

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board Meeting
8 May, 2024
Unapproved Minutes

Attendance:

Board Members: Jeff Schumann, Doug Perkins, Ben Lawton, Bruce Baccei, Tom Hogan, Albert Wenta, Paul Vaczy, Lynne Peck, Sharon Stearns, Steve Belcher

Others: Wayne Rausenberger, Richard Russ, Will Mathis (OCW).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02, the Chair noting a quorum without all towns represented (until the arrival of Sharon Stearns).

Agenda

The agenda was amended on a motion by Steve Belcher: the Treasurer's Report was placed after the Operations Coordinator report, and an item was added to new business, on the format of the agenda.

Public Comment

Richard Russ had a question about the legal costs to date, and the name of the attorney. Wayne Rausenberger had questions about the budget; he has still not seen an end-of-year statement for 2023. He was unclear about the \$1,600 paid for the answering-service. He noted that Lynne Peck had given differering numbers for the quantity of accounts on record. He noted that overtime had always been paid; the uncertainty of the scheduling and the need to take advantage of favorable weather conditions ensured that over-time will remain a feature of the payment structure.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, following the Operations Coordinator report.

Operations Coordinator

Will Mathis reported a good start to the season. The flow-meters required by the State have been installed; the nozzles of the sprayers will soon be calibrated. There are vehicle maintenance issues.

There have been 79 no-spray requests:

Proctor: 11	Goshen: 5
Pittsford: 12	Salisbury: 27
Brandon: 14	Leicester: 10

The mosquito larva levels have been low (on April 24, the temperature went down to 23 F). He reminded the Board that he had requested a letter of reference. Steve Belcher, the Secretary, said he would supply it.

Will also wanted to buy more adulticiding product, at the cost of \$12,000/pallet. One or two? there ensued a discussion about the funds available.

Jeff Schumann had 2 questions: will we be doing larviciding early? and a quote from

Jeremy New on the yard-work around the shed: the answer there was \$150, not covering all the acreage.

Treasurer's Report

Lynne Peck had earlier emailed a profit/loss statement to Board members. It reflected an alignment of the Quickbooks accounts with the Board Budget categories. She is still working on the payroll accounting categories, facing many questions and uncertainties. In short, the financials show:

General Checking:	\$61,163.91
Capital/Equipment:	\$44,348.36
Legal:	\$ 914.76
Debit Card:	\$ 572.41

The \$30,000 donation from the LDFLA (Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association) is noted under capital equipment; those funds are going to payments for the newly-required variable flow-meter equipment, with the balance returned to the Association.

Sharon Stearns extended thanks to Lynne for the effort she had put into this work.

Committee Reports

The Audit Committee had nothing to report (Jeff Whiting was absent).

Doug Perkins reported for the Permitting Committee.

On the aerial applications permit: the OCW has received the required information from North Fork Aviation and forwarded it to Patti Casey at the State.

Jeff Schumann and Doug Perkins met with State officials in Montpelier, reviewing the conditions for the permit. The Board is no longer committed to a regular schedule of treatment; last year's experience, with unpredictable rains, meant that some towns were not treated as needed.

The issue of individual service requests has been amended; no separate service request report will be required if the individual service request is satisfied through a regular treatment.

Otherwise, there must first be a sampling to justify the treatment.

Tom Hogan noted that the sampling would increase costs, and that such service should incur a charge. This is a long-standing question, still unresolved.

Doug Perkins later noted that the current permit only allows the use of two adulticiding products, which increases the risk of resistance among the mosquitoes. The State wants to see evidence of resistance before allowing the use of Malathion.

Executive Committee

Jeff Schumann reported a meeting to discuss the invoicing system. He announced a drone demonstration for May 23, with limited access; the State is now more open to the idea. The Chair will visit DC in the coming week, in coordination with the AMCA, to lobby our legislators; the AMCA is providing a stipend that will cover half the cost. They will be meeting with Vermont and Connecticut legislators (Connecticut because of their positions on relevant committees) to discuss USDA policies, the use of drones in vector (disease-bearing organisms) control, the

establishment of a nation-wide database, and issues with the EPA labelling of pesticides and chemicals.

New Business

No-Spray notification

The State requested changes in #7 of the District's No-Spray policy statement. The new statement requires property owners to report missing stakes. Bridges must now be staked, to avoid spraying over water

Operations Coordinator

There have been multiple descriptions; Officers and the Coordinator will review the 23 responsibilities and bring a new version to the Board for review at the June Meeting.

Agenda Format

Doug Perkins offered a motion to amend the agenda format to include a Treasurer Report and a Chair Report before the committee reports. In the discussion, Jeff Schumann noted that his format was intended to spread the load of the work. Steve Belcher noted that that the issue was one of reports to the public, that the Treasurer is an Officer of the Board, and that transparency in financial matters was essential.

Ben Lawton noted that his attempt to delegate work to committees had been unsuccessful.

An amendment to the motion to remove the requirement for a Chair report was approved. The amended motion, to amend the agenda to include a Treasurer's Report was then approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

The next regular meeting should take place on June 12, at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Senior Citizen Center on Forestdale Road.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher, Secretary