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**TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1  
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom Teleconference due to State Stay at Home mandates due to COVID-19.

Deek DeBlieux, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Roll call was as follows:

Deek DeBlieux – present

Debbie Edwards – present

Cecilia Giannobile – present

Ricky Mannino - present

Sunny Ryerson – present

Bill Wheat - absent

Jimmy Wolfe – present

Also Present: Frank DiVittorio, Dennis Walette, Colby Colona, and Cheri Vining.

Ms. Ryerson made a motion to accept the June 10th meeting minutes. Mr. Mannino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Wheat absent.

**Director's Report**

Mr. Walette provided his report.

COVID-19 update – Social distancing is still in place in the office. The front door to the office is locked and visitors are required to wear face masks when in the building. Inspectors continue to go directly into service from their homes rather than coming into the office first.

We have had one mosquito pool sample test positive for West Nile Virus. An aerial spray will be conducted tonight in response to that positive sample pool.

The District's annual audit is underway. It is usually completed by the end of June but was delayed this year due to COVID.

Our newest inspector has received all certifications and completed his probationary period. Mr. Walette made a request to the Board to allow this employee to take home his work vehicle as other eligible employees have. This would allow him to go into service directly from home like the other inspectors are currently doing. Mr. Mannino made a motion to approve the Director's request. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Ms. Giannobile – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Ms. Ryerson – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Wheat – absent. Motion passed.

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**Our Shop Supervisor, who has worked with us for 16 years, retired on Friday, 8/7/2020. One of our senior inspectors has been promoted to Shop Supervisor. We have opened advertising for the vacant inspector position.**

**Review Financial Statement**

**Mr. Walette reviewed the financial report through July 31, 2020.**

**Ms. Edwards made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ms. Ryerson seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Ms. Giannobile – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Ms. Ryerson – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Wheat – absent. Motion passed.**

**Assistant Director's Report**

**Ms. Colona provided her report.**

**Traps are set and picked up twice a week. Due to the warmer/rainy weather the trap counts overall are higher this year than at this same time last year.**

**As of August 7th, we have had one positive mosquito pool out of 1,483 mosquito pools that have been tested. As mentioned in the Director's report, an aerial spray mission has been scheduled tonight in response to this positive pool.**

**Virus activity is still very low at this point in the year but expect it to increase through September. There have been 121 WNV positive samples in Louisiana so far this year.**

**Ms. Colona has tested 216 mosquito pool samples this year at the District office, using LAMP. In comparison to last year at this time, only 84 samples had been tested in house. She has also had one positive mosquito pool for WNV. It was from the same location as the positive pool that had been tested by the LSU arboviral lab.**

**Ms. Colona conducted our District Safety Meeting working in the heat – precautions, preventatives, and treatment from heat and related illnesses associated with the heat.**

**Ms. Colona was recently interviewed for an article in the Wingbeats magazine about women and minorities in science.**

**We have received nearly 50 applications for the recently advertised inspector's position. The interview process will begin in the next week or so.**

**Presentation and Discussion of 2021 Draft Budget**

**Mr. Walette presented the draft budget for review and discussion. Commissioners will continue to review and contact Mr. Walette with any questions. At the October meeting, the proposed budget for 2021 will be presented for the Board's approval.**

**Election of Officers**

**Before nominations began Mr. DeBlieux stated it has been his honor to serve as Chairman and to work with Dennis, Colby, Cheri and the entire TMAD crew.**

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**Mr. DeBlieux opened the floor for nominations.**

**Ms. Edwards nominated Ms. Ryerson for Chairman of the Board. Ms. Ryerson declined.**

**Ms. Edwards nominated Mr. Wolfe for Chairman of the Board. Ms. Ryerson seconded the motion. As there were no other nominations made, the nominations were closed. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Ms. Giannobile – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Ms. Ryerson – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Wheat – absent. Motion passed.**

**Ms. Ryerson nominated Ms. Edwards for Vice Chairman of the Board. Ms. Giannobile seconded the motion. As there were no other nominations made, the nominations were closed. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Ms. Giannobile – yea, Mr. Mannino – yea, Ms. Ryerson – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Wheat – absent. Motion passed.**

**Ms. Ryerson nominated Mr. Mannino for Secretary of the Board. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. As there were no other nominations made, the nominations were closed. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. DeBlieux – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Ms. Giannobile – yea, Mr. Mannino – abstained, Ms. Ryerson – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Wheat – absent. Motion passed.**

**Mr. DeBlieux wanted to thank the newly elected officers in advance for their service and for all the commissioners working so well with him over the past 12 months. He also wanted to commend Dennis, Colby, Cheri and the entire TMAD team for making the job as commissioner much easier than it ever could be for him as Chairman.**

**Mr. DeBlieux turned the meeting over to Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe stated he is looking forward to working with everyone and is very appreciative of the job the commissioners have done and Dennis, Colby, and the TMAD team.**

**Ms. Edwards made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Ryerson seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Wheat absent.**

**ATTEST:**

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**Jimmy Wolfe, Chairman  
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1**

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**Ricky Mannino, Secretary  
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1**

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