

Meeting Minutes

June 2025 Monthly Meeting of the Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District

Call to order

A meeting of the Fort Myers Beach Mosquito Control District was held in the Estero Island Historical Society Campus, 161 Bay Road, Fort Myers Beach, Florida on Tuesday, June 10th, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 8:06am. Attendees included: Commissioner Joanne Semmer, Commissioner Steve Johnson, Commissioner Jim Murphy, Director Michael Mills, Tom Gressman, and Sharon Brotherton. No members of the public were present.

Approval of minutes

The May 2025 minutes were read individually. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Murphy. Approved 3-0.

Public Comment

- No public present.

Staff Reports

- No request for service calls prior to Monday 6/9... and then all heck broke loose; we were swarmed with requests for service. Westerly winds this weekend, we suspect a blow-in due to the uniform coverage of the island. Michael sprayed overnight 6/9 – 6/10.
- Mr. Gressman and Commissioner Johnson had a very productive meeting with Kevin Sullivan, Head of EBIA grounds maintenance. Their hands are quite tied by the South Florida Water Management District as to what they can do in the immediate proximity of the retention ponds on the property. They were very concerned about the pond's potential for breeding mosquitos, we explained that the ponds are not an issue, the far greater concern should be low areas under ground cover that are ideal breeding habitats.
- Some outstanding bills are waiting for approval, Commissioner Johnson has approved, we are now waiting on Commissioner Semmer's approval.
- Ms. Brotherton requested that the Bank of America credit card be removed from our Amazon account. Mr. Gressman will follow through.
- Ms. Brotherton confirmed that Mr. Mills is submitting weekly bills and they are being paid promptly.
- Mr. Gressman will concentrate on trailer subfloor replacement as soon as he is able.
- April 2025 and June 2025 activity logs will be provided at the July FMBMCD meeting.

Unfinished business

- Commissioner Murphy is not entirely comfortable with Bob Case's work so far, he is seeking second engineering opinions on our site work. Commissioner Murphy will seek opinions from Jay Ursoleo and Albert Dambrose of Studio AD.

- Commissioner Murphy expressed that we need to strive to have the new building blend with the look of the neighborhood, not look like a trailer on pilings.
- The bat house for the Historical Society property has not been purchased yet. • Michael is still working on getting the AT&T refund for the phone acquired immediately after Hurricane Ian.
- Mr. Gressman purchased Microsoft 365.
- A new sprayer was purchased from Clarke.
- We are still awaiting delivery of the Ford Maverick.

New business

- Ms. Brotherton will give the health care numbers to Mr. Gressman and Director Mills so that they may contact potential new health care providers to compare plans. September 20th is the enrollment date.
- The detailed work plan budget is due July 15th.
- Our strategic plan needs to include budgeting for the rebuild, and public relations funding for promotional activities dealing with the potential referendum.
- Our millage rate should remain at 0.1123. This looks good for public relations. • Personal (personnel?) Services to increase by 3%.. and also a \$9600 benefits increase. • At this point the budget line items are dynamic... we still don't have the final ad valorem tax numbers.
- Lee County Mosquito Control has increased their monitoring/spraying fee for the back bay from \$60,000 to \$80,000. Some discussion took place regarding the amount we should pay. Motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Semmer to short-pay the bill at \$60,000. Motion passed unanimously.
- Ms. Brotherton suggested budgeting \$1000/month for PR/promotion. (\$3000 for 2025, 12,000 for 2026 = \$15,000) Commissioner Johnson suggested moving the \$15K from Capital Outlay into Promotional Activities. Ms. Brotherton agreed.
- At this point Commissioner Johnson estimates our reserves to be approximately \$650,000. • Further discussion of individual budget line items was undertaken. Final budget numbers will be finalized in future budget meetings.
- Motion by Commissioner Johnson, second by Commissioner Murphy to spend \$3000 in 2025 and \$12,000 in 2026 to hire a PR firm for promotion and publicity leading up to the November 2026 referendum. Motion passed unanimously.
- Mr. Gressman advised that he will be retiring possibly at the end of the 2025 calendar year; his job description needs to be updated immediately. Some discussion followed regarding where to advertise for the new hire.

Announcements

None

Adjournment

Motion made by Commissioner Semmer, Second by Commissioner Murphy. Approved

3-0. June 10th, 2025 at 9:32 am.

Secretary Date of approval