

Regular Meeting Minutes

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

March 17, 2026 1:00 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Regular Meeting on March 17, 2026 at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

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

Employees Present Were: Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance; Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Operations; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Rochele Miller, Executive/HR Assistant; Abigail Smith, Education Coordinator; Juliana Waldrop, Safety Coordinator.

Invited Guests Present: Brian Schmitt, President and Broker, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.

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: Brian Schmitt, President and Broker, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.

Commissioner Goodman introduced Brian Schmitt. Mr. Schmitt thanked the staff for the tour and expressed his appreciation for mosquito control. He recalled a time when living here was difficult because mosquitoes could not be controlled as effectively as they are today.

Mr. Schmitt presented slides highlighting various statistics and comparisons between listings and sales to illustrate an annual cycle, effectively demonstrating that sellers create and drive the market. The development in Florida and the Keys began to increase as mosquito populations decreased. He also mentioned that outreach programs initiated by the District have significantly increased public awareness and will continue to be essential in the education process.

Mr. Schmitt thanked the commissioners for all that the District does and expressed his intention to continue educating his team so everyone gains better understanding. Commissioner Goodman asked if he thought there was an impact on sales last year due to the influx of saltmarsh mosquitoes. He was unable to say for certain, but there does seem to be a correlation between the peak of mosquito season and having fewer people in the Keys at that time.

The commissioners thanked Mr. Schmitt for organizing today's meeting and both emphasized the importance of communication and education.

Treasurer's Report: None.

Attorney's Report: Board Attorney Hunter O'Connor reported his findings regarding the Key Largo Community Church lease. The property, owned by the District, was leased in 1998 and was last extended through 2033. The buildings onsite are also District property. The church wishes to terminate the lease agreement and could do so. Executive Director Leal and Mikki Coss confirmed that the property has been maintained, and improvements have been made in accordance with the lease. Commissioner Brown mentioned a conversation she had with their attorney and son of the lessee, indicating that they no longer have use for the property. Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources, confirmed that our current insurance policy covers the church property. Chairman Goodman suggested that staff conduct a walkthrough and collaborate with the church to clarify their plans. The Board discussed different options and expressed interest in exploring possibilities for renting the property or offering it as a community service. Prior to the next meeting, Director of Operations Mikki Coss will inspect the property, Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance, will confirm there are no outstanding payments, and Mr. O'Connor will reach out to the church's attorney to obtain a formal letter terminating the lease.

Director's Report: Executive Director, Andrea Leal, acknowledged Patricia Sprague for her 15 years of service with the District but she was unable to attend in person due to the recent rain.

Director Leal reported that there are still only two confirmed travel-related cases of Chikungunya in Monroe County. Travel-related cases of Chikungunya and dengue fever continue to occur in South Florida, and the district will keep monitoring the situation. Operationally, salt marsh and *Aedes aegypti* numbers were lower than historical averages.

She also highlighted ongoing community outreach and education efforts, including participation in career and safety days, classroom visits and the Marathon Seafood Festival. Chairman Goodman recently spoke at the Ocean Reef Chamber meeting. The FKMCD Open House planning is on-going and will be held Saturday, April 18th from 10-2.

On the Human Resources front, we are exploring potential recruitment service possibilities for some of the hard to fill specialty positions, such as aircraft mechanics. Director Leal also noted that her annual evaluation will be on next month's agenda and encouraged the commissioners to set up meetings based on their availability.

Upcoming travel includes the AMCA Meeting in Portland Oregon, where Dr. Hribar, Heidi Murray and Dr. Pruszynski will be presenting. Rosalina Rivera will attend as an award winner for operational mosquito control. Rob Lee and Justin Knowles will be visiting the new helicopter to check the build out process. This month, the District was represented at the Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee meeting.

Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance, provided an investment update for the end of February 2026. She reported that most of the funds remain in FLCLASS, with an account balance of \$16,668,604.03 and an average monthly yield of 3.7498% for February. The income earned was \$47,869.55. The Centennial Bank account was opened and currently at 3.3% for 12 months. Transfers have been made to accomplish the 70/30 split the Board recommended.

Next month, the Public Information Education Workshop will be included in the regular board meeting as a discussion item. We are expecting a tour and workshop with the Tourist Development Council and County Mayor.

Items for Board Discussion:

11a.) LiDAR Update – Executive Director Andrea Leal attended the Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee meeting and shared that the Army Corp of Engineers has flown the Florida Keys, with the data available to the public currently. Additionally, the DEP has funded LiDAR mapping that has penetrated the water up to 50 meters. This should be available to the public in the very near future, which

would save us significant money. Director Leal shared images and data that is currently available. The Board agrees it makes financial sense to use the information available to get us started.

Items for Board Review and Action:

12a.) Financial Reports – Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance, presented the February financial reports. State fund activity included mainly Per Diem related to DODD. In the local fund, the primary large expenditures were helicopter maintenance and pilot training. She noted that the expenses are standard for February. An ad valorem deposit was also reported but Ms. Bouchard mentioned these will lessen at this time of year. District Finances and Cash Disbursements for February were shared. With no further discussion, *A motion was made by Commissioner Cranney, seconded by Commissioner Pinder, and passed unanimously* confirming the Board received the financial information from February of 2026 and the Board requests it be submitted for audit at the appropriate time.

12b.) Resolution 2026-06 Amending the District's Personnel Manual: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT, AMENDING THE DISTRICT'S PERSONNEL MANUAL SECTION "COMPENSATORY TIME"; ADOPTING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN POLICIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *A motion was made by Commissioner Zuba, seconded by Commissioner Cranney, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2026-06 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously adopted.*

12c.) Resolution 2026-07 Declaring Surplus: A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, DECLARING CERTAIN EQUIPMENT OWNED BY THE DISTRICT TO BE EITHER SURPLUS; AUTHORIZING SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC NOTICED SALE OR DETERMINED TO BE OBSOLETE AND DISPOSED; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE. *A motion was made by Commissioner Pinder, seconded by Commissioner Cranney, and passed unanimously to adopt Resolution 2026-07 as written. After a roll call vote, it was unanimously adopted.*

12d.) Initiating Litigation Regarding Personnel Reimbursement

A motion was made by Commissioner Zuba, seconded by Commissioner Pinder, and passed unanimously to not initiate litigation at this time.

Good of the Order:

- Chairman Goodman discussed the next meeting of the Board to be held on April 21st, 2026 at 1:00pm preceded by a District Overview Workshop at 10am including a tour for the Tourist Development Council and the Monroe County Mayor.

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

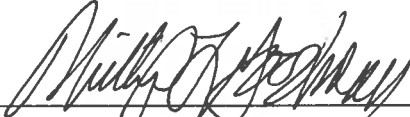
Respectfully submitted,



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.