

District Overview Workshop

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

March 17, 2026 10:20 am

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

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

Employees Present Were: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; 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; Shalena Abbas, Pilot; Justin Knowles, Chief Pilot; Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research; Heidi Murray, Research Biologist.

Invited Guests Present: Brian Schmitt, President and Broker, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Christina Davis, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Lynn Goodwin, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Pam Nada-Caley, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Josh Mothner, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Kristin Herold, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Lisa Wiebe, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.; Halley Haack, Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co.

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 stated that the workshop aims to provide a general overview of mosquito control and its economic effects in the Florida Keys. Additionally, there will be a tour of the facility.

Discussion: Andrea Leal, the Executive Director, began by highlighting that mosquitoes are the deadliest animals on the planet and that Florida is no stranger to disease outbreaks. At FKMCD, with an operating budget of nearly \$18 million and 72 full-time employees, the focus is on proactive measures emphasizing safety and environmental responsibility. Our best practices, a three-year strategic plan, and the use of technology to increase efficiency all help reduce costs and ensure a stable, long-term budget. Control methods include home and business inspections, mosquito surveillance, and treatment by both air and ground. To communicate with the public, we utilize weekly radio spots, webinars, social media, schools, and various speaking engagements. Ms. Leal discussed several new projects currently underway, including resistance testing, the Wolbachia Male Mosquito Project, long-term product studies, BG counters, and invasive species monitoring. The District continually explores new tools and works hard to manage the large population of saltmarsh mosquitoes through earlier reconnaissance missions and regular updates to all management plans.

Chairman Goodman discussed the significant impact Mosquito Control has had on Florida's economy, particularly in the Florida Keys. The Keys' success is built on year-round tourism, high property values, and a strong economy. Reflecting on life before mosquito control, it is evident that mosquito control has been a

catalyst for tourism development and quality living in the Keys. FKMCD understands that indoor/outdoor living spaces remain a top priority. While the District faces some challenges, they are here to help. Chairman Goodman encouraged the group to include FKMCD information in their open house materials, to call for service requests, and to promote the District's services as a selling point. Following the discussion, the group toured the facility.

At the General Purpose Lab, Dr. Larry Hribar provided an overview of the research history and analysis related to resistance screening conducted over the years. He also explained how factors like temperature, tides, and rainfall influence mosquito populations, highlighting that mosquito eggs can remain dormant for several years. The research team is consistently encouraged to publish their results as often as possible so professional peers and colleagues can evaluate the methods and use the results for their own operations or derive new questions to investigate. FKMCD frequently shares ideas with other mosquito control agencies, including those in Collier and Lee Counties, as well as with organizations such as the American Mosquito Control Association and the Florida Mosquito Control Association.

Research Biologist Heidi Murray provided a brief demonstration of the different types of traps used and described the mosquito life cycle. She and Dr. Hribar 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.

In the hangar where helicopter fleet maintenance was underway, Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Maintenance, emphasized the importance of rotating the fleet to perform routine, scheduled maintenance during the off-season to ensure operational readiness. Pilot Shalena Abbas was present to describe the experience of flying over polygons identified by inspectors as areas requiring treatment. The flying conditions in the Keys present many unique obstacles.

Executive Director Andrea Leal also highlighted the collaborative efforts it takes between vendors and employees to develop more efficient and innovative methods for treating breeding areas. One example of FKMCD employee innovation is the granular auto-loader, which was available on site.

The Board answered questions regarding current projects and treatment plans and encouraged everyone to let them know how they could help. They also thanked Brian Schmitt, President and Broker of Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co., and his team for their time and support of mosquito control and look forward to working together. Supporting presentations were provided.

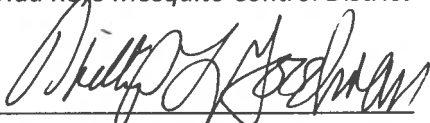
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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.