

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
Meeting of August 17, 2023  
Unapproved Minutes

Board Members: Doug Perkins, Brad Lawes, Jeff Whiting, Kyle Bearor, Bruce Baccei, Jeff Schumann, Paul Vaczy, Sharon Stearns, Steve Belcher

Guests: Albert Wentz, Will Mathis (OCW), Wayne Rausenberger, Richard Russ, Karen Rhodes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted a quorum and that all Towns were represented. The Agenda was adopted without changes.

Public Comment

Wayne Rausenberger asked about a policy for funding larviciding activity when the State grant funds had run out, noting that he had previously requested information on such a policy. A second question addressed the scheduling of the budget format, that he believed should be presented at the August meeting. He had objections to the way in which the most recent grant was received and signed by the Chair. He had a question about the claim of the savings of \$14,000 on the insurance payment. Brad Lawes invited him to stop by and review the figures. He also wondered about the agenda item for an Energy Audit. Brad Lawes answered this point, anticipating a later agenda item: the State has a grant program for energy efficiency for municipalities; the District qualifies; should the District consider it?

The Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

Operations Coordinator's Report

Will Mathis reported a hectic season and poured forth data on the sites tested, the results, and the routes sprayed (totals: 162 sites, 79 routes sprayed), and 33,548 mosquitoes trapped. The subscriber list to the spraying alert now has 313 members; there have been 818 calls and Will has answered them personally, averaging 5-10 minutes per call. He reviewed the status of the trucks. Two are out of service (burnt clutch, bad motor). Others show problem codes in the computer read-out, but are functional. He discussed the aduclticing products used, having noted at the previous meeting that one product left an oily residue; the replacement product has the same problem. He noted other technical issues.

Treasurer's Report

Brad Lawes had sent out the figures by email before the report, as follows:

General Checking (5020)	32,909.66
Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement (7510)	14,348.36
Legal Account (7660)	954.26
Debit Card (1303)	344.61
Total funds available	48,556.89

Current Balance of 2024 Grant	68,262.26
Invoice 2024/2	3,726.93
Invoice 2024/3	1,883.04
Total unpaid invoices	5,609.97

He noted that the General Checking Account had received some payments since he sent out the figures.

#### Chair's Report

The report had been sent out by email. The main activity was communications with the State on the possible need for aerial larviciding treatment, based on the flooding and larva counts.

#### Old Business

##### Shed and Water

Brad Lawes said the extension of town water out to the OCW shed had been approved, but there was no indication for the timing.

##### Art Doty Memorial

The Dedication ceremony should be 9-11 am on Sat. Sept. 30; on a motion by Steve Belcher, the ceremony will be held at the Stephen Douglas House in Brandon, followed perhaps by a site visit to the shed. An ad-hoc committee was informally constituted, comprising Ben Lawton, Brad Lawes, and Steve Belcher.

#### New Business

##### The Assessment Algorithm

A committee was formed in 2022 to address the metrics for the assessment, but their conclusions were not fully adopted because of disparate effects on the towns. The algorithm considers three categories: Overhead, Adulticiding, Larviciding. The Overhead portion of the assessment is derived from the Equalized Grand Lists of the member towns; The larviciding portion reflects the town's share of wetlands, and the adulticide assessment, in the algorithm, is based on data on dwellings and on the mileage sprayed in the towns.

The mileage question is the most problematic. The original algorithm looked to town maps, supplemented by Google. In the past year, the District has been recording the mileage of the trucks as a more accurate measurement. Even so, there are questions: one-way roads; the distance traveled by the trucks from the shed to the start of their routes. The challenge is to find a measure that will be fair to all towns.

The matter was deferred to next month's meeting; the Chair will provide a breakdown of different costing formulas.

##### Truck replacement

Will Mathis requested \$10,000 to buy a truck. Wayne Rausenberger noted that the Equipment Fund will be benefiting from Proctor's buy-in over the next years. Jeff Schumann thought a committee should be formed to assess Capital and Equipment needs and costs, but the motion did not pass. Steve Belcher moved to authorize Will to buy a truck at a cost not to exceed \$10,000; Sharon Stearns seconded, and the motion passed.

#### Energy Audit

This question had already been addressed during the Public Comment period, when Brad Lawes answered one of Wayne Rausenberger's questions. No action was taken.

#### Change in Meeting Times

Doug Perkins noted that two members now had conflicts with the regular meeting time of 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month. After some discussion and comparison of calendars, a motion to move the meeting time to the second Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 pm and at the Brandon Senior Citizens' Center, was approved. The next meeting will be on September 13.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher