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Iberia Parish Mosquito Abatement District

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MINUTES OF THE IBERIA PARISH MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING CONDUCTED ON AUGUST 8, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE LOCATED AT 611 OLD CENTRAL TAXIWAY, NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA 70560

Call to order – Chairman, Mr. Willie Polite called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Roll Call – Roll call was taken. The following were present: Mr. Willie Polite, Dr. Christopher Dupuy, Ms. Latifa Gray, Mr. Jay Leger and Mr. John Simmons.

The following were absent: Dr. Timothy Viator.

It was noted that a quorum was present. Others in attendance: Mr. Herff Jones, Executive Director, Ms. Adrienne Camacho, Administrative Secretary.

Persons to address the Board – None

Public Comments – None

Approval of Minutes – The Chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Simmons motioned that the minutes be adopted and then entered into the record, Mr. Leger second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

8D Summary – Mr. Jones pointed out the dramatic difference in our overall mosquito populations when compared to this reporting month (July) of the previous year. There is an eighty (80%) percent difference in the total mosquito population numbers, largely due to the extreme heat and lack of rain. This is a good demonstration of how the abundance of the floodwater species mosquitoes is directly tied to rainfall; while disease carrying mosquitoes, that prefer septic (permanent water) conditions can still thrive. Mr. Jones continued, our first report of WNV activity in tested mosquito samples for 2023 has activated our response protocols. Our surveillance and testing will continue throughout the season and our operations will expand if needed. It is appropriate to ready for issues related to encephalitis and WNV transmission; despite the heatwave virus activity in mosquitoes as well as humans is occurring across the state according to the most recent LDH Arbovirus Summary report.

Budget Report – Mr. Jones reported that our revenue collections are near the Board’s tertiary budget threshold; this is worth noting with 5 months of collections remaining. The district is expected to achieve its proposed total budget and operated within the proposed parameters of the 2023 appropriations budget. Mr. Jones informed the Board that budget planning and initial submissions have been made to the administration for consideration. He presented the Board with proposed 2024 budget submissions for their considerations and hoped to address specific questions at the members’ leisure. Mr. Jones did indicate minor changes to some spending categories and no changes to other important spending categories. These adjustments are in consideration of multi-year price increases in public health pesticides and prudence as it relates to our aerial operations. Additionally, Mr. Jones stated that our programs is poised to expand its operations into the utilization of UAS platforms / drones. These platforms are widely used across the nation in mosquito control and are an effective tool to address problem areas that are difficult to access. Mr. Jones ended the discussion briefly describing upgrades to the aircraft hangar for the 2024 budget

Action Items for the Board’s Consideration – None

Announcements - None

Adjourn – The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn: Mr. Simmons motioned that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Leger second the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Submitted by Herff MP. Jones, Executive Director
Iberia Parish Mosquito Abatement District