



15483 Club Deluxe Road
Hammond, LA 70403

(985) 543-0454
(985) 543-0457 (fax)

**TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, JULY 12, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at the District office, 15483 Club Deluxe Road, Hammond, LA.

Debbie Edwards, Chairwoman, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was as follows:

Philip Bankston – absent

Charlie Ciolino – present

Debbie Edwards – present

James Harper - present

Erin Horzelski – absent

Craig Inman - present

Jimmy Wolfe - present

Also Present: Douglas Curet, Laura Gray, Tom Pistorius, Dennis Walette, and Colby Colona.

Election of Officers

Ms. Edwards opened the floor for nominations.

Mr. Harper nominated Ms. Edwards for Chairwoman of the Board. Mr. Inman seconded the motion. Mr. Ciolino made a motion that the nominations be closed. Mr. Harper seconded to close the nominations. Both motions passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent.

Ms. Edwards opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Mr. Harper nominated Mr. Wolfe for Vice Chairman of the Board. Mr. Inman seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent.

Ms. Edwards opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mr. Inman nominated Ms. Horzelski for Secretary of the Board. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent.

Mr. Ciolino made a motion to accept the May 10th meeting minutes. Mr. Inman seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent.

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Auditor's Report

Laura Gray with Laura Gray, CPA, LLC presented the Independent Auditor's Report for the year ending 2022 to the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the auditor's report as presented. Mr. Ciolino seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent. Motion passed.

Award Bid For Hangar Construction

Architect Tom Pistorius reviewed the bid tabulations with the Board of Commissioners. After reviewing the original bid package specifications, some change order options were recommended to the specifications. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to not proceed with the bids received and then making change order deductions, but instead to rebid the project with the new updated specifications. Mr. Harper made a motion to reflect this. Mr. Inman seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent. Motion passed.

Mr. Inman made a motion to authorize Tom Pistorius to re-advertise for bids after speaking with engineers and obtaining the new specifications. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent. Motion passed.

Mr. Pistorius has left the meeting.

Review Financial Statement – due to unforeseen circumstances, the financial statement was not available for this meeting, but will be emailed to the Commissioners and will be reviewed at the next Board meeting along with the current financials for that meeting.

Director's Report

Mr. Walette provided his report.

The two trucks we have had ordered for over 2 years have finally arrived and are being configured for larviciding.

Since our last meeting, our Shop Assistant resigned to personal reasons and one of our Inspector's has moved into that position. A new inspector was hired last week, so we are back to having a full staff.

Mr. Walette is serving as chairman of the AMCA nominations and awards committee for this year.

Mr. Walette is also serving as President of the Lion Athletic Association at SELU.

Assistant Director's Report

Ms. Colona provided her report.

There has been a sharp decrease – 67% - in nuisance mosquito activity since May and an 18% increase in the southern house mosquito, both due to the very dry weather. The nuisance mosquito activity will increase due to the recent rains.

There have been no WNV positive mosquito samples so far this year with nearly 1,200 samples tested at LSU and almost 130 tested in-house (LAMP). Last year at this time, with similar total submissions, we had 229 WNV positive samples and 20 LAMP positive samples.

The District will have a booth at the SLU STEM fest in August.

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Mr. Walette added that today we received notification of a West Nile Virus infection in an asymptomatic blood donor that is in Tangipahoa Parish but not within the District.

Approve Travel Change

At the last meeting Mr. Walette received approval to attend and speak at the 8th International Forum for Surveillance and Control of Mosquitoes and Vector-borne Diseases. Immediately after that meeting, he received an invitation to attend and speak at the 9th PAMCA Annual Conference & Exhibition. Mr. Walette requested permission to attend the PAMCA meeting instead of the one previously authorized.

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to approve the travel change. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, and Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent. Motion passed.

Discuss Job Descriptions

Mr. Ciolino has left the meeting.

Mr. Walette will create a job description for the Director position and send to the board for review/editing, and then have it added to our personnel manual at the September meeting.

Mr. Inman made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston and Ms. Horzelski absent.

ATTEST:

**Debbie Edwards, Chairwoman
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1**

**Erin Horzelski, Secretary
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1**

**Cheri Vining, Recording Secretary
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1**