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**TANGIPAHOA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT #1
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, MARCH 9, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners, of the Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1, was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at the District Office, 15483 Club Deluxe Road, Hammond, LA.

Jimmy Wolfe, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call was as follows:

Philip Bankston – absent

Deek DeBlieux – absent

Debbie Edwards – present

James Harper – present

Erin Horzelski – present

Ricky Mannino - absent

Jimmy Wolfe – present

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

Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve the December 15, 2021, meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston, Mr. DeBlieux, and Mr. Mannino absent.

Ms. Edwards made a motion to approve the January 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed – all yeas, no nays; Mr. Bankston, Mr. DeBlieux, and Mr. Mannino absent.

Director's Report

Mr. Walette provided his report.

Mr. Walette and three staff members attended the American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting last week. Ms. Colona, Assistant Director/Entomologist, gave two presentations at the annual meeting. There were almost eight hundred in attendance.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle systems (drones) have arrived, and training is scheduled for the last week in March.

The annual inspection of the District plane has been completed.

With the weather being cooler than normal for the beginning of this year, we anticipate our spray season to begin the week of March 21st. We are planning an aerial spray early in the week of April 4th prior to the 50th Annual Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival April 8 – 10th.

Discussed scheduling a Chamber After Hours for Thursday, May 12th.

Review Financial Report

Mr. Walette reviewed the financial report for through February 2022.

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Ms. Edwards made a motion to accept the financial report into record. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston, Mr. DeBlieux, and Mr. Mannino absent. Motion passed.

Assistant Director’s Report

Ms. Colona provided her report.

The lab has been stocked with supplies and reagents for the 2022 season.

All files have been updated for the 2022 season.

Ms. Colona attended the 2022 American Mosquito Control Association annual meeting last week and gave two presentations.

We will begin trap surveillance, ground spraying, and droplet tests on March 22nd. LAMP testing will begin shortly thereafter.

Ms. Colona will also participate in the drone training at the end of March.

Adopt Adjustments to Budget

Deferred to next meeting, May 11th.

Approval of Extended Sick Leave

Mr. Walette informed the Board that one of our newest employees (hired May 2021) has exhausted their sick/vacation leave due to time missed with severe home damage from Hurricane Ida then most recently an illness, which required three surgeries within a two to three-week period and he has gone unpaid. Mr. Walette reviewed the District extended sick leave policy with the Board and made a recommendation to grant the employee 5 days of extended sick leave, to assist with any time out for follow up appointments.

Mr. Harper made a motion to accept the Director’s recommendation. Ms. Edwards seconded them motion. Roll call vote as follows: Ms. Edwards – yea, Mr. Harper – yea, Ms. Horzelski – yea, Mr. Wolfe – yea; Mr. Bankston, Mr. DeBlieux, and Mr. Mannino absent. Motion passed.

Commissioner Appointments/Re-Appointments

Mr. Walette reviewed which commissioners would be eligible for re-appointment in July and which commissioner will reach the term limit at the end of June.

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

ATTEST:

Jimmy Wolfe, Chairman
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1

Ricky Mannino, Secretary
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1

Cheri Vining, Recording Secretary
Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District #1

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