

SPECIAL MEETING

Livingston, Louisiana
February 22, 2018

The Livingston Parish Council held a special meeting on the 22nd day of February 2018 to discuss the matter of Mosquito Abatement in the unincorporated areas of Livingston Parish, convening at its regular meeting place, the Livingston Parish Council Chambers, located in the Governmental Building, 20355 Government Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana, at the hour of five o'clock (5:00) p.m., as posted and per notice in the Livingston Parish News, the Official Journal of the Parish of Livingston, State of Louisiana, with the following members present:

Jeff Ard	John Wascom	Tracy Girlinghouse
Garry "Frog" Talbert	R.C. "Bubba" Harris	Tab Lobell
Maurice "Scooter" Keen	Jeff Averett	Shane Mack

Absent: None

Also, present: Layton Ricks, Parish President

The chair called the meeting to order and asked for roll call which was followed by a prayer and pledge. He announced the special meeting purpose as an educational meeting where the experts would be allowed to speak, and upon completion of the presentation, the public would be allowed to ask questions. The chair reiterated the purpose of the meeting, "This is an educational meeting. We are not here to discuss a tax. We are not trying to start up Mosquito Abatement. We are getting information. It's all we are doing."

The chair introduced Mr. Kyle Moppert, a Medical Entomologist from the Louisiana Department of Health.

Mr. Moppert addressed the Louisiana Arbovirus Surveillance Summary 2017 compiled by the Department of Health. The document summarizes the tracking and reporting of Louisiana Arbovirus data. He spoke about West Nile in three phases. Eighty to ninety percent of the cases are asymptomatic and about ten percent may develop a rash, have flu-like symptoms, and then recover in 4-7 days. This is usually diagnosed as West Nile fever once the individual has had blood work while ill. Less than 1% of the cases is a neuro-invasive disease that involves the brain or spinal cord. If it's not fatal, they are often left with neuro-muscular problems similar to polio. Livingston Parish has had as much as twelve neuro-invasive cases in a given year, and forty-seven total reported incidents since 2002. West Nile is a bird-mosquito virus, and it reached Louisiana in 2001. Mr. Moppert listed three main components of a Mosquito Abatement District: education; larvae siting; surveillance. The surveillance is key as it determines where adulticides are applied. He summarized a surveillance process which involved submitting samples to the Louisiana Analytical Disease Diagnostic Laboratory which is part of the L.S.U. Veterinarian School. Mr. Moppert addressed a chart of neuro-invasive cases that listed the parishes and cases from 2002 until 2017, and he pointed out that Livingston Parish, on a per population basis, is kind of at the top. He went on to say that it has to do with the ecology, and that most of the higher cases are east of the river. "It is what it is. We have it here, we're going to have it here. The best thing we can do, in my mind, is to have a surveillance-based mosquito abatement program to help suppress that." Most of the parishes along the I-10 and I-12 corridor have surveillance-based Mosquito Abatement. Mr. Moppert introduced his guests: Randy Vaeth, Assistant Director East Baton Rouge Mosquito Control; George Bragg, West Baton Rouge Mosquito Abatement District; Herf Jones, Iberia Parish Mosquito Abatement District.

Councilman Keen asked the panel of guests about the types of chemicals that were used in their own programs. Mr. Randy Vaeth responded that they take an integrated mosquito management approach which includes both adulticide and larvicide. He spoke about some of the chemicals used, and more on the method of surveillance to maximize effectiveness. He advised that someone with fundamental vector knowledge run the program, and added that, in Louisiana, you need someone that has a supervisory license/certification from Ag and Forestry. A discussion continued as councilmen asked questions regarding the E.B.R. program cost and effectiveness, and if any advances had been made in the chemicals used. Mr. Vaeth spoke about a shift in some pyrethroid chemicals for adulticiding and of some advances in larvicides over the past fifteen years.

Councilman Talbert asked Mr. Herf Jones about their operating budget and programs in Iberia Parish. About 1.2 to 1.4 million focuses on operational mosquito control which includes

larviciding a ground and aerial program. He stated “The more pressure you put on the juvenile population it has significant impact on the adult population that you’ll deal with later on.” He talked briefly about aerial spraying and surveillance sites in regard to effectiveness and efficiency as control interventions. Mr. Jones stated that “Our objective, first and foremost, is to protect the public from mosquito born diseases to the best of our capability. We know the statistics, we know the prevalence and occurrence, we know the risks. There’s risks here, there’s risks across the state, there’s risk in my parish.” He went on to say that his area has had West Nile and neuro-invasive cases, but their programs have significantly decreased them. Councilman Girlinghouse asked about the chemicals being used. Mr. Jones mentioned a combination of chemicals (synthetic pyrethroids, natural pyrethroids, organophosphates) and specified that they are registered by the EPA and are highly regulated. He went on to say that the label is the law, and that it should be treated as such. Councilman Lobell said that his district was probably the most rural area. He asked about individual initiatives that property owners could take themselves. Mr. Jones said that Iberia does weigh heavier on larviciding applications in their rural areas. He spoke of products that are found locally that can be used. In addition, he added the need to keep laterals and roadside ditches clear.

Public Input:

The chair allowed for public input from the audience but asked that it be kept brief.

Michelle Gibbs addressed the board and the panel of guests as her husband made certain that everyone had a copy of the packet that she had prepared. Mrs. Gibbs asked about something on a chemical warning statement. The first thing listed was “suspected of causing cancer.” As the first hazard stated, she asked how could you say that it’s safe. Mr. Vaeth noted that almost any substance can have toxic consequences depending on the dose. He noted that the dose does make the poison. A rather lengthy and heated discussion continued as to the safety of the products being used.

LPR NO. 18-043

MOTION was offered by Garry “Frog” Talbert and duly seconded by Maurice “Scooter” Keen to adjourn the February 22, 2018 special meeting of the Livingston Parish Council.

YEAS: MR. ARD, MR. GIRLINGHOUSE, MR. KEEN, MR. HARRIS, MR. TALBERT,
MR. LOBELL, MR. AVERETT, MR. MACK

NAYS: MR. WASCOM

ABSENT: NONE

ABSTAIN: NONE

Thereupon the chair declared that the Motion had carried and was adopted.

Angelia McMorris Cornett, Deputy Clerk

Jeff Ard, Council Chairman