

WORKSHOP
Leon County Mosquito Control Program
and Adulticiding Alternatives
February 9, 2010

The Board of County Commissioners met for a Workshop on the County's Mosquito Control Program and Adulticiding Alternatives in the County Commission Chambers on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Present were County Commissioners Bob Rackleff (Chairman), John Dailey, Cliff Thael, Akin Akinyemi, and Jane Sauls. Commissioner Bryan Desloge arrived late and Commissioner Bill Proctor was absent. Also present were County Attorney Herb Thiele, County Administrator Parwez Alam and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Chairman Rackleff called the Workshop to order at 1:20 p.m.

Facilitator: Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator

Mr. Rosenzweig introduced workshop participants:

- Tony Park, Leon County Public Works Director
- Homer Rice, Leon County Health Department Director
- Dr. Bill Landing, Science Advisory Committee
- Dr. Ben Fusaro, Science Advisory Committee
- Eric Schreiber, Sarasota County Mosquito Control Program Director
- Michael Page, Bureau of Entomology & Pest Control Chief, Florida Dept. of Agriculture

Mr. Rosenzweig provided that the Board would be presented information and a series of options to consider as it relates to the County's mosquito control program. He shared that an update on the "no spray program" was brought before the Board at its November 10, 2009 meeting, which resulted in a direction to staff to bring back additional information and other alternatives to spraying. He added that, per the Board's direction, input from the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) was sought; however to date recommendations have not been received from the SAC. (It was noted that two members of the SAC were present.)

The Board was provided a power point presentation upon which the following topics regarding the County's Mosquito Control Program were covered:

- State Statutes and Program Oversight:
 - Mosquito control programs are not mandated by the State but legal authority is provided for local governments to conduct mosquito control
 - Mosquito control activities operate under the requirements of Chapter 388 Florida Statutes, FAC, Rule 5E-13 and Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- Integrated Pest Management System (Total Budget: \$563,177)
 - Source Reduction
 - Mosquito Fish Program
 - Waste tire removal
 - Citizen education
 - Community Education
 - Website
 - School resource kits
 - PSA's
 - Workbooks

- Monitoring/Surveillance
 - Sentinel Chicken Program
 - Trap Counts
 - Landing Counts
 - Larval Surveillance
- Larviciding
 - Accounts for 41% of program's budget
 - Approximately 80% of activities occur in urban service area
 - More than 800 larval habitats known and treated by staff
 - Advantages: Addresses the source; targets mosquitoes before becoming adults; more cost effective per effort; multiple control options available
- Adulticiding
 - Applications include: 1) Hand-sprayers (hand-fogging) and 2) Ultra-low Volume units (truck fogging)
 - Limited to an "on request" basis
 - All adulticides used are EPA-approved and registered insecticides.
- No-Spray Program
 - Call Before Spraying (15 properties)
 - Do Not Spray Subdivision (4 subdivision, 252 parcels)
 - Do Not Spray Property/Area (103 properties)
 - 48 Hour Written Notice (1 location)
- Comparisons to Other Programs
- Alternative Control Strategies
 - Aquatic Predators
 - Winged Predators
 - Mechanical Control Devices
 - Chemical Control (other than fogging)
 - Personal Protection
- Alternative Control Conclusions
 - Difficult to deploy on large scale
 - Inability to ensure consistent results
 - Limited effectiveness

Mr. Rosenzweig concluded his presentation by providing details on the options available for the Board's consideration and staff's recommended action.

Board Discussion

Upon the Request of Chairman Rackleff, Mr. Schreiber described in more detail the Sarasota Mosquito Control Program. Additional information on Sarasota County's program was included in the Board's Workshop packet. He also responded to Commissioner Thael's questions regarding: 1) most cost effective allocation of dollars, i.e., education, prevention or adulticiding; 2) if the ¼ mile buffer zone around residents who are a medical risk is sufficient, and 3) if the cooperative efforts within Sarasota County have been effective in resolving the more difficult issues surrounding the program.

The Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Schreiber for attending the workshop to provide his insights and guidance. There continued to be discussion with Mr. Schreiber on the Sarasota program and how the County might consider and implement some of the recommendations.

Commissioner Thaelle asserted the need for a "stakeholders" committee to include scientists and concerned citizens. He indicated that it was appropriate to initially begin a ¼ mile buffer zone, similar to Sarasota County. He added that viable health concerns have been voiced; however these concerns must be balanced with the County's responsibility to control mosquito borne diseases. Commissioner Thaelle also pointed out the program's limited funds and remarked on the need to start making a significant difference within the budget appropriated.

Commissioner Thaelle moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Akinjemi, to continue the existing program, but define a specific no-spray buffer up to ¼ of a mile radius. In doing so, the County would still have fogging services, but they would be significantly limited once the buffer zones were applied. Utilizing the ¼ mile radius buffer and the existing no-spray list, 14,006 parcels would be impacted. And establish a "Stakeholders Committee" to include scientist and concerned citizens.

Commissioner Dailey although supportive of the motion shared his concerns and comments for the Board's consideration. 1) Recommended that the ¼ mile buffer be done on a trial basis. 2) Emphasized he would not support a ¼ mile buffer without a "significant ramp up" on the larvicide program or some other environmentally sustainable programs. 3) Important that the Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) have a prominent role on the proposed stakeholders committee. 4) Task staff with seriously addressing the issue of individual rights of residents within a neighborhood in mosquito control issue. 4) Utilize social media, such as twitter for notification to residents in real time of spraying activity. 5) Economic analysis of ¼ mile radius buffer. 6) Use of aquatic and winged predators as an option for mosquito control in County Parks. 7) Determine outcome of the City's Bat House Program and could this be implemented in the County. Commissioner Dailey summarized that all options should be explored and that, although he will support a ¼ mile buffer today, a lot of work is needed to ensure that neighborhood associations are included in the process. He reaffirmed that the larvicide program would have to be vamped up if the adulticides spray program is reduced.

Commissioner Thaelle commented that he would incorporate Commissioner Dailey's comments into his motion. This was agreed to by Commissioner Akinjemi, the motion's seconder.

At Chairman Rackleff's invitation, Michael Page, representing the Florida Dept. of Agriculture, shared that his department regulates, provides training and some funding for state approved programs. He endorsed the Board's intent to bring together stakeholders, as this is key to resolving this issue. The Board was reminded that the reasons for mosquito control are to be protective of disease conditions and the enjoyment and economic development of Florida's resources. Mr. Page opined that the County's Mosquito Control Program does a good job with the resources it is allocated and offered that larviciding would be the best approach to deal with some of the issues.

Commissioner Dailey followed up with comments regarding the County's desire to work with the State on any stimulus or grant opportunities available. Mr. Page offered to follow up on these funding opportunities for the County.

Commissioner Sauls stated that she cannot at this time support the ¼ mile buffer as it would impact over 14,000 parcels, whereby a 300 foot buffer would impact 2,800 parcels. She remarked that homes that are prone to mosquitoes support and want the County's mosquito control service and expressed concerns about the inability of the County to control drift within the buffered zone.

Commissioner Thaelle addressed Commissioner Saul's concerns regarding drift and offered that this is an evolving protocol to help balance the health issues on all sides. He articulated that the motion was intended to be an "interim recommendation" as he wants to give stakeholders a strong voice in helping develop more permanent policies. He emphasized that severe weather events would affect the

County's mosquito control activity. Commissioner Thael established with staff that neighboring county programs has no impact the County's program as they are very small in comparison. He suggested that this issue provides a great opportunity for a partnership with the City and confirmed that the County is not obligated to provide a mosquito control program. Commissioner Thael established that the funds available for mosquito control originate from the Waste Tire Trust Fund and he learned that the County receives approximately \$35,000 annually from this fund. He offered that the County was not funding the program sufficiently enough to reduce the larva (as is done in Sarasota County with its budget of \$2.9 million). Mr. Schreiber acknowledged that the County's program was on the right track and can be expanded as more community support is received.

Chairman Rackleff expressed his support for his motion, however caution was needed as mosquito control programs are not intended to rid the County of mosquitoes, it is to avoid a recurrence of malaria and similar diseases; while at the same time protecting the rights.

Commissioner Akinyemi asked the Board to be mindful that there are currently four-to-five methods which are intended to complement each other. He suggested that staff realign the programs budget to allocate more funds to education as it is most important to deal with the problem at the source. He indicated that he would support the motion.

Commissioner Dailey articulated that he would support the motion for a 1/3 mile radius, but that time was needed to allow staff to thoroughly vet and prepare a plan for the Board's review and public hearing.

Commissioner Sauls stated that although there is not sufficient funding, the County does provide a mosquito control program that responds to the citizens and their concerns.

The current motion as amended: 1) Continue the existing program, but define a specific no-spray buffer up to 1/4 of a mile radius. In doing so, the County would still have fogging services, but they would be significantly limited once the buffer zones were applied. Utilizing the 1/4 mile radius buffer and the existing no-spray list, 14,006 parcels would be impacted. 2) Establish a Stakeholders Committee to include scientist and concerned citizens. 3) The 1/4 mile buffer is implemented on a trial basis. 4) A "significant ramp up" on the larvicide program or some other environmentally sustainable programs. 5) The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) to have a prominent role on the proposed stakeholders committee. 6) Task staff with seriously addressing the issue of individual rights of residents within a neighborhood in mosquito control issue. 7) Consider the utilization of social media, such as twitter for notification to residents in real time of spraying activity. 8) Conduct an economic analysis of 1/4 mile radius buffer. 6) Consideration of the use of aquatic and winged predators as an option for mosquito control in County Parks. 7) Determine outcome of the City's Bat House Program and could this be implemented in the County.

The motion carried 5-1 (Commissioner Sauls in opposition and Commission Proctor absent).

The workshop was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bob Rackleff, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida