

District Overview Workshop

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District

Marathon Office
503 107th Street
Marathon, FL 33050

April 21, 2026 10:20 am

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

Present Were: Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Bette Brown, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chairman; Jill Cranney, Commissioner; 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; Justin Knowles, Chief Pilot; Dr. Larry Hribar, Director of Research.

Invited Guests Present:

Michelle Lincoln, Mayor, Monroe County Board of Commissioners; Danise Henriquez, Mayor, City of Key West; Dorian Patton, City of Key West; Kara Franker, President & CEO, Visit Florida Keys; Ed Simon, Visit Florida Keys; Crystal Blaskis, Visit Florida Keys; Allison Morgan, Visit Florida Keys.

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 emphasizing that Mosquito Control is the frontline of public health and reminding us that Florida is no stranger to disease outbreaks. At FKMCD, our three-year strategic plan and the use of technology to increase efficiency help reduce costs and ensure a stable, long-term budget, allowing us to focus on proactive measures. Treatment for the common disease vector, *Aedes aegypti*, includes control methods such as home and business inspections, mosquito surveillance, and treatment by both air and ground, with an emphasis on safety and environmental responsibility. 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. Although we do our best, many 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.

Chairman Goodman highlighted the important role mosquito control has played in Florida's economy, especially in the Florida Keys. The Keys thrive on year-round tourism, high property values, and a robust economy. Looking back, the improved quality of life in the Florida Keys is largely due to ongoing advancements in mosquito control and related scientific efforts. Although the District encounters some challenges, they remain dedicated to offering support. Chairman Goodman urged the group to incorporate information about the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District (FKMCD) in their materials, submit service requests, and promote the District's services. The District is also always open to participating in speaking engagements. There was a conversation about tax laws and how they affect special districts such as FKMCD, which rely entirely on tax funding, along with county and city budgets that receive partial funding from taxes. After the discussion, the group toured the facility.

At the General Purpose Lab, Dr. Larry Hribar described the bioassay testing procedure and its role in predicting resistance to specific products. He then described the ongoing experiment involving releasing lab-raised mosquitoes infected with *Wolbachia* into natural environments, where they mate with females, resulting in offspring that do not survive to help control *Aedes aegypti*. He also summarized the history of research and analyses related to resistance testing carried out over time. Dr. Hribar discussed how environmental factors like temperature, tides, and rainfall affect mosquito populations, noting that mosquito eggs can stay dormant for several years. 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.

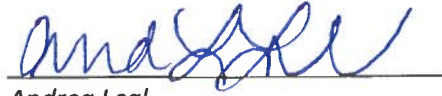
Next, the group went to the hangar where Robert Lee, Director of Aerial Maintenance, emphasized the importance of rotating the fleet to perform routine, scheduled maintenance during the off-season to ensure operational readiness. Chief Pilot Justin Knowles was able to describe the unique obstacles presented with flying in the Keys and everyone was invited to sit in the static display helicopter.

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

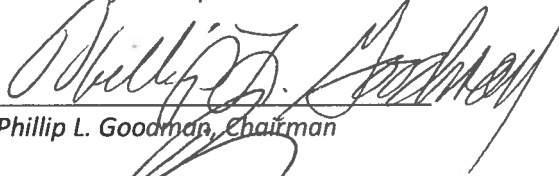
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

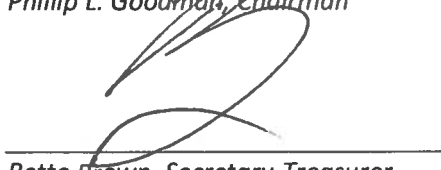


Andrea Leal
Executive Director

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.