

# ANNUAL REPORT



# FY 2021-2022

Proudly protecting our community through innovative science-based solutions, fiscal responsibility, enhancing customer service and community engagement, utilizing creative approaches to research and technology while embracing environmental challenges.

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## INTRODUCTION

### Introduction

Indian River Mosquito Control District is an independent taxing district which was legislatively established in 1925 and provides mosquito control services in Indian River County. The District operates under Chapter 388, Florida Statutes and is recognized as a state-certified mosquito control program by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The District is organized according to the Council–Administrator form of government. As such, the Board of Commissioners (Board) sets policy, adopts legislation, and approves the budget. The Board appoints an administrator to conduct the day-to-day district business, to prepare the budget, to oversee department heads, and to recommend policy to the Board.

The District is governed by three commissioners, elected at large in the general election, by qualified electors residing in Indian River County. Each member serves a four-year term, non-partisan office. Board officers are elected annually. For the fiscal year 2021-2022, Commissioner Matt Erpenbeck served as Chair, Commissioner Janice Broda served as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Tom Lowther served as Secretary/Treasurer. In December of 2022, Commissioner Lowther retired from the District after 8 years of service.







MATT ERPENBECK Chair

JANICE BRODA Vice-Chair

TOM LOWTHER Secretary/Treasurer

# INTRODUCTION

### DISTRICT STAFF



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** Sherry Burroughs, CDM



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES Lisa Ridley, Director Melanie Pacot-Stansbury, Luina Ribera, Jim Mason, Josh Reilly, Paul Baffino & Bruce Lewis



SURVEILLANCE & ARBOVIRUS Heather Whitehead, Frank Cuccurese, Scott Artman, Victor Recendez & Sarah McInnis

HR & OUTREACH Johanna Avril



Michael Hart, Director Morel Jules, Todd Hingle, Daniel Long, Bob Mallory, Tim Adams, Stephen Gee, Josh Shytle, John Thomas, Faron Tyler, Jared Thornton, & Chris Spencer

# **MISSION & VISION**

### VISION

Celebrating the Indian River Mosquito Control legacy and looking to the future, leading innovative science-based services, embracing our environment, and improving the quality of life for our community.

### MISSION

Proudly protecting our community through innovative science-based solutions, fiscal responsibility, enhancing customer service and community engagement, utilizing creative approaches to research and technology while embracing environmental challenges.

### VALUES

Accountability:	Conducting our operations with a constant focus on ethics, integrity, and transparency.
Respect:	Working daily to embrace diversity and exhibit respect to the public, the environment, and our staff.
Teamwork:	We are a team of dedicated individuals committed to providing the highest quality experiences to our internal and external stakeholders.
Innovation:	We recognize and actively pursue the best proven and scientifically based approaches to achieving our mission. IRMCD is a learning organization, always striving to improve our methods.
Mentorship:	IRMCD prioritizes our efforts in developing staff and cultivating an organizational culture of leadership minded and multi-skilled professionals.
Stewardship:	Our charge is to be faithful and active custodians of our natural environment and financial resources.

# INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

### **Integrated Pest Management**

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a science-based decisionmaking process that seeks to find the most effective and appropriate control strategy based on the information gathered by the District. Control methods are based primarily on scientific knowledge of local mosquito ecology, surveillance data, virus transmission risk, as well as applied research. We collaborate with federal, state, and local public health agencies, mosquito control agencies and the research community and engage with local communities and stakeholders. IRMCD cultivates these relationships to educate, gain support, leverage resources and change cultural practices.



The District provides an integrated pest management program, targeting all life cycle stages of the mosquito and utilizing a variety of methods for control.

- SOURCE REDUCTION Activities such as tipping and tossing of water holding containers that can
  provide mosquitoes, removing waste tires within the public rights-of-way, and flooding salt
  marsh habitats along the Indian River Lagoon to reduce opportunities for female mosquitoes to
  lay their eggs.
- LARVAL CONTROL Involves the inspection and implementation of ground and aerial control measures that target the aquatic, immature life stage.
- ADULT CONTROL Initiates appropriate control measures when surveillance thresholds are met, or mosquito-borne disease poses a threat to the public.
- SURVEILLANCE Monitors mosquito populations throughout the District as well as risk of mosquito-borne illnesses.
- RESEARCH & EVALUATION Conducts evaluations of current products and application techniques to ensure they are efficient and effective.
- PUBLIC EDUCATION Participates in educational opportunities, through school programs, community events and speaking engagements at organized meetings, such as civic groups and homeowner association meetings. Professional staff also provide presentations at mosquito control association meetings both statewide and nationally.

# SOURCE REDUCTION

### Source Reduction

Source reduction, which is also referred to as physical or permanent control, is the elimination of mosquito production sites. It is typically the most effective and economical method of mosquito control, as it eliminates the need for larval control in the affected marshes and greatly reduces the need for adult control in nearby areas. It can be as simple as tipping and tossing containers holding water or as complex as implementing Rotational Impoundment Management (RIM). IRMCD focuses on both.



The District's source reduction efforts are largely focused on

the management of over 2,000 acres of impounded salt marshes (impoundments) along the Indian River Lagoon. Each year, these areas are seasonally flooded during the rainy season to prevent salt marsh mosquitoes from laying their eggs upon moist soil of the wetland areas by using RIM procedures. District staff monitor the tides to capture the spring high tide prior to closing culverts. Water levels are monitored daily, and pumps are utilized to maintain appropriate water levels within each impoundment. Staff typically "open" the impoundments in the fall by opening the culverts and allowing the water levels in the marsh to fluctuate with the lagoon. By implementing RIM, the District can significantly reduce and possibly eliminate the need for chemical treatment within those areas. This fiscal year, the impoundment culverts were closed on April 18, 2022, and were re-opened on October 5, 2022.

The District also has a Waste Tire Program which has been in place for over 20 years, as another source reduction method. Tires can produce domestic mosquito species, such as the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) and the Asian Tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) which can transmit several viruses, such as dengue fever and Zika. By collecting and disposing of the waste tires, the District is removing additional mosquito production sites. To date, the District has removed over 1,128 tons of waste tires from public road rights-of-ways.



Figure 1. Aerial photograph of Water Tower and Sand Pointe Impoundments.

# LARVAL MOSQUITO CONTROL

### Larval Control

District Inspection staff spend much of their time inspecting the salt marshes and other wetland areas along the Indian River Lagoon for potential mosquito breeding habitats and the presence of mosquito larvae. Our salt marshes can produce millions of mosquitoes per acre on each flooding event during the summer. Controlling mosquitoes in the water while they are in their immature form is referred to as larviciding and is the most efficient and effective form of control. In the water the mosquitoes are contained, concentrated and relatively easy to treat before they become biting adults. Larviciding is achieved by either ground applications, via hand, backpack or ATV tank applications, or by aerial application, via drone or fixed wing aircraft for larger areas.





Control of immature mosquitoes includes the use of products approved by the EPA (www.epa.gov), called larvicides, that help reduce mosquito populations in the water before they emerge as adults. These larvicides are often very specific in targeting mosquitoes and not other aquatic insects or other animals. Treatments can be for sources of less than a few ounces of water, up to multiple acres of mosquito producing habitat. Sources treated with chemical control products often need to be re-inspected regularly to ensure the product is still providing the level of control sufficient to prevent emerging adults.

Figure 2. Mosquito larvae collected in a dipper.



Figure 4. Annual aerial larviciding totals per fiscal year as compared to 36-year average and rainfall amounts.



Figure 3. Ground larviciding treatment via ATV.

#### **GROUND LARVICIDING**

Staff treated 691 acres by ground using ATVs in FY2021-2022, which is below the five-year average of 1,036 acres.

#### AERIAL LARVICIDING

A total of 15,803 acres of aerial larviciding was conducted during fiscal year 2021-2022, which is below the five-year average of 25,654 acres due to below average rainfall.

# ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL

### Adult Mosquito Control

### GROUND ADULTICIDING/ULV

The District uses truck-based applications as our primary adulticiding control method. "Adulticiding" is the application of products to kill adult mosquitoes by ground or air and is most effective when the mosquitoes are in flight. While source reduction and larviciding are typically the most effective control techniques, adulticiding is an extremely important part of any Integrated Pest Management program. These applications can immediately reduce the number of biting mosquitoes in an area, thereby reducing the risk of a mosquito-borne disease. This becomes essential when adult mosquito numbers become high enough to quickly transmit and spread diseases, or severely reduce the well-being of our residents.

The application is an Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) spray where small amounts of undiluted pesticide are dispersed by truck mounted equipment. The District uses permethrin and deltamethrin products for ground treatments. The volume of pesticide is computercontrolled to provide the same amount per mile regardless of vehicle speed. The trucks are equipped with a GPS guidance system which directs the driver and tracks the amount of pesticide applied, vehicle speed and location.

Applications are conducted after dusk when the mosquitoes are most active and to ensure we are not causing harm to bees and butterflies. Applications are determined on a day-to-day basis in response to adult mosquito surveillance, in accordance with state rules and





Figure 5. ULV application by truck and the display of the computerized application in the truck.

regulations. This could mean applications are made the same night or next day as the trap data is processed. This level of responsiveness ensures we can move fast enough to prevent human disease. Residents can visit our website (www.irmosquito.com) to review where and when our adult mosquito applications will be conducted, or to submit a service request.

During FY2021-2022, 4,082 miles were treated by ULV truck to control adult mosquito populations. This is below the annual average of 5,435 miles per year. Average treatments remained low until a spike in rain and mosquito population in June caused an increase in missions.

# ADULT MOSQUITO CONTROL

### AERIAL ADULTICIDING

Aerial adulticiding is performed when the District receives large amounts of widespread rainfall, such as after tropical storms, hurricanes, or the human risk for mosquito-borne virus transmission is high. In FY2021-2022 there were no aerial adulticiding missions conducted.

### SERVICE REQUESTS

As a public agency, our service to District residents is essential to protect people from vector-borne diseases. When we connect with the public, we get an opportunity to hear the concerns of our residents regarding mosquito control and more importantly are able to share our knowledge and experience on how they can work with us to find the best solution to their problem. We rely on these requests, not to direct





control treatments, but to help guide District surveillance. This allows staff to focus on areas where potential mosquito problems are occurring. The public can issue a service request any time of the day, 24/7. Using our website (www.irmosquito.com), they can sign up for service, gain information about current mosquito conditions, and even find out where we are performing our adult mosquito control activities. This past year, the District received a total of 615 calls, which is below the five-year annual average of 725.



Figure 7. Screenshot of IRMCD's website page where the public can enter a service request.

### Surveillance

### MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE

There are more than 80 mosquito species in Florida with 50 of these known to occur in Indian River County. Each county has several important species that are a nuisance and others that have the potential to transmit mosquito–borne diseases. As such, it is important to identify which species are prevalent in the District, detect the arrival of invading species or monitor population numbers before implementing control measures. IRMCD monitors the aquatic larval stages of mosquitoes as well as populations of adult mosquitoes, depending on surveillance goals.





Adult mosquitoes are monitored by use of specialized traps or by landing rate counts. The District utilizes up to 20 CDC light traps baited with carbon dioxide to monitor the mosquito population on a weekly basis throughout the District all year long. The traps are located at each sentinel chicken site, as well as inland and coastal locations (Figure 9). Traps are collected, sorted out by species and counted. The trap counts are utilized to assess changes in adult populations and determine whether adult control measures are needed. Landing rate counts are utilized to determine biting pressure of mosquitoes and is calculated based

upon the number of mosquitoes that land on an inspector within one to five minutes.



Figure 8. Average mosquito populations per month for coastal and inland sites as compared to the baseline population.

The mosquito populations within the coastal and inland trap sites remained below the two-year average (baseline) for most of the year, with the exception of the coastal traps for the months of May through June.



Figure 9. Average percent composition of the genera of mosquitoes collected within the inland and coastal CDC traps.



Figure 10. Location of CDC Light Traps throughout the District.

#### ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE

The District uses chickens to monitor levels of virus transmission from mosquitoes to birds in the county. There are 8 sentinel chicken sites located throughout the county to assess local mosquito transmission of detection of several mosquito-transmitted viruses: St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE). Staff collect blood samples from the wing of the chicken and test for antibodies to these viruses. A positive result indicates when and where virus transmission occurred, so staff may respond with appropriate control measures. The District has implemented this state-sponsored program since its inception in 1978. In 2021-2022, one sentinel chicken tested positive for EEE, as compared to 8 positive chickens the previous year.



Figure 11. Obtaining blood sample from wing vein of the chicken and photo of one of the field coops utilized to house the sentinel chickens.

Staff also conduct intensive monitoring of populations of the principal vector mosquito, *Culex nigripalpus*. Mosquito population monitoring utilizes specialized adult mosquito trapping techniques to monitor changes in the population and behavior of the vector mosquito.

Unlike the encephalitis viruses, there are no useful early detection monitoring programs for dengue, chikungunya or Zika viruses. Since these viruses are transmitted from mosquito to man, the only indication of virus in Florida will be the reporting of a human case. Human case investigations involve determining when and where a disease was contracted. A close working relationship with our local Florida Department of Health helps to determine when and where the mosquito-borne disease was contracted and whether it was acquired locally, or travel related outside of the County. The District did not have any virus activity during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. However, the state experienced a total of 67 cases of dengue fever among Miami-Dade, Collier and Broward counties.



Figure 12. Florida Arbovirus Surveillance for 2022 from the Florida Department of Health.

# **RESEARCH & EVALUATION**

### **Research & Evaluation**

### COLLABORATION WITH FMEL

The District routinely participates in collaborative research with scientists at the University of Florida's Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory (FMEL) in Vero Beach. Recent studies have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of our products in controlling domestic mosquito species, *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*.

### FIELD EVALUATION OF LARVAL PRODUCTS

Pesticides are periodically evaluated to make certain they remain effective in current environmental conditions and are effective in

controlling mosquitoes found in Indian River County. The District periodically tests the effectiveness of larvicide and adulticide compounds using a variety of methods developed by the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, and our own. These are performed in a variety of environments including laboratory, semi-field, and field tests.

Because mosquitoes can become resistant to insecticides, our office periodically tests mosquito larvae and adults from our area to ensure that the materials that we use remain effective. Semi-field testing is conducted outdoors, thus using natural sunlight and temperature while maintaining control over some

variables such as flooding or drying. This allows for experimental conditions which are more similar to field conditions than is experienced in a laboratory setting.

In September 2021, staff conducted field trials of two different larvicide products: Altosid P35 and Natular SC. Altosid P35 is a granular product that has a 35-day residual was applied via drone to a wooded area near the Bill's Impoundment. Staff were pleased with the results, as there was a zero landing rate at the site on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Natular SC is a liquid product that was applied at the Pine Island Impoundment. The results were satisfactory, however staff noted that we get more of a residual effect from the Natular 2EC.



Figure 13. Drone application for field testing of larvicide products.



### **Public Education**

The District's outreach and public education efforts are continuing to be developed. To improve awareness, we participate in outdoor community events, providing informational booths manned by our District staff, where we distribute a wide variety of educational materials. These events also provide opportunities for the public to have one-on-one conversations to learn more about our District and the services we provide. We also visit summer school programs and host school programs at our facility to provide students with information regarding mosquitoes. Professional staff also provide presentations at various civic/community meetings to educate the public on our service and how they can do their part to protect themselves from mosquitoes.



The District conducted three community events, three school events and four speaking engagements during FY2021-2022. Some of the photographs from each of the events are provided below.

### CITY OF SEBASTIAN'S COMMUNITY NIGHT OUT - OCTOBER 2021



CITY OF SEBASTIAN'S EARTH DAY EVENT - NOV 2021



### HOME SCHOOL VISITS – MARCH 2022



AMCA'S FIELD DAY – JACKSONVILLE, FL – MARCH 2022



US NAVY ARMED GUARD & MERCHANT MARINE VETERANS OF WWII MEETING – MAY 2022



IMAGINE SCHOOLS MOSQUITO DAY - JUNE 2022





### IMAGINE SCHOOLS MOSQUITO DAY - JUNE 2022





SEBASTIAN EXCHANGE CLUB – AUGUST 2022



# ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Annual Accomplishments

### ADMINISTRATIVE/HUMAN RESOURCES

- Hired new Director of Operations
- Updated position descriptions and performance evaluations
- Began reviewing and updating the employee policy manual (to be completed next year)
- Community outreach events were making a comeback after Covid-19

#### **OPERATIONS**

• Purchased new attachment to hedge/trim vegetation along the impoundment dike (Chopzilla) (Photo A).



- Experimented with using the MWI portable pump to assist in pumping up Vista Gardens Impoundment. Moved the location of the portable pump at Water Tower to the east side to improve water flow to the western side of the impoundment.
- Stabilized pump intakes at electrical pump stations to prevent cavitation (Photo B).
- Improved the access over the pump at North Winter Beach Impoundment Copelands/73rd to facilitate safe vehicle and equipment access, including reconstructing the wall, and creating a safe platform for operations to access the pump (Photo C & D).



- Upgraded the type of fill material utilized on the impoundment dikes and modified the repair methods to add filter cloth as a base layer.
- Renovated the Permanent Control Office to create a Field Office for both Larvicide and Permanent Control staff. A TV monitor was added to the room for training and presentations, especially during rainy days when fieldwork is limited.
- Expanded drone missions to include additional areas suitable for long-term products vs fixed-wing application.

# ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Restructured the Larvicide Department by moving the Aerial Coordinator/Specialist into the Department, under the direction of the Supervisor.
- Supplied domestic inspection training to Larvicide Inspectors.
- Installed 5 new culverts and replaced two existing culverts and improved the dike at Sand Point Impoundment. The District was reimbursed for a total of \$113,125.13 as part of the McCuller's Point Mitigation Project. (Photos E, F & G).



- Vista Royale Impoundment New stabilizing technique.
- Installed new culvert at Oyster Bar Impoundment for the County for mitigation for a Public Works project. The County reimbursed the District for a total of \$10,399.00. (Photo H)
- Replaced old culvert at Morgan's Impoundment and constructed structure to provide support for the 90-foot culvert. (Photo I & J).



# PARTNERSHIPS & SPECIAL PROJECTS

### Partnerships & Special Projects

### PARTNERSHIPS

The District maintains several partnerships with local, state and federal agencies, which include the following.

- American Health & Safety Institute (HIS)
- Bonefish & Tarpon Trust
- Environmental Learning Center
- Florida Department of Health
- Florida Inland Navigation District
- Florida Medical Entomologist Lab
- Indian River Land Trust
- Indian River County Park and Conservation Department
- Lost Tree Islands
- Sebastian Elementary School
- Sebastian Inlet District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

#### • Juvenile Tarpon & Snook Studies

The District has continued to assist the Indian River Land Trust, Florida Atlantic University and Bonefish & Tarpon Trust in their fisheries research within the Water Tower Impoundments, also known as Bee Gum Point. Research is being conducted to assist in improving our understanding of how juvenile sport fish, such as tarpon and snook, migrate in and out of the impoundments and if interim season drawdowns during the pumping season affect their migration.

#### • McCuller's Point Mitigation Project

The District installed five new culverts and replaced two existing culverts as part of the McCuller's Point Mitigation Project. Indian River Lagoon and Restoration & Enhancement reimbursed the District for the time, materials and equipment use in the amount of \$113,125.13.

#### • Oyster Bar Mitigation Project

The District installed two culverts within the Oyster Bar Impoundment for Indian River County as mitigation for a canal dredging project. The County reimbursed the District for the cost of the culverts, the fill material, filter cloth, riprap as well as the staff's time and use of the equipment (\$11,733.50).

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Financial Highlights

### OVERVIEW

The Indian River Mosquito Control District depends on property tax revenues to fund its operations. The District's objective is to be fiscally responsible in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting (GAAFR) as well as incompliance with state statutory reporting requirements. We remain fiscally conservative and utilize a transparent approach.

The District's millage rate for the General Operating Budget was 0.2515. Property taxes increased due to higher property values. Expenses declined due to a decrease in chemical usage of approximately \$233,000. The reduction in chemical usage is attributed to a dry summer in comparison to the previous fiscal year.

The District entered into a reimbursement agreement with Indian River Lagoon Restoration and Enhancement, LLC to install additional culverts and make improvements to support hydraulic improvements at Mc Culler's Point aka Sand Point, an existing mosquito impoundment. This project reimbursement total was approximately \$113,000.

### FY2021-2022 Budget \$7,270,407

### **GENERAL REVENUES**

Property Taxes	\$4,937,481
Investment Earnings	\$13,468
Misc. Income	\$41,341
Gain on Disposal of Capital Assets	\$8,664
Charges for Services	\$113,194
Grants & Contributions	\$5,860
Total Revenue	\$5,120,008



#### **EXPENSES**

Physical Environment	\$3,772,340
Capital Outlay	\$404,920
Total Expenditures	\$4,177,260



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### CAPITAL OUTLAY

Capital purchases for FY2021-2022 included vehicles, capital building improvements, electronics/IT and two mitigation projects.

- Vehicle Equipment Purchases
  - $\circ$   $\;$  Six ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) for Larvicide
- Capital Buildings
  - Procured a generator for the Administration Building
  - Improved security of facilities by procuring an access control system for the Administration Building and Shop Facilities and fencing the entire campus
- Capital Outlay Electronics
  - Entered the final phase of procurement with the vendor Leading Edge to provide Map Vision Software.
- Capital Other
  - o Completed Sand Point Impoundment Mitigation Project
  - o Completed Oyster Bar Mitigation Project Culvert Installations



Figure 15. Breakdown of expenses per category.

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

### **FINANCIAL POSITION**

#### LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	45,198
Accrued wages	40,668
Noncurrent liabilities:	
Compensated absences	104,726
Net pension liability	2,087,191
Net OPEB liability	<u>190,449</u>
Total liabilities	2,468,232

#### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all the District's assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources. The difference is reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the District has improved or is deteriorating.

#### Table 1. Statement of Net Position for FY2021-2022.

	 2022	2021
Current and other assets	\$ 3,609,436	\$ 2,682,945
Capital assets, net of depreciation	3,464,332	3,440,513
Total assets	7,073,768	6,123,458
Deferred outflows of resources	644,574	667,322
Total assets and deferred outflows	7,718,342	6,790,780
Current liabilities	85,866	102,123
Long-term liabilities	 2,382,366	1,357,138
Total liabilities	2,468,232	1,459,261
Deferred inflows of resources	321,394	1,379,551
Total liabilities and deferred inflows	2,789,626	2,838,812
Net position		
Investment in capital assets	3,464,332	3,440,513
Unrestricted	1,464,384	511,455
Total net position	\$ 4,928,716	\$ 3,951,968

# YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES

### Years of Service Milestones

15 Years



**Bob Mallory** Marine Inspector II

10 Years



Victor Recendez ULV Specialist

5 Years



Jared Thornton Impoundment Operator