

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Indian River Mosquito Control District

December 14, 2021 @ 9:00 AM

The Indian River Mosquito Control District Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the District Office.

**Present:** Janice Broda (Chair), Matt Erpenbeck (Vice-Chair) and Tom Lowther (Secretary/Treasurer)

**Staff:** Sherry Burroughs (Executive Director), Lisa Ridley (Finance Director), Johanna Avril (HR Generalist), Michael Hart (Larvicide Supervisor) and Morel Jules (Larvicide Supervisor).

**Visitors:** Ian Sandum, Jad Shalhoub, Judy Avril and Cherieff Jackson (Clarke)

I. **Call to Order** – Chair Broda called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Consent Agenda** (*All items as Consent Agenda items are considered routine and non-controversial by the Board and will be approved in a single motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. Prior to this meeting, Board members have had the opportunity to review each of these items and may request that any item be moved to an Action Item for individual consideration.*)

A. Approval of Minutes (Attachment A)

B. Financial Report (Attachment B)

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the financial report. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

IV. **Public Comment** – none

V. **Old Business**

**A. Discussion of IRLT Impoundment Drawdowns**

Staff has held several meetings to discuss logistics of implementing IRLT's request to drawdown Water Tower, South Bills and South Knights impoundments twice during the summer. Staff is still working on developing a cost estimate to provide to the Board at the next meeting. Sherry provided an update on the status of the work effort.

**Water Tower:**

Staff can accommodate the request for an additional drawdown at Water Tower in the same manner as previous years. Land Trust has inquired about the ability to manipulate the cells (north side versus south side) independently, however several modifications would be required to be in place to accomplish it. Three cross culverts would need to be replaced with ones with flap gates, the northwest dike on the north cell would have to be built up substantially to accommodate the pump placement on the west end of the north cell, an additional culvert would need to be installed in the northwest dike and a flap gate would need to be placed on Culvert WT-02. There are concerns with replacing the concrete, cross culverts due to buried electric along the dike.

**South Bills**

*This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Board of Commissioners with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose he may need to ensure that a record of the proceedings is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Office Manager at 772-562-2393 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.*

The first challenge with South Bills is to prevent the water from moving through two, cross culverts between the middle and south cells. If we utilize plywood, we will likely have to pump the middle cell due to leakage around the culvert. Staff estimated cost of inflatable balloon or bladder to put inside the culvert to be around \$300 each. The second challenge is the pump. Option 1 is to use the existing pump at Bills and pump through all three cells. This would result in needing to provide aerial larviciding of all three cells, as the water will equalize once the cross culverts are opened back up, causing drops in the water elevation of the other cells. Option 2 is to pump only the southern cell. Staff prefers to rent an additional pump rather than utilize the portable pump (at Water Tower) due to the logistical effort to move it back and forth between sites. The third challenge is the placement of said pump. The ideal site would be located across from the residential area; however, we would be impacting them with the noise of the pump. Staff identified an alternate location on the south side of the impoundment that may be feasible. Staff would prefer to attempt the drawdown on this one time this summer, instead of two, to ensure we get the process refined.

### **South Knights**

After numerous discussions, staff determined that we may be doing more harm than good to try repump this impoundment area. The native vegetation has regrown, and the mosquito population is fully controlled. Staff has seen a reduction in the use of larvicide applications. If the culverts are opened, the area will have to be treated after every rainfall event. Since this impoundment has never been pumped, we do not know where the water will go if we do pump it. If it is decided that we need to pump it, several modifications will need to be made, such as building an entrance road to get the pump in place, dredging the ditch to get to deep water around Hoffman's Thumb, creating new trails to inspect frequently, as with every half inch of rainfall will necessitate larval treatment.

The Board agreed that staff need to take no further action on South Knights. Chair Broda suggested staff coordinate with Land Trust to provide an alternative impoundment site.

### **B. Grove Place Easement (Attachment C)**

The draft easement is being submitted for the Board's review and comment. Mr. McNelly asked if we would redline any modifications and submit it back to him. After much discussion on the document, it was recommended that staff request more detailed drawings from McNelly, specifically the current easement and the proposed easement separately, as well as the landscape plan for the site.

**Action Item:** *Staff to request the current and proposed easement drawings as well as the landscape plan for the site.*

### **C. Executive Director's Merit**

In accordance with the Executive Director's employment agreement, Commissioners are to meet with the Director individually to discuss their evaluation. The item was tabled at the last meeting to allow Chair Broda additional time.

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to award a 4% merit. The motion failed for lack of a second.** Commissioner Erpenbeck expressed concerns that if 4% was provided the director would be making more than the Sheriff in a few years. **Commissioner Erpenbeck made the motion to award a 2% merit and Chair Broda seconded the motion for discussion. After discussion, the motion passed with 2:1 vote; Commissioner Lowther in opposition; motion passed.**

## VI. New Business

### A. Merit Evaluation Policy (Attachment D)

Johanna presented the suggestion adjustment in the language of the merit evaluation policy for the Board's review and consideration. The verbiage would be modifying to state that "pay increases will be reflected in the first paycheck of October" to be consistent with past practice. In addition, the last sentence would be deleted as the annual 1.5% merit payment for those employees who are topped out in their job category does count toward the Florida Retirement System accumulation.

**Commissioner Erpenbeck made the motion to amend the existing policy. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

### B. Chemical Bid Opening

Staff opened the bids from Clarke, Adapco and Target Specialty Products and will provide recommendations for award at the next meeting. Sherry recommended to change the practice of bid openings by conducting the bid opening at a public meeting announced in the bid advertisement two weeks prior to the regularly scheduled Board meeting. This would allow staff time to analyze the documentation and have comparison documents available to present to the Board and streamline the process.

**Commissioner Erpenbeck made a motion to amend the bid process to open bids in a public meeting two weeks prior to the Board meeting. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

**Commissioner Erpenbeck made a motion to evaluate the chemical bids opened today and report at next meeting. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.**

## VII. Director's Report – Sherry provided the following report.

### • Impoundments –

- Seeking quotes for the replacement of the Golf Course pump.
- Continued hedging, grinding and mowing areas, still waiting for conditions to be favorable for dike construction and culvert installations. Working on finalizing Vista Gardens (Greenway) and Schlitt's impoundments.

### • Arbovirus Surveillance

- All sentinels have tested negative this past month, statewide still seeing transmission occurring with an increase in WNV and a decrease in EEE
- 3 human WNV cases in the state last month (Columbia, Collier, Escambia), two asymptomatic blood donors (Columbia & Escambia); 7 total year to date
- Counties under mosquito-borne illness advisory: Bay, Citrus, Jefferson, Nassau, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco and Walton
- Collier is under an alert (4 human cases: 7 positive mosquito pools)
- District, Ryall and Graves sites had an increase in *Culex nigripalpus* populations; majority of population was nonblood fed, with 10% gravid at Graves and 2% at Lockwood.

### • Mosquito Surveillance

- Of the 23 trap sites, most populations are declining. Observed increases in total populations at Lockwood, Highlands, Rosewood, Fellsmere Fire Station and Vero Shores over November average.

- **ULV**
  - 14 service requests received: 11 via phone, 3 emails (Zones 7, 8, 10, 31, 32, 40, 42, 66 and 67)
  - Service requests below last month (35) and historical average of 41 for the month
  - Treated Zones 10, 13, 14 (two times), 36, 40, 42, 44. 45, 63, 64, 65 and 67
  - 440 miles treated, compared to 680 from prior month and an historical average of 470
  
- **Larvicide** – Michael Hart provided the Larvicide Report.
  - 1,268 acres were called in for aerial treatment, but no aerial treatments were conducted due to high winds.
  - max tide 27 to 31 inches; max rainfall last week 3.5 inches and the king tide exceeded 36 inches.
  - Adult numbers 6 to 10 per minute; mostly on the southern end and 1 to 5 on the north end.
  - Staff calibrated repaired, updated and calibrated seven spray tanks and equipment on ATVs and Kubota.
  - Construction repairs being made to bridges and trimming of inspection routes.
  
- **Education & Outreach** – Morel Jules, Johanna Avril and Shawna James participated in school program for St. Helens, teaching mosquito biology to the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes and mosquito borne diseases to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**VIII. Commissioner's Comments - none**

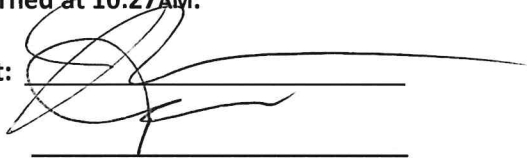
**IX. Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- OPEB Trust Meeting – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 1:30 PM
- Board Meeting – January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at 1:35 PM
- FMCA Aerial Fly-In – January 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- FMCA Tallahassee Days – January 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- FASD Legislative Forum – January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- FMCA Dodd Short Courses – January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Board Meeting – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- AMCA Annual Meeting - February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Board Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**X. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Lowther made the motion to adjourn. The Board unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 AM.**

**Attest:**



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