

**FEAB MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, December 11, 2015**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**Delchamps Room, Fairhope, AL**

**Attendees:** Gary Gover, Terry Hargroder, Rick Fredrick, Jeanine Normand, Mike Shelton

**Honored Guests:** Mike Allen w/Mosquito Authority

**City Representative:** Kim Burmeister, Planning Department

**MINUTES:** Gary made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2015 FEAB meeting. The minutes were approved with these changes: Spelling of Jeanine's last name incorrect in document. Also Jeanine asked it be noted that Gary presided in Mike Shelton's absence last month.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Mosquito spraying businesses in Fairhope: Mike asked Mike Allen, owner of the "Mosquito Authority" franchise in Baldwin County, to give an overview of his services:
  - a. Mike Allen: Business is exclusively mosquito control. He uses a pyrethrin product that is guaranteed to last for 21 days. He provides this service year around. The product is mist-sprayed with a back pack applicator. Barrier wood lines are sprayed as well as bushes. Flowers and blooms are avoided to minimize impact on other insect species. If the bush is in bloom, for example, the product will be applied with a wand inside the bush. Product does not work as well on flat lawns (needs bushes / shrubs for application, for maximum impact on mosquitos). Applicators are well trained in correct application, and Mike has a commercial applicators license through the State of Alabama (same as any pest control applicator). The pyrethrin spray is 99% water and is mixed / applied according to manufacturer's recommendations. Manufacturer / contact is Dr. Kirk Van Dock with Bayer. Pyrethroids affect the nervous system of the mosquito. Mosquitos can sense the chemical and tend to stay away from areas sprayed.
  - b. Mike A. said his applicators also look for mosquito sources on site (stagnant water, etc.) and apply larvicides (mosquito dunk tablets) as needed. He can kill the adult and larval mosquitos but not the pupae stage.
  - c. Mike A. said a mosquito takes about 7 days to reach the adult stage (from the egg stage) and also said that eggs can remain dormant during periods of cold weather.
  - d. Terry asked about residual effects: Mike A. said product stays active for 21 days.

- e. Terry asked if this product affected other insects like bees and lightning bugs: Mike A. did not think the spray affected other insects as much as mosquitos, but he does try to avoid impact as much as possible. He has heard the same complaints about impacting bees and lightning bugs. He said he does record all complaints and concerns. If there is known bee hive activity next to a potential customer, he will talk to that property owner before spraying the neighbor. He would rather give up a potential customer than cause problems for residents. Mike A. also said using a mist (small droplets) helps to target mosquitos over larger insects (which may be affected by larger droplet sizes).
- f. Jeanine asked if he tries to avoid azaleas since they are a prime target for bees and other beneficial insects. Mike A. said they will spray the interior of the bush but not the flower or bud.
- g. Mike Allen said his product has no effect on birds.
- h. Kim asked if his employees carry safety data sheets with them on the route, on the product used (in case any residents had questions or concerns about the products). Some residents have allergies or are sensitive to chemicals. Fairhope currently maintains a “No Spray” list of residents who want to avoid mosquito spray applications (by the City). Mike A. said safety data sheets are emailed or otherwise sent to residents on request.
- i. Kim noted that the City of Fairhope Public Works Department now uses a cedar oil spray (a non-toxic spray) which only sprays the right of ways (and parks) unless there is a no-spray request in these areas.
- j. Kim asked if the applicators use safety equipment like respirators. Mike said they only use (occasionally) dust masks.
- k. Mike A. said the chemical (pyrethrin) used is the same one used to control fleas and roaches.
- l. Mike A. said his company has the capability to spray 12 to 15 yards per day.
- m. Pyrethrins are one of the oldest pesticides and were originally derived in organic form from the chrysanthemum flower. The product he uses is a synthetic version. Synthetic version lasts longer than the organic form.
- n. Jeanine said this product sounds safer (on a spray by request method) than what people use at home (or apply to themselves), over the counter.
- o. In regards to birds and bats being a useful tool in managing mosquitos: Mike Shelton said that the numbers of mosquitos consumed by birds and bats is insignificant and mosquitos are probably not a key source of food for either.
- p. Rick asked about Mosquito Authority’s competition: Do they use the same product? Mike A. said they do use the same product. By law, mixing ratio must be the same.

***NEW BUSINESS***

1) City Mosquito Spray Program

- a. Jeanine wondered if the City program is effective at mosquito control, and suggested the FEAB advise Council to consider discontinuing the city spray program. The City program is no doubt expensive and appears to only target the right of ways (not the interior yards where people tend to gather).
- b. Gary suggested a Public Information Campaign to address the same thing: effectiveness of spray programs; cost saver for the City; City could offer free larvicide tablets instead of the spray program (for standing water sources); and more source control (educating citizens on how to eliminate mosquito breeding areas).
- c. Mike suggested the FEAB provide some scientific back up for pros and cons of mosquito spraying (City wide and private industry). If the City spray program was discontinued, it would definitely be a money saver for the City, plus the City could refer residents to the private industry (like Mosquito Authority) if there is still a desire to spray their yard. This would be more effective than spraying the right of ways throughout the City.
- d. Jeanine thinks eliminating the City spray program (and encouraging source control and private company spraying, if need be) would be a positive direction for the City of Fairhope to move in.

- 2) Chicken Ordinance: Kim noted that the City recently passed an ordinance allowing hens (up to 4) in the City limits, under some conditions. The ordinance is available on line.

Adjourned at 4 p.m.