

Saltmarsh Mosquito Public Educational Session

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

September 16, 2025 6:00 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Saltmarsh Mosquito Public Educational Session on September 16, 2025, 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: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Lawrence Hribar, Director of Research; Chad Huff, PEIO; Abby Smith, Education Coordinator; Ron Matie, Field Inspector; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; and Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer.

Discussion: The District held a community session in Marathon to address the increased activity of saltmarsh mosquitoes in the Middle 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 Ron Matie outlined the daily mosquito control efforts in the Middle Keys, including monitoring tidal areas, identifying breeding sites, and coordinating ground and aerial treatments. He noted that inspectors also respond to resident service requests and conduct spraying as needed, often working weekends and holidays to manage increased mosquito activity. 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: Five members of the community participated in the Q&A session.

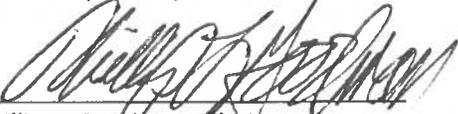
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the session was adjourned.

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.