

Saltmarsh Mosquito Public Educational Session

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
Murray Nelson Government Center
102050 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL 33037

September 17, 2025 6:00 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Saltmarsh Mosquito Public Educational Session on September 17, 2025, at the Murray Nelson Government Center in Key Largo.

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

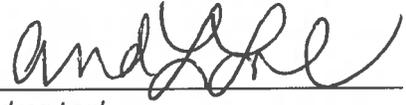
Employees Present Were: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Lawrence Hribar, Director of Research; Chad Huff, PEIO; Abby Smith, Education Coordinator; Victor Lopez, Field Inspector; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; and Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Elizabeth Frampton, Upper Keys Supervisor; Joe Sheriff, Mechanic; Ryan Rodriguez, Field Inspector.

Discussion: The District held a community session in Key Largo to address the increased activity of saltmarsh mosquitoes in the Upper Keys. Chairman Phil Goodman and the Board emphasized the District's mission to protect public health and preserve the quality of life in the Keys. Executive Director Andrea Leal noted that this has been one of the worst years for saltmarsh mosquitoes in recent history and explained the factors contributing to the issue. Dr. Larry Hribar explained that the black saltmarsh mosquito (*Aedes taeniorhynchus*) is the dominant species in the Florida Keys and has reached exceptionally high levels in 2025—several times greater than last year. He highlighted the mosquito's ability to reproduce rapidly, travel long distances, and emerge in massive, synchronized broods, making it particularly challenging to control. Field Inspector Victor Lopez described his daily routine inspecting assigned areas, conducting landing rate counts, checking field sites for mosquito larvae, and treating small areas by hand or backpack. Larger areas are flagged for aerial treatment. He emphasized that resident service requests help identify breeding hotspots, and that inspectors work evenings and weekends as needed to ensure effective mosquito control. Mikki Coss, Director of Operations, described mosquito control operations involving hand, truck, and helicopter treatments guided by real-time data. Larvicide and adulticide applications have increased in 2025 due to higher mosquito populations, with weekly neighborhood treatments and coordination with state and federal partners to ensure effective and environmentally safe operations. Andrea Leal explained that the unusually high mosquito numbers in 2025 are due to weather patterns, new breeding sites created by rising water, and protected lands that cannot be treated, allowing mosquitoes to migrate. The District is increasing treatments and actively searching for new breeding areas, assuring residents that control methods remain effective. Ms. Leal thanked the community for attending and reminded everyone that questions or concerns could be submitted anytime to questions@keysmosquito.org.

Community Questions: Three members of the community participated in the Q&A session.

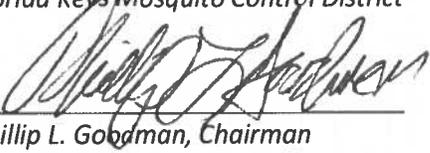
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the session was adjourned.

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.