

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board Meeting of February 12, 2015
Approved Minutes

Attendance:

Board Members: Will Mathis, Kerry White, Bruce Baccei, Albert Wenta, Tom Hogan, Jeff Schumann, Doug Perkins, Jonathan Blake, Robbie Devoid, Wayne Rausenberger, Lynne Peck, Jeff Whiting, Olya Hopkins, Steve Belcher

Public: Seth Hopkins

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. All towns were represented.

As there were new Board members present, there was a round of introductions.

The Agenda was approved with some modifications.

The Minutes of the 2024 Dec. 4 meeting and the 2025 January 8 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent out an email with the current balances:

Operating Funds Checking	\$87,698.54
Audit / Legal	\$8,414.26
Equip Replace / Cap Improvement	\$34,045.68
Debit Card	\$433.51
Total	\$130,591.99

He noted a question from the FAA about the 'airports' used by the District; Will Mathis can contact one family whose fields have been used by helicopters in the past.

Wayne Rausenberger had a number of questions: the algorithm, information on the invoices paid, the absence of a 'Profit/Loss' statement. On this point, Lynne Peck noted that the information recorded in the Quickbook files from previous years was not accurate, and so the P/L statements created on that basis would not accurate. The current 'Budget/Expense' format is more useful. On a question about monthly vs. cumulative reports, the answer was that both could be provided. There was some discussion about reviewing the invoices that came back when the Audit Committee chair made his report.

Operations Coordinator's Report

The District is applying for renewal of its licenses. The categories were identified: a combination of Government (allowing the District to spray along public roads) and commercial (allowing the district to go onto private property) licenses for all operations. There was a question about the paperwork involved; Will Mathis helped sort that out.

Committee Reports

Permitting Committee

Jeff Whiting reported that the 2025 adulticide permit application had been sent to the State before the due date of February 1. One concern involves the products allowed to be used; the State has limited the District to two products with similar chemical properties, which may increase resistance among mosquitoes. It was noted that agricultural use of pesticides also contributes to resistance. Jeff will provide Board Members a powerpoint outlining the restrictions on treatment in case of questions during Town Meetings.

Finance Committee

No report.

Public Relations

Awaiting information to be distributed.

Audit Committee

Albert Wenta noted that some Board members assigned to the Committee had been replaced. Kerry White volunteered to join the Committee. He has consulted the League of Cities and Towns for guidance, and Kathleen Ramsey has provided information on procedures. There was some discussion of who looks at bills; in the past, the Board was sometimes presented with a statement of the charges, but not always. The question of prompt payment came up – there is a contrast with Select Boards that meet every two weeks or so, and the OCW that only meets monthly. Jonathan Blake noted that prompt payment improved relations with the suppliers.

Executive Committee

Jeff Schumann noted that the question of Salisbury's payments had been resolved; the Town of Salisbury had vote to pay the sum earlier withheld. He has been working with the State over the permits and also over questions involving the software associated with their newly required flow-meters; this involves internet connections (static vs. dynamic). There was discussion of a hard-wired internet connection the shed and the possible provider.

Ad Hoc Hiring Committee

Positions have been advertised. There are candidates for the internship-level positions.

New Business

The Regular Meeting was set for the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the old Town Hall in Brandon at 1 Conant Square.

Wayne Rausenberger had proposed to amend the language of the agreement in the paragraph, under finances, relating to the way the Towns were billed and the cap of 5% on budget increases. This motion did not pass. After extended discussion of a second motion, it was decided to defer action until more precise language can be proposed for the requested amendments.

Shed Security

There has been a break-in; the lock has been changed.

Will Mathis agreed to defer the items he had added to the agenda until the next meeting (a Human Resources Committee for employee relations, and compliance with OSHA regulations). The Board then went into Executive Session to discuss employee questions, having first agreed to allow Seth Hopkins to remain. Coming out of Executive Session, no further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher, Secretary