

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
25 October 2023

Minutes

Board: Jeff Schumann, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Tom Hogan, Bruce Baccei, Kyle Bearor, Tim Kingston, Lynne Peck, Jeff Whiting, Albert Wenta, Steve Belcher. On Zoom: Paul Vaczy.

Guests: Wayne Rausenberger, Steve Jupiter (Press).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with a quorum and all towns represented. There were no changes to the agenda. Jeff Schumann, acting as chair, noted that discussion was restricted to the cause of the special meeting, the Notice of Violation from the Agency of Agriculture.

In Public Comment, Wayne Rausenberger offered observations. He was perplexed that the Notice combined alleged violations by Doug Perkins and Will Mathis; he observed that violations had occurred before, without entailing fines (in one case, the person involved had resigned).

The Minutes of the Board Meeting of Oct. 11 were approved.

Acting Chair Jeff Schumann noted that the Board faced two choices: to pay the fines, or to request a hearing (leading to an appeals process).

Brad Lawes noted that his company had often faced such Notices; they always appealed and never paid the full amount demanded.

Lynne Peck noted that in her experience with OSHA, explanations and a willingness to correct the issues led to resolution.

On a motion by Brad Lawes, the Board voted to request a hearing.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher
Secretary