

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Regular Board Meeting
9 April 2025
Approved Minutes

Attendance

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

Others: Adam Fasoli, Kallista Musselman (OCW), Madelyn Clem (OCW), Riley Miller (OCW), Ken Backus (OCW), John Capen (OCW), Brent Scarborough (OCW)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted a quorum with all towns fully represented.

The agenda was adopted without changes.

The next item was a report from the Ad Hoc Hiring Committee, to introduce the new hires. There were no candidates for the 40-hour/week job of Operations Coordinator, so responsibilities were divided between two functions: the Applications Supervisor (John Capen) and an Entomology Lab Supervisor (Kerry White). They and the staff were present. The Board and the new staff introduced themselves to each other.

There was no public comment.

The Minutes of the meeting on March 12 were approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent out a statement of the current balances as of March 31, along with other reports.

Operations Checking Account	122,917.88
Legal & Audit Account	8,414.26
Capital Improvement Account	32,642.73
Debit Card Account	219.54
Subtotal:	164,194.41
Unspent VAAFM Grant	61,559.51
Total funds available:	225,753.92

On a motion by Doug Perkins, 6 hours of sick-leave were approved for Kerry White.
The tax exemption document is being updated to reflect the changes in name. New employees

may require checks on their driver's record (at a cost of \$17/record to be paid by the OCW). The District has signed a contract for gasoline from a local provider in Brandon.

District Status Update

John Capen reported that activities are still being organized, and the equipment is being checked for any needed repairs. A present concern is the no-spray requests; properties are being posted. Kerry White noted an absence of any records for prior no-spray requests; the file system is being reconstructed. Craig Zontag has been very helpful. Jeff Whiting suggested new business cards with the contact information.

Committee Reports

Permitting

Jeff Whiting reported that the 2025 permits are nearly ready, following meetings with the State personnel. The sprayers will not be calibrated until May 6, and the State will not allow application before that date.

The question of waterways (not to be sprayed) led Albert Wenta to raise a question about the Proctor marble bridge (much photographed), and a discussion of how to ensure the markers would not disrupt the view.

Finance Committee

The committee is working on a list of capital improvements for the Board to consider, and trying to get cost estimates. Some items may qualify for 75% reimbursement under the terms of our larvicide grant

Audit Committee

The committee has met and has reviewed some items.

PR Committee

Steve Belcher suggested a piece in the Reporter about requesting no-spray requests might be timely. Jeff Whiting felt that the legal notices were sufficient.

Doug Perkins noted that it might be time to redistribute the OCW informational brochures.

Executive Committee

Work needs to be done on the shed roof, and the Executive Committee has contracted to have the work done. This work will also include improved security on the doors. A motion to approve the action taken was approved.

Internet

Conversations with the Fidium business office were not productive, but discussions with a manager determined that Fidium service is available close to the OCW shop building at a reasonable price. However, the cable must go underground (the Shed has a helicopter landing zone, for possible aerial applications). but Robbie Devoid offered the services of a trencher.

Lynne Peck offered to donate the PVC.

The AMCA is offering a stipend for a lobbying trip down to DC to present the case for mosquito-

control funding; Jeff Schumann plans to go down and to meet with Vermont and Connecticut representatives.

The new hires will be given training for their required license.

New Business

The Executive Committee was authorized to place an add for lawn-mowing around the Shed, and to accept the best bid.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher
Secretary