

Liquid and Granular Larvicide (*Bti*) Workshop Minutes

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District
Marathon Office
503 107TH St. Marathon, FL 33050

November 7, 2023 1:20 PM

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Liquid and Granular Larvicide (*Bti*) Workshop on Tuesday, November 7, 2023.

Present Were: Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chair, Jill Cranney, Commissioner; Brandon Pinder, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Dirk Smits, Board Attorney. Tom McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer was absent.

Employees Present: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Bruce Holden, Director of Finance; Michael Behrend, Director of Human Resources; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Edgar Delacerda, Director of Aerial Operations; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer; Dr. Lawrence Hribar, Director of Research; Heidi Murray, Research Biologist.

Invited Guests Present: Candace Royals, Valent BioSciences; Tina Wyatt, FBMC; Eugene Martinez, Cigna.

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Goodman asked the Board if there were any corrections or additions to the agenda, having none, the agenda was unanimously approved.

Chairman Goodman announces the purpose of this workshop is to discuss the District's use of granular and liquid larvicide, *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*).

Discussion: Director Leal advised that we are doing this workshop to share with the public what *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*) is and the research and uses the district has for the product. Following her introduction, Candace Royals from Valent BioSciences delivered a thorough presentation on their product line and *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*). Next were Director of Research, Dr. Larry Hribar, and Research Biologist Heidi Murray. Both delivered engaging talks about the numerous studies we have been doing on *Bti* since the district started utilizing the product in the late 1990s, as well as their most recent studies. Edgar Delacerda, Director of Aerial Operations, and Mikki Coss, Director of Operations, concluded the workshop by outlining the various ways the district uses *Bti* in its truck, ground, and aerial control methods. Our operations utilize five (5) distinct formulations of *Bti*, and since integrating *Bti* into our operational plan, we have observed a significant decline in adulticiding.

Good of the Order: Jason Bynum, our Key Largo-based field inspector, was named the 2023 Third Quarter Employee of the Quarter by Director Leal. Jason was inundated with nominations for both the EOQ for the second quarter and this quarter. It's apparent that Jason has a lot of respect in the district. After receiving numerous nominations in the past, he is finally receiving the recognition that he so richly deserves. Both his peers and managers have acknowledged his excellent work ethic and skills, as well as his hard effort and amazing service.

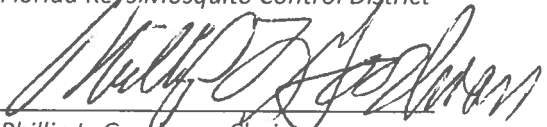
Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

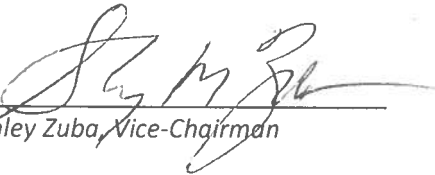


Andrea Leal
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District



Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman



Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chairman

For additional information, please refer to www.keysmosquito.org.