is progressing well.

Several managers attended the AMCA Annual Meeting in early March, where four of them presented on current District initiatives and activities.

Two Mosquito Control Technicians—Joe McKee and Spencer Young—have been promoted to Assistant Larvicide Supervisors. The District is actively accepting applications for Mosquito Control Technician positions, as well as part-time Seasonal ULV Drivers.

Annual helicopter calibrations have been completed and the team is now preparing ground equipment for the upcoming rainy season.

The District has also been evaluating various companies and their UAS/drone technology for mosquito control applications. The District's Drone Pilot is in the process of obtaining the necessary licensure and is compiling best management practices. He is working closely with other mosquito control programs that have successfully implemented in-house UAS/drone operations.

Significant progress is being made on the development of the second auto-loading system for remote aerial operations, as well as the drone/research trailer.

During the meeting, Commissioner Evans raised questions regarding drone usage and associated regulations. Director Rogers and Operations Director McFaul clarified that after new legislation passed over the last couple of years, drone operations are permitted as long as the equipment is manufactured by approved vendors.

B) Community Outreach and Education Report, M. Johnson

Over the past month, the District participated in several events, including six two-day school programs, the Pasco County Fair, Starkey Outdoor Adventures, and hosted the Bloodmobile at the District's facility. Additionally, the District held a speaking engagement titled CamChat at Medley at Angeline. Ms. Johnson is coordinating with the development to plan a health fair for the subdivision.

Upcoming events include a special VIP tour with Commissioner Lisa Yeager, FMCA Tallahassee Days, the Chasco Parade, and a public tour scheduled for April 16th.

In place of the annual Open House this year, the District hosted a weeklong Tire Amnesty Program. Looking ahead, next year's Open House will return and include a celebration marking the District's 75th anniversary of protecting public health in Pasco County.

C) Safety Report, N. McFaul

Operations Director McFaul provided a safety update to the Board, including the following training opportunities conducted in the past month for District staff.

- Annual ATV/UTV safety training
- Two employees attended the Florida Safety Chamber meeting in Gainesville
- Annual ULV safety training was conducted on March 10th by Mr. McCutcheon and Mr. Yager
- A vendor-led pesticide product and label training session will be held on March 11th
- Annual ULV class is being offered at the upcoming FMCA DODD Short Course

Director Rogers informed the Board that District seasonal part-time employees obtain their Public Health Pest Control applicator's license and receive continuing education training, even though they are not required by FDACS to hold a Public Health Pest Control Applicator's License. All full-time staff including administrative personnel are encouraged to pursue licensure to ensure thorough understanding of mosquito control practices and their impacts so that we can more effectively communicate with the public.

Additional Notes

Commissioner Abbott emphasized the importance of hydration as the summer months approach. Mr. McFaul added that the annual Safety Training Day is scheduled for March 24th, with sessions focused on

hydration, ethics, and harassment prevention. Commissioner Abbott would like to discuss further options on keeping the staff hydrated.

D) Arbovirus Report, A. Prasuskas

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

Arbovirus	Florida - 2025	Pasco County - 2025
West Nile Virus	1 horse, 14 chickens	1 chicken
St Louis Encephalitis	n/a	n/a
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	1 horse, 2 emus, 2 chicken	1 chicken
Dengue	42 travel-associated dengue cases, no local	n/a
Chikungunya	n/a	n/a
Oropouche	n/a	n/a
Malaria	5 travel-associated	n/a

Pasco County is still under a mosquito borne illness alert.

Commissioner Abbott asked when the mosquito-borne illness alert might be lifted; however, due to ongoing positive disease detections in the District’s sentinel chickens, the alert remains in place. In response to a question from Commissioner Evans about the number of chicken coops, it was noted that the District maintains 10 offsite coops and one onsite. This number is considered sufficient given the county’s size and current staffing limitations.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Cox requested an update on the status of the resident notification system. Director Rogers informed the Board that the District is currently in the process of obtaining three competitive quotes for similar systems and will be moving forward with implementations of the best option in the upcoming months.

Commissioner Abbott reported that the redistricting bill is advancing and is scheduled to be discussed during the State Legislative session later this month.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Chairman Abbott reported on dates of upcoming meetings as part of the Agenda with the following:

- A. Regular Board Meetings (9 AM unless otherwise noted)
 - April 15, 2025
 - May 19, 2025
 - June 24, 2025

B. Events

- FMCA Legislative Days- March 17-18, 2025
- FASD Legislative Days- March 25-26, 2025
- FMCA Aerial Workshop- April 8-10, 2025
- AMCA Washington Days- May 12-15, 2025

Meeting Adjournment

Chairman Abbott motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 A.M.; all approved.

Meeting Adjourned.

Date: 4-15-2025
Attested: 