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## **TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1 MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 13, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 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:

Charlie Ciolino – present

Debbie Edwards – present

Greg Fletcher – present

James Harper – absent

Erin Horzelski – absent

Craig Inman - present

Jimmy Wolfe – absent

Also present: Dennis Walette, Colby Colona, and Cheri Vining.

Mr. Inman made a motion to approve the January 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Ciolino seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Harper, Ms. Horzelski and Mr. Wolfe absent.

### **Approve and Sign Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire**

Mr. Fletcher made a motion to approve the Louisiana Legislative Auditor’s Compliance Questionnaire regarding the 2023 annual audit of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District. Mr. Ciolino seconded the motion.

Mr. Wolfe is now in attendance.

Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Harper and Ms. Horzelski absent.

### **Review Financial Report**

Mr. Walette reviewed the financial report through February 2024.

Mr. Ciolino made a motion to accept the financial report into record. Mr. Wolfe seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Mr. Ciolino – yea, Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Fletcher – yea, Mr. Inman – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Harper and Ms. Horzelski absent.

### **Director’s Report**

Mr. Walette provided his report to the Board.

Mr. Walette, two staff members, and two commissioners attended the American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting last week. There were over nine hundred in attendance. At the end of this meeting, Mr. Walette completed his term as Past President on the AMCA Board of Directors.

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The District has plans to treat Memorial Park prior to the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival which is April 12 – 14, 2024.

Preliminary work has begun on the annual audit.

At the end of March, advertising will begin for bids on the hanger project with the bid opening scheduled for Thursday, April 25, 2024.

Mr. Walette is retiring on March 30, 2024. Since this was his last board meeting, he thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Director for the past 21 years.

Ms. Edwards thanked him for his years of service to the District and to the community. As he was the first person hired at the start of the District in 2003, she thanked him for his commitment and leadership to grow the District into one of the best mosquito abatement programs in the state and the country.

**Assistant Director's Report**

Ms. Colona provided her report.

We began trap surveillance February 20<sup>th</sup>, night spraying February 26<sup>th</sup>, and droplet tests mid-February before beginning spray operations.

She attended the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup> and gave a talk at Southeastern Louisiana University on February 9<sup>th</sup> about mosquitoes and District operations.

On February 29<sup>th</sup> we completed an aerial spray over the southern portion of the district.

Ms. Colona attended the 2024 American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting last week and gave a presentation on comparing 2022 and 2023 West Nile and count activity at the District. She attended numerous board meetings and gave the South Central Region Update.

A Public Information and Outreach Specialist has been hired and will start March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Louisiana Mosquito Control Association Spring Workshop will be held March 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>. Three employees will be attending this training.

Ms. Colona will be attending the Director's Roundtable discussion on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

LAMP testing will begin shortly as well as bottle bioassays for resistance testing.

Ms. Colona will give a talk at the morning Rotary meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

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

**ATTEST:**

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Debbie Edwards, Chairwoman  
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1

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Erin Horzelski, Secretary  
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1

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Cheri Vining, Recording Secretary  
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1