

## Special Workshop on Salt Marsh Mosquito Management

### Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office  
503 107<sup>th</sup> Street  
Marathon, FL 33050

**September 8, 2025 4:00 pm**

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Special Workshop on Salt Marsh Mosquito Management on September 8, 2025, at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

**Present Were:** Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice Chair; Bette Brown, Secretary/Treasurer; Jill Cranney, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Dirk Smits, Board Attorney. Brandon Pinder, Commissioner was absent.

**Employees Present Were:** Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Bruce Holden, Director of Finance; Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Larry Hribar, Director of Research.

**Invited Guests Present:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Goodman asked the Board if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda, hearing none, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**Community Input:** None

Chairman Goodman announces the purpose of this workshop is to discuss the current operations for salt marsh mosquito management.

**Discussion:** The Board held a workshop on saltmarsh mosquitoes in preparation for upcoming public outreach sessions. Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research, explained that the black saltmarsh mosquito (*Aedes taeniorhynchus*) is the primary species affecting the Keys. These mosquitoes can travel long distances, reproduce rapidly, and emerge in large numbers under favorable tidal and habitat conditions. Data indicate that 2025 populations are significantly higher than in recent years, with counts in the Upper Keys up to five times higher than previous peaks, particularly from June through August. Commissioners discussed mosquito biology, dispersal, and the need for community engagement to demonstrate the District's proactive response.

Staff noted that each island has a unique ecosystem, with the Keys broadly divided into upper and lower chains that differ in bedrock, vegetation, and rainfall. Historical data from Big Pine and No Name Keys showed higher mosquito counts, with declines following larviciding on refuge lands in the early 2000s. Studies confirm inter-island dispersal, with mosquitoes on different islands originating from separate sources.


Director Leal and Mikki Coss reviewed mosquito control operations. *Aedes aegypti* are confined to urban areas, pose disease risks, and are managed through inspections, door-to-door education, and targeted larvicide treatments, including truck-mounted systems. Saltmarsh mosquitoes comprise over 80% of collections and are primarily controlled through larviciding at identified breeding sites, often requiring aerial treatment.

In response to high 2025 populations, inspectors are using grid systems to monitor all breeding sites, including small areas capable of producing thousands of mosquitoes. Larvicide and adulticide treatments have increased: Upper Keys aerial larvicide coverage expanded by 2,000 acres, truck missions more than doubled, and aerial adulticide treatments exceeded 70,000 acres, though some were canceled due to weather. Staff emphasized that many treatments are less visible, using quiet electric sprayers and helicopters instead of airplanes. Questions from residents regarding product effectiveness and the Oxitec project were addressed, clarifying that Oxitec releases ended two years ago and do not affect saltmarsh mosquitoes.

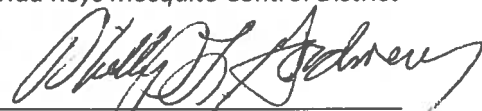
The Board discussed upcoming public educational sessions, which will cover mosquito biology, control strategies, and efforts to protect non-target species such as bats and dragonflies. Outreach will include press releases, social media, and newspaper ads, with presentations lasting about 20 minutes followed by a question-and-answer session. Key points include the unusually high mosquito populations in 2025, expanded larvicide and adulticide treatments, challenges from new breeding sites and protected lands, and clarification that Oxitec *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are no longer in the environment.

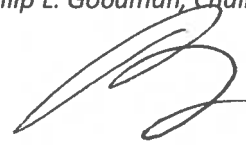
**Adjourn:** There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,*

  
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Andrea Leal  
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners  
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

  
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Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman

  
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Bette Brown, Secretary-Treasurer

For additional information, please refer to [www.keysmosquito.org](http://www.keysmosquito.org).