

Regular Meeting Minutes

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
Marathon Office
503 107th Street Marathon, FL 33050

August 19, 2026 1:00 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Regular Meeting on August 19, 2026 at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

Present Were: Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chairman; Bette Brown, Secretary/Treasurer; Brandon Pinder, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Hunter O'Connor, Board Attorney. Jill Cranney, Commissioner, was absent.

Employees Present Were: Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance; Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Operations; Abigail Smith, Education Coordinator; Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources; Rochele Miller, Executive/HR Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer.

Invited Guests Present: Nan Kitchens

Members of the Public: Gail Batchelor

Community Input: None.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Chairman Goodman asked the Board if there were any corrections or additions to the consent agenda, having none, the consent agenda was approved.

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Invited Speaker: Nan Kitchens

Chairman Goodman welcomed Nan Kitchens, who expressed her gratitude to Mosquito Control for what they do for the public. She commended the exemplary services provided to her and her neighborhood during 2020. Ms. Kitchens then shared her charted two-week personal account of her specific symptoms and eventual diagnosis of Dengue Fever. Early in her illness though, suspecting Dengue, she contacted Mosquito Control and the Health Department. Mosquito Control responded to her neighborhood, setting traps, identifying the source and eliminating standing water. To assist, she removed a bird bath and bromeliads. Additionally, larviciding by helicopter was conducted immediately to help control the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito population and prevent further spread. Typically, the Health Department notifies Mosquito Control of suspected cases; however, in this instance, Ms. Kitchens herself initiated contact, and FKMCD responded immediately. Eventually, her diagnosis was confirmed as Dengue serotype 1. Thanks to this rapid response, mosquito control efforts effectively minimized the spread of the disease. Ms. Kitchens recommended continuing to raise awareness about the symptoms of Dengue Fever, as it is often misdiagnosed as the flu, which can delay timely intervention. Some symptoms were extremely painful and persisted for years. Due to concerns about Dengue serotypes 2, 3, or 4, she had avoided spending summers in the Keys until this year, opting to travel instead. Ms. Kitchens met Commissioner Goodman at a recent forum, where she shared her experience with Dengue and thanked him for the work of Mosquito Control. He invited her to share her story with the Board. The Commissioners had not previously heard such a detailed firsthand account of Dengue. They encouraged Ms. Kitchens to continue sharing this valuable

information with others. Everyone expressed their appreciation for her willingness to share her story.

Treasurer's Report: None

Attorney's Report: The Homestead Tax Referendum language revision was released and will be circulated.

Director's Report: Executive Director, Andrea Leal began with the mosquito-borne disease update, still reporting two travel-related cases of Chikungunya in Monroe County. Local cases of Dengue are starting to pop up throughout the state but still lower numbers than in the past few years for travel-related cases.

Operationally, Salt Marsh mosquito numbers were lower than the historical average throughout the District in July. One Hundred and twelve (112) truck adulticide missions were conducted in July, which is less than the historical average. We completed twenty-four (24) aerial granular larvicide missions, forty-one (41) ground liquid larvicide missions, and we completed four (4) aerial liquid larvicide missions in Key West. *Aedes aegypti* numbers did not exceed the action thresholds for adulticide in July. We had a UAV treatment scheduled for this week, but it will be rescheduled. Service requests (736) were higher than historical average for July.

Director Leal addressed some questions about the effects of operations on non-target species. While we apply general insecticides using our trucks and aircraft, the timing of our applications is key. Bees and butterflies are inactive during our nighttime spraying operations. We work closely with beekeepers and have not seen any adverse effects. When conducting aerial adulticiding, we spray at first light and do not observe significant mortality. Coordinating with beekeepers helps to ensure hives are protected. Our goal is to safeguard the environment by focusing on mosquitoes while preserving beneficial non-target insects. Director Leal will circulate publications pertaining to this.

Big news, the education website has been launched. Abby Smith, Education Coordinator, is already receiving requests and feedback. She plans to be in schools by the end of September. Recent community events included the Caribbean Street Fair and National Night Out, with upcoming events at the Marine Lab and the Lower Keys Women's Club. The Ocean Reef Community Association toured our facility last month. A teaser for their newsletter was circulated, and the full article will be shared when it is published.

World Mosquito Day is tomorrow, be on the lookout for social media posts. The new helicopter is ready. Rob and Justin are travelling to Texas for testing and hope to return with it by end of next week. The Budget Presentation for the Chamber of Commerce took place last week as well. Questions and positive support were received. The District's benefits annual renewal and stewardship meeting went well. Our Cigna and FBMC partners work hard to keep our costs down. The Key Largo Church property is currently zoned public use, so we are looking into what it would take to change that.

Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance, gave the financial update for July. The total balance across both accounts was \$12,961,610.70, divided in a 70/30 split. The average monthly yield was 3.3% at Centennial Bank and 3.7289% at FL CLASS. The interest earned was \$40,017.73. The FL CLASS rating remains AAAM.

Items for Board Discussion:

11a.) Mutually Exclusive Extremes of Mosquito Control in the FL Keys: Chairman Goodman took this opportunity to share insights he gained on the campaign trail. There is a delicate balance between disease control, quality of life, and protecting the environment, within a specific budget. We currently eliminate an estimated 80-90% of the mosquito population. Given the variables we face, we are doing a commendable job, but we can do better. Educating the public about the definition of success is key. As mosquito control, we can set realistic expectations in future

presentations. There was also discussion about implementing a simple, targeted marketing campaign and increasing public education efforts. He thanked everyone for their support. Director Leal reminded the Board that our Annual Performance Measures are updated each December, providing an excellent opportunity to share ideas.

Items for Board Review and Action:

12a.) Financial Reports: Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance, presented the July financial reports. District Finances shows the 70/30 split between Centennial reserves and FL CLASS. These balances are through August 14th. Cash Disbursements for July were also highlighted. With no further discussion, *A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed unanimously* confirming the Board received the financial information from July of 2026, and the Board requests it be submitted for audit at the appropriate time.

12b.) Resolution 2026-19 Amending the District's Personnel Manual: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, AMENDING THE DISTRICT'S PERSONNEL MANUAL TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF WORK WEEK; ADOPTING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *A motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Pinder, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2026-19 as written.*

12c.) Resolution 2026-20 Rescheduling First Budget Hearing: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA RESCHEDULING THE FIRST BUDGET HEARING OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2026-20 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously adopted.*

12d.) Resolution 2026-21 Budget Amendment #3: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Following discussion, *A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Zuba, and passed unanimously to approve Resolution 2026-21 as written.*

12e.) Resolution 2026-22 Budget Amendment #4: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA AMENDING THE DISTRICT'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Following discussion, *A motion was made by Commissioner Zuba, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed unanimously to approve Resolution 2026-22 as written.*

Good of the Order:

- Chairman Goodman stated the next meeting is the Tentative Budget Hearing to be held on September 3rd, 2026 at 5:05 pm.
- The Final Budget Hearing will take place at 5:05 pm on September 15th, 2026, preceded by the Regular Meeting of the Board.
- Commissioner Goodman will participate in a call tomorrow (August 20th) with the Tampa Bay Tribune and other municipals, representing FMCA in a neutral position regarding the Property Tax Referendum.

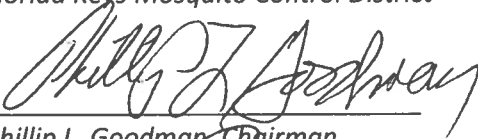
There being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Leal
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District



Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman



Bette Brown, Secretary-Treasurer

For additional information, please refer to www.keysmosquito.org.