

District Overview Workshop

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

July 21, 2026 10:30 am

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a District Overview Workshop on July 21, 2026, at the FKMCD Marathon Office.

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

Employees Present Were: Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Operations; Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Abigail Smith, Education Coordinator; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Rochele Miller, Executive/HR Assistant.

Invited Guests Present:

Honorable Scott P. Russell, Monroe County Property Appraiser and Denise O'Connell, Executive Assistant.

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 Mosquito Control is the frontline of public health in combating mosquito-borne disease. At FKMCD, our three-year strategic plan and the use of technology to increase efficiency help reduce costs, enabling us to focus on proactive measures. Although our \$20 million budget has steadily increased over time, we remain lean in terms of personnel. Our approach to controlling the common disease-carrying mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, includes 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 early 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 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. There was some discussion regarding the mapping systems and reporting tools used by the Property Appraiser's office and how they might benefit our operations, specifically for locating new water sources and stagnant pools.

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.

Chairman Goodman then 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. 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, Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research, provided a brief demonstration of the different types of traps used and described the mosquito life cycle. He 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 spoke about the granular auto-loader and presented a sample of the larvicide product we use for both aerial and ground applications. He described the unique flying conditions in the Keys and the numerous obstacles, as one of our five District helicopters landed adjacent to the hangar.

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

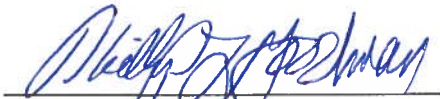
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

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.