

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Regular Meeting of 11 June 2025
Unapproved Minutes

Attendance

Board Members: Tom Hogan, Bruce Baccei, Albert Wenta, Doug Perkins, Lynne Peck, Jeff Schumann, Jonathan Blake, Robbie Devold, Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting (by phone), Steve Belcher, Will Mathis (on Zoom).

Others: John Capen (OCW)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted a quorum and that Brandon had no representatives present.

The Agenda was approved without changes. There was no public comment.

The Chair opened the meeting with a preliminary statement of thanks to a number of individuals and organizations who had offered substantial support and assistance to the District in recent times. First, Robbie Devold, Lynne Peck, and Brad Lawes for helping connect the shed with the Fidium network. Then various companies: Peck Electric, Michael Moore, and Wimett Trading/

He noted challenges facing the District, and in particular a wet spring (May recorded 23 days with rainfall). One trap from Leicester collected 5,000 mosquitoes in a 24 hour period. He again thanked the Lake Dunmore Fern Lake Association for their donation of the funds last year to equip the District's trucks with flow-meters, regulating the spraying according to the speed of the vehicle and also providing accurate GPS information on the areas and mileage sprayed

This mosquito season promises to be heavy, and the District is short of funds.

Minutes

Steve Belcher noted that there had been significant omissions relating to the Capital Expense approvals at the previous meeting and proposed corrections. Doug Perkins also proposed some corrections. Approval of the Minutes of the May meeting were deferred until the July meeting and presentation of the revised Minutes.

District Status Report

John Capen reported. The trucks are out; there is a staff of applicators. There is a question about the no-spray stakes; 43 are missing.

Adulticide spraying commenced on June 4 and by June 10, all routes had been sprayed. The team is coming together; at this time, applicators are assigned certain routes. In the future they will be trained for other routes. There is a core team of seven, with back-up alternates. Most have full time jobs outside their work for the District..

He had observations on the trucks; some should be disposed of, and it would be good to replace the standard shift trucks with automatics.

Doug Perkins had a question about the stock of Perma-Sease (currently sufficient); there was also a question about accuracy of the route maps posted on the website. After some discussion, the Chair assigned the question of the route maps to the Permitting Committee.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent out an email giving the current balances and attachments showing the Profit and Loss statement generated by QuickBooks.

Account Balances as of 31 May:

Operations Checking Account	\$53,401.75
Legal & Audit Account	\$ 860.26
Capital Improvement Account	\$ – 55.42
Debit Card Account	\$.32
Subtotal:	54,206.91
Unspent VAAFM Grant as of 1 May	\$61,559.51
Invoice 2025/8	– 1,540.94
Invoice 2025/9	– 20,625.57
Invoice 2025/10	– 2,850.00
Invoice 2025/11	– 629.86
Unspent VAAFM Grant as of 31 May	\$38,763.14
Total funds available:	\$92,970.05

He noted that since the start of June, the District had spent \$35,017.86. There are \$10,000 expected from Pittsford. The invoices to the State against the Larvicide grant total over \$25,000. To meet expenses, he is borrowing from other accounts.

The cost of treating the 17 routes in the District (a total of 750 miles) runs to \$10,200, including labor, product, and allowance for the mileage. The GPS-recorded mileage total differs from the figure used in the assessment algorithm (510 miles).

The District seems likely to run short of funds, given the expectation of a heavy mosquito season. Options include use of the credit line, or a request to the town for additional funds, with the supplemental data generated by the spray-flow meters to support the request.

In the absence of Kerry White, there was little information on larviciding. There may be \$10,000 available to pay for drone application of larvicide before June 30.

Committee Reports

Permitting

Jeff Whiting had sent an email with his report. The 2025 Adulticiding Permit has been issued; the 5-year Larviciding permit is coming up for renewal. Three out of the four sprayers have been calibrated and certified. The fourth awaits the return of the vendor. Enabling the recording software for the flow-meters to fulfill their function has been accomplished, with some difficulties.

Public Relations

Ben Lawton placed a piece in the Brandon Reporter. Lynne Peck asked about rearranging the website (the request for notification seems hard to find). There was a suggestion that the script for the answering service should be changed. Call-backs are not possible; the service could direct

callers to the website.

Executive Committee

The Chair reported staffing levels (7 core with alternates). He further noted that the Larviciding Grant had been received from the State, reviewed by Doug Perkins and Jeff Whiting, and then signed. He requested the Board's approval by unanimous consent and received it.

The EC then requested ratification of a decision taken between meetings, to purchase two trucks from Wimett Trading, and the decision to ratify the Larvicide Grant. Both decisions were approved by unanimous consent.

New Business

Truck Sale

The Board members discussed the trucks and their current value. A motion by Doug Perkins to sell the 1996 Green Ranger and to have an evaluation made of the 2003 Black Ranger and the 2001 Sonoma, to determine which might be disposed of, was approved. A second motion by Doug Perkins to allow the Executive Committee to negotiate a price and then sell the chosen truck was approved.

OCW Logo

A set of logos was presented. Using ranked choice voting, the Board ultimately settled on one.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher
Secretary