

FMCA Legislative Report

April 11, 2011

To: FMCA Board of Directors

From: Dennis Moore, Doug Carlson - FMCA Legislative Co-chairs

2011 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

APPROPRIATIONS - As usual, the main focus of our message to legislators this year was the request for continued funding (\$2.16 M) of the Florida Mosquito Control Program from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.

This year, the House has proposed to cut funding to local mosquito control programs by \$872,000 (more than 40%) and providing \$250K for research. The Senate has proposed a more modest cut of \$158,000, while allocating \$200K for research. Earlier in the budget process (in the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee) there was \$500,000 in the budget to support positions at FMEL, then later the same was shown for positions at FAMU-PHEREC, but this was later pulled and currently is not in the budget.

For Tallahassee Day, we struggled with the issue of support for the three faculty positions at FMEL and decided to leave it off the talking points sheet. If questions were asked by legislators, they were answered directly, rather than create an antagonistic atmosphere.

HB 1209 (Nehr)/SB 1746 (Richter) – Excise Taxes - (FMCA opposes)

These bills propose to eliminate several fees, including the \$1 per tire, waste tire fee. It appears that these bills are getting no traction and will likely fail to move any further. However if they were to pass, it would likely eliminate the State Aid to Mosquito Control funding.

HB 713 (Pafford)/SB 1120 (Norman) – Special Districts - (FMCA supports)

These bills give the public a voice in local government by requiring that before an independent special district can be involuntarily dissolved or merged, the residents of the affected areas must approve the merger or dissolution at referendum.

These bills appear to have strong support and many reported positive reactions from legislators when discussing.

Following is the list of those attending Tallahassee Days. Our attendance was 34 total, down from 52 attending last year. We had eight teams, each team visiting nearly ten legislators, so we certainly made an impact. A message was sent thanking those who took their valuable time to attend this event and encourage them to follow up with a letter of thanks and request for continued support. We will see in the next few weeks if our efforts were enough to secure our historical funding for the FL mosquito control programs and fund the important research performed by the labs.

Team 1

Doug Carlson Indian River Mosquito Control District
Diane Richards Indian River Mosquito Control District
Morel Jules Indian River Mosquito Control District
Peter Connelly AMVAC, Vero Beach, FL

Team 2

Walter Tabachnick FMCA, Vero Beach, FL
Roxanne Connelly FMCA, Vero Beach, FL
Jon Day FMCA, Vero Beach, FL
Jorge Rey FMCA, Vero Beach, FL
Chelsea T. Smartt FMCA, Vero Beach, FL

Team 3

Dennis Moore Pasco County Mosquito Control District
Robert Milan Citrus County Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Candace Royals Valent Biosciences, Tampa, FL
Matt Weldon Levy County Mosquito Control

Team 4

Stephen Sickerman South Walton Mosquito Control District
John Magee South Walton Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Bob Hudson South Walton Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Glen Pourciau Leon County Mosquito Control
Mark Cothran Gulf County Mosquito Control
Donny Powers Adapco

Team 5

Frank Van Essen Collier Mosquito Control District
Jeff Stivers Collier Mosquito Control District
James Dewitt Polous Franklin County Mosquito Control
Steve Smith FL Keys Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Stephen Ford Liberty County Mosquito Control

Team 6

Mark Latham Manatee County Mosquito Control District
Chris Lesser Manatee County Mosquito Control District
Mel Whitson Central Life Sciences – Brevard County

Team 7

Jeanne Moeller Anastasia Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Ms. V. Browning Anastasia Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Rui-De Xue Anastasia Mosquito Control District
Annette Cappella Anastasia Mosquito Control District, Citizen

Team 8

Wayne Gale Lee County Mosquito Control District
Pat Mann Lee County Mosquito Control District, Commissioner
Sarah Larsen Lee County Mosquito Control District, Commissioner