Board Meeting Minutes – Approved

Indian River Mosquito Control District
October 13, 2026 @ 9:00 am

The Indian River Mosquito Control District Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on October 13, 2026, at the District Office.

Present: Janice Broda (Chair), Anna Kirkland (Vice Chair), and Thomas Lowther (Secretary/Treasurer)
Visitors: Terry McGinn and Craig MacCoy
Staff: Isik Unlu (Executive Director), Claudia Alvarado (CFO), Kevin Kinney (Director of IT and Maintenance), Morel Jules (Director of Operations), and Johanna Avril (Director of Administration)
Legal Counsel: Paul Amos (Lowndes Law)

I. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Broda called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Approval of the Agenda**
Executive Director Dr. Unlu requested an amendment to the agenda, as the Compensation Study presentation will have to be postponed to next month's meeting due to vendor unavailability.
Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

IV. **Approval of Meeting Minutes** (Attachment A)
Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve September 8, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve September 17, 2026, Tentative Budget Hearing minutes. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

Commissioner Lowther made the motion to approve the September 29, 2026, Final Budget Hearing minutes. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

V. **Financial Report** (Attachment B)
Commissioner Lowther moved to accept and file the financial report for the month ending September 31, 2026, for audit. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

VI. **Public Comment** – Mr. Terry McGinn of Sebastian discussed the need for video-recorded meetings, to revisit the public comment policy, and to evaluate and revisit the mission of mosquito control.

VII. **Old Business**
A. **Compensation Study Presentation-Agenda amended to remove this item and moved to the November Regular Board meeting.**

B. **Bee Gum Point**- Legal counsel commented on the challenges of the application. He reviewed it and provided a letter of recommendation. The Board discussed the project's operational

logistics, and Dr. Unlu explained the benefits the agreement will bring to the district.

C. **Community Relations Update-2025/2026 Quarter 4**- The quarter showed steady progress in community engagement, public education, and communications. Staff remained active in outreach events, expanded educational partnerships, and strengthened digital communication efforts while continuing to improve website accessibility and transparency. Social media performance was strong overall, with Facebook followers rising from 525 to 552 and quarterly views increasing 18% to more than 80,000. Engagement dipped during the quarter but improved in the most recent 28 days. In response to dengue concerns, communications shifted toward the "Small Steps, Big Impact" mosquito-prevention campaign. Website traffic fluctuated month to month but remained strong overall, and email subscribers held steady at 94. The district is still working through ADA-compliant document-access solutions and reviewing alternatives to improve accessibility of board materials and other multi-page documents. On the education side, staffing changes led to the educational specialist being promoted to Director of Operations, with no replacement planned. The district will continue school programming by providing monthly support to Pelican Island Classical School. Overall, the report reflects solid momentum, stronger partnerships, and continued focus on mission-driven community impact.

D. **Strategic Plan Update 2025/2026 Quarter 4** (Attachment C)- Dr. Unlu provided departmental goals and stated most goals were achieved; overall, it was a successful year, and she thanked staff for their hard work. She mentioned she is currently drafting a new strategic plan and will involve staff and stakeholders. She anticipates having a draft for the Board in December. Commissioner Lowther asked about the impoundments and lack of a surveyor for projects. Dr. Unlu advised the Board that they have purchased new survey equipment and that staff will be trained. When it was brought up, Dr. Unlu expressed that having in-house survey capabilities will help complete projects with the assistance of engineering consultants.

E. **Outside the approval of the agenda due to Public Comment; video posted on website or video live discussion**- Commissioner Broda revisited the public comment regarding the district's videos, website, and broader communication needs in support of transparency, efficiency, and consistency. Staff discussed the possibility of engaging a third-party vendor to manage Board meeting video production, including ADA-compliant closed captioning, noting that Legal has raised concerns that should be considered going forward. Legal counsel outlined potential challenges that staff may encounter and emphasized the importance of thoroughly reviewing any contract before entering into an agreement with a third party. While noting this may be a viable option for the district. Commissioner Broda recommended tabling the discussion until the next Board meeting so staff can provide additional information to support further Board discussion.

VIII. New Business

A. **Surplus Auction Vehicle Approval** (Attachment D)- The surplus vehicle list was provided for the Board's review and approval. There was discussion about the criteria for the surplus list, and it was noted that it was based on mileage, age, and vehicle condition. Public comments were provided questioning the surplus equipment process. Claudia, CFO, explained the

process and the need to follow State law.

Commissioner Lowther moved to approve the surplus auction items; Commissioner Kirkland seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

B. **Tabula Emergency Purchase** (Attachment E)- Executive Director Dr. Unlu had informed commissioners in an email previous to the Board meeting that the current database software will become unavailable due to the vendor discontinuing their service. The new vendor, who would resume the contracts after review, would pose unpredictable costs for the district in the future. As the district did not want operations disrupted and given the tight timeline, a decision was made to move forward with Tabula as the district's new operations software. Installation has begun, and staff would like the Board to officially approve this purchase. Commissioner Broda noted that the Board had been informed and that two quotes had been emailed for this timely purchase. Public comment was made regarding the cost, and Commissioner Broda reminded the public that it is a small-business market.

Commissioner Kirkland made a motion to approve the purchase of Tabula; Commissioner Lowther seconded. The Board unanimously approved; motion passed.

IX. Director's Report

A copy of the Board Report and the operational data spreadsheet were provided to each Commissioner. Isik provided a brief overview of the monthly report.

In September, typically the district's highest-activity month, coastal operations remained exceptionally busy due to frequent rainfall, elevated mosquito activity, and multiple operational demands. The new Inland Supervisor, John, is expected to strengthen operational support at a critical time, particularly given the ongoing dengue activity in surrounding areas. As a result, surveillance trapping has been expanded. At Isik's request, Director of Operations Jules provided additional context to the Board.

Jules noted that operational challenges are ongoing and that weather patterns in September shifted significantly. In anticipation of rainfall, aerial treatments were initiated; however, high tides reaching 44 inches and rainfall totaling 9.1 inches created additional need for aerial applications and expanded acreage treatment. Coastal areas contain more pastures, but access for treatment remains limited. He also explained that certain factors, such as bee boxes and an eagle's nest, require operational redirection. These constraints may contribute to an increase in adult mosquito populations. Continued caution is necessary in conservation areas, and ongoing discussions are focused on improving treatment strategies. With increased trap counts, staff are monitoring for elevated mosquito activity, including species of concern for malaria transmission.

Isik reported that adulticide missions exceeded the five-year average, consistent with the State and Local Arbovirus updates, which are reviewed daily due to the high dengue activity statewide. Counts are already higher than in the previous report. Service requests are above average and have increased in response to media coverage. Impoundments remain elevated due to rainfall, and pumping activity has been minimal. One pump is currently under maintenance, and staff are

providing Isik with progress updates. Brandon is overseeing water quality, reporting, and permitting. In Human Resources, the UAS Vector Ecologist position has been filled. The GIS position is posted, and the Vector Control Laboratory Technician position has attracted a strong pool of candidates; interviews will be scheduled soon with the goal of filling the role promptly.

Commissioner Lowther asked if Doug Carlson had been hired yet and where he was in the process. Isik stated that Mr. Carlson had some questions; once they were discussed, the onboarding process began.

X. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Lowther – Commented on the tire program and recommended collaborating with Indian River County departments that may find tires in their areas while completing daily tasks.

Commissioner Kirkland – Thanked John for his responses to service requests and his detailed emails. She also asked staff questions about Fire Station #7 and the process when bees are in the area and expressed excitement about the returning tire program, especially given the dengue outbreaks throughout Florida.

Commissioner Broda – Emphasized the importance of educating beekeepers and staff on placement of hives, excited about tire program comeback, and happy about new software to help operations.

XI. Upcoming Meetings

- FMCA Annual Meeting – Ponte Verde Beach – November 9-12, 2026
- Regular Board Meeting – November 17, 2026 at 9 am

XII. Adjournment

Commissioner Lowther made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kirkland seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Attest: _____ _____