

2026 Operational Workplan Workshop

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

January 20, 2026 1:33 pm

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a 2026 Operational Workplan Workshop on January 20, 2026, at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

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

Employees Present Were: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Lauren Bouchard, Director of Finance; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Rochele Miller, Purchasing Agent/Financial Analyst; Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Operations; Larry Hribar, Director of Research; Chris Franco, Field Inspector; Peter Mudry, Field Inspector.

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 2026 Operational Workplan.

Discussion: Andrea Leal, Executive Director, summarized the operational work plan in response to mosquito activity experienced during the prior year, referred to as the "summer of the salt marsh." She reported that heavy early-season rainfall, strong winds, high larval densities, increased breeding activity, and prevailing west winds resulted in unusually high salt marsh mosquito populations across the Lower, Middle, and Upper Keys in 2025. While aerial adulticide and fog truck treatments increased, treatment levels were consistent with other high-activity years and constrained by operational limits. Larviciding acreage reached a record high, with data indicating breeding sites remain relatively stable and mosquito populations are largely weather driven.

Mikki Coss, Director of Operations, provided an update on planned ground operations for the upcoming mosquito season, including continued identification and mapping of salt marsh habitats using aerial reconnaissance and mapping technologies. She reported that a revised management plan with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission expanded operational flexibility, including increased truck access and adjusted spray thresholds in select areas. Planned initiatives include earlier drone larviciding, expanded larviciding to reduce reliance on adulticiding, neighborhood cleanup and education efforts, increased barrier treatments, coordination with DEP for additional permissions, deployment of multi-use application trucks, and continued reconnaissance in problem areas. Director Leal further reported that larvasonic traps for *Aedes aegypti* did not show the results we were hoping for and have not been part of our operations due to these findings; future control efforts will focus on ground WDG missions and *Wolbachia* male releases in the Middle Keys.

Director of Aerial Operations, Rob Lee, was then introduced to present the aerial operations update. He reported on pre-season operational readiness efforts, including comprehensive safety, equipment, vehicle,

and emergency systems training, with an emphasis on cross-training to ensure staffing flexibility and continuity of operations. Staffing plans were reviewed, including recruitment and training of on-call and seasonal drivers, improved scheduling and guaranteed work assignments to enhance retention, use of inspectors to supplement operations as needed, and forthcoming pay policy adjustments to ensure appropriate compensation for driving duties. Rob expressed confidence that these measures will address prior staffing challenges and improve preparedness for the upcoming mosquito season.

Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research, presented an update on biological research initiatives for the upcoming year. He reported that bottle bioassay testing will continue, including further evaluation of amber versus clear bottles to address photodegradation of naled. He also outlined plans to repeat *Wolbachia* trials for a second year, noting that the prior year served primarily as a learning phase, with revised protocols, site selection, timing, and coordination with operations to ensure standardized implementation and improved results. Additional efforts include participation in a University of Florida–led statewide insecticide resistance monitoring program for *Aedes taeniorhynchus*, supplemented by in-house testing, and continued collaboration with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for arbovirus surveillance.

Director Leal summarized planned operational and research enhancements for the 2026 season, including expanded site identification, increased application rates, and coordination with state and regional partners. She reported improved readiness across personnel and aircraft and expressed confidence in a stronger response capability compared to the prior year, subject to weather conditions. A LiDAR technology workshop is scheduled for next month with participation from Lee and Collier Counties.

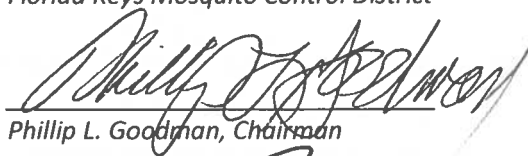
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

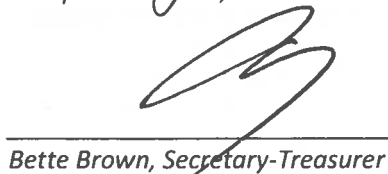


Andrea Leal
Executive Director

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.