

District Overview Workshop

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

June 16, 2026 10:00 am

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a District Overview Workshop on June 16, 2026, at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

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

Employees Present Were: Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Operations; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Rochele Miller, Executive/HR Assistant; Abigail Smith, Education Coordinator; Justin Knowles, Chief Pilot; Heidi Murray, Research Biologist.

Invited Guests Present:

Max Mungall, President of Lodging Association of the Florida Keys and Key West.

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 announced that the purpose of this workshop is to provide a general overview of mosquito control and its economic effects in the Florida Keys. In addition, there will be a tour of the facility.

Discussion: Andrea Leal, the Executive Director, began by reminding us that Florida is no stranger to disease outbreaks that Mosquito Control is the frontline of public health. At FKMCD, our three-year strategic plan and the use of technology to increase efficiency helps reduce costs, enabling us to focus on proactive measures. Although our \$20M budget has steadily increased over time, we remain lean when it comes to personnel. Our approach to controlling the common disease-carrying mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, involves methods such as inspections of homes and businesses, mosquito monitoring, and treatments conducted both from the air and on the ground, while prioritizing safety and the environment. The District continually explores new tools and works diligently to manage the large population of saltmarsh mosquitoes through earlier reconnaissance missions and regular updates to all management plans. All adulticide mission decisions are based on real-time data collection, environmental conditions, and regulatory thresholds. Despite our efforts, several factors contributed to the unusually high mosquito numbers that were observed last year. These factors included the winter drought, high winds and rain causing mission cancellations and postponements, steady tidal activity, as well as new mosquito breeding sites and water sources. We communicate our message to the public through social media, schools, weekly radio spots, webinars, and various speaking engagements. We encourage everyone to visit our website and sign up for notifications to stay informed. There was discussion regarding barrier treatments and the possibility of in person, on-site meetings with maintenance personnel to develop more efficient and innovative methods for treating breeding areas.

Chairman Goodman highlighted the important role mosquito control has played in Florida's economy and quality of life in the Florida Keys. Looking back, improvement is largely due to ongoing advancements in mosquito control and related scientific efforts. Although the District encounters some challenges, FKMCD remains dedicated to offering support. Chairman Goodman reminded the group that the District is always open to participating in speaking engagements. There was a conversation about tax reform and the possible effect on special districts such as FKMCD. After the discussion, the group toured the facility.

At the General Purpose Lab, Heidi Murray, Research Biologist provided a brief demonstration of the different types of traps used and described the mosquito life cycle. She also explained the process of bioassay testing and how it helps forecast resistance to certain products. The current trial involves releasing lab-bred mosquitoes infected with Wolbachia into the wild, where they mate with females, producing offspring that cannot survive. The research team publishes their findings as often as possible to allow professional peers and colleagues to review the methods, apply the results to their own work, or generate new research questions. FKMCD frequently exchanges ideas with other mosquito control organizations.

In the hangar, Director of Aerial Operations Robert Lee emphasized the importance of routine scheduled maintenance for our 5 helicopter fleet, while Chief Pilot Justin Knowles described the experience of flying over polygons identified by inspectors as areas requiring treatment. The discussion also covered the unique flying conditions in the Keys, which present numerous obstacles.

The Board encouraged everyone to share ways we can partner with each other. They also thanked everyone for their time and support of mosquito control. Supporting presentations were provided.

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

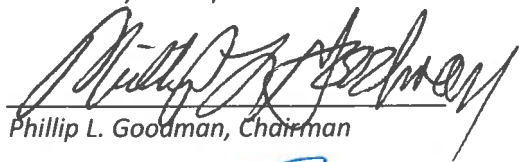
Respectfully submitted,



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.