

Helicopter Fleet Assessment Workshop Minutes

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

May 10, 2022 1:42 PM

The Board of Commissioners of the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District held a Helicopter Fleet Assessment Workshop on Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

Present Were: Phillip Goodman, Chairman; Tom McDonald, Secretary/Treasurer; Brandon Pinder, Commissioner; Jill Cranney, Commissioner; Andrea Leal, Executive Director; Dale Coburn, Board Attorney. Dr. Stanley Zuba, Vice-Chair was present via telephone.

Employees Present: Mikki Coss, Director of Operations; Bruce Holden, Director of Finance; Josh Kogut, Director of Aerial Operations; Chad Huff, Public Education & Information Officer; Robert Lee, Director of Aircraft Maintenance; Rochele Miller, Purchasing Agent; Deanna Darias, Executive Assistant; Tony Nunez, Chief Technology Officer.

GUESTS PRESENT: Jim Hill, Oropeza & Parks

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: *Chairman 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 Florida Keys Mosquito Control District's aerial fleet analysis following the addition of the Airbus H125s.

DISCUSSION:

Andrea Leal, Executive Director, advised the Board that this workshop is to review the analysis of the Airbus H125 Helicopters, including; 2018 Fleet Replacement Plan Review, Direct Maintenance Cost of the Airbus H125 vs. the Bell 206b, Aircraft on the Ground H125 vs B206, Operational Usage, and the Operational Increases in Efficiency with the Airbus H125. Director Leal discussed the 2018 Fleet Analysis, Reasons for the Fleet Replacement, and the Four-Year Plan from the 2018 presentation. We are into year three of the four year plan and Director Leal is anticipating ordering two (2) additional Airbus H125 aircraft this calendar year depending on Budget, to complete the standardization of the FKMCD fleet to single type, single model aircraft.

Bruce Holden, Finance Director, then reviewed the Cost/Benefit Analysis of the Airbus H125 Helicopter; it was difficult to conduct as we only have one year of history with the aircraft and when we sold the Bell 206B Jet Ranger Helicopters the maintenance history was also sold with the helicopters. He explained this is a very conservative estimate; however based on this information we have a positive Net Present Value @ 1% of \$1,125,234, which shows we have made a good choice in replacing the Jet Rangers with the Airbus Helicopters.

Joshua Kogut, Director of Aerial Operations, then presented to the Board some of the efficiency gains we have had with the aircraft. He explained he worked with Bruce Holden, Director of Finance, on operating costs per hour per aircraft. He reviewed the Larviciding Cost by Aircraft which included how many acres per hour and the application cost per pound for each of our aircraft. Mr. Kogut then reviewed the Aircraft Maintenance Downtime due to unscheduled maintenance or delayed part replacement times on older craft, the Bell 206 Jet Rangers, down for a total of 68 weeks in 2019 compared to the Airbus H125's which were 10 weeks combined. Commissioner McDonald asked if the maintenance on the Airbus H125's is performed here onsite or in Louisiana; Mr. Kogut confirmed that the maintenance is performed here onsite.

Chairman Goodman commented that a concern for him going forward is in the past our aircraft fleet was not continuously operational, and with the new aircraft having less downtime and being able to cover more acres per hour, we may only need three (3) helicopters in the future, not the four (4) we originally planned for. Director Leal expressed that is an excellent point and our plan can evolve as we gather more information on the new aircraft.

Mr. Kogut then reviewed the post-maintenance flight hours which revealed, having the newer aircraft, our maintenance flights decreased 73.43% from 2019 to 2021. The next topic covered was the operational usage of all of our aircraft from 2019-2021, detailing each aircraft and the hours flown. Mr. Kogut moved on to aerial efficiency examples between the Airbus H125 vs Bell 206B Jet Rangers (aircraft we replaced with the Airbus H125's) which included seven (7) examples and included ULV Missions, WDG, and Larviciding. Each example showed the maintenance cost savings and the pilot hours saved per mission, and all seven (7) examples showed significant cost savings. Mr. Kogut then recapped the District's 2021 missions that did not require ground crews while operating the Airbus H125's. This was a direct result of the new helicopters being able to carry larger loads and cover additional acreage in one mission and resulted in significant labor cost savings. Mr. Kogut then summarized all the information discussed in the presentation and the benefits and cost savings of the new aircraft.

Commissioner McDonald handed out a document that he created pulling line items from past budget years, he asked why the insurance cost of the aircraft is 5 times higher with the new aircraft. Director Leal explained the insurance cost rose due to the increased value of the new aircraft; estimated value rose from 2.5 million dollars to 9 million dollars. Commissioner McDonald is concerned that he is not seeing the cost savings of purchasing the new helicopters on paper versus what was shown in the presentation. Director Leal advised the cost savings presented were for time & safety efficiencies and aircraft maintenance. She advised our aging fleet would inevitably need to be replaced and we have to have a plan in place to replace them with newer, safer, more efficient aircraft. Commissioner McDonald stated he would like the District to keep an open mind to alternative options available in the near future. Commissioner Cranney pointed out that replacing an aging fleet with new aircraft is going to increase costs, and with this purchase happening in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, operating costs for all organizations have increased across the board. Director Leal advised we can setup the financial reports to the Board's liking; she also emphasized that the reason for the Fleet Replacement was primarily for safety and efficiency, not direct cost savings.

Chairman Goodman agreed we made the right decision with acquiring the new Airbus Helicopters; which all other commissioners agreed. In our upcoming Budget workshops the decision to purchase additional aircraft will be discussed in further detail.

Director Leal thanked the staff for their hard work and putting together a great presentation

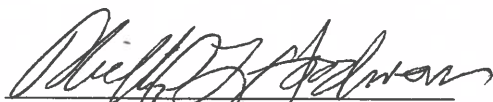
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Board, the workshop was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

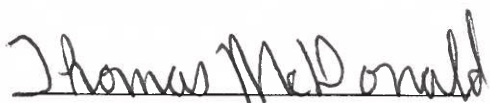


Andrea Leal
Executive Director

Board of Commissioners
Florida Keys Mosquito Control District



Phillip L. Goodman, Chairman



Thomas McDonald, Secretary-Treasurer

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