

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board Meeting of July 9, 2025
Approved Minutes

Attendance

Board members: Wayne Rausenberger, Bruce Baccei, Albert Wenta, Tom Hogan, Jeff Schumann, Lynne Peck, Robbie Devoid, Jeff Whiting, Kerry White, Doug Perkins, Ben Lawton, Steve Belcher, Will Mathis (on Zoom).

Guests: Doug Bailey, Seth Hopkins, John Capen (OCW).

The Agenda was adopted without change. Jeff Schumann took this moment to commend three Board members who had been putting in many hours of extra work: Lynne Peck and Doug Perkins for their time on the finances, and Jeff Whiting for mastering the software involved in collecting the spraying data. He also praised the staff, who are learning and improving daily.

Minutes

Amended Minutes for the meeting of May 14 were approved.

The Unapproved Minutes for the meeting of June 11 were corrected and approved as amended.

District Status

Kerry White reported that her team of two interns is working very well and are now being trained on the identification of the adult mosquitoes. They have not been finding many larvae, and may try to extend their search further from the water's edge. They need to start the process of resistance testing. The new traps and microscope (purchase approved in the May meeting) are very useful. They are waiting to meet the threshold for larviciding.

John Capen reported a busy period: 55 routes have been sprayed to date. The 4th sprayer has been calibrated. There is a supply of 50 gallons of PermaSease; usage runs at 600-700 ounces a week.

Missing stakes are a concern, especially with new drivers who do not know the routes so well. Replacing stakes comes at a cost, as would surveillance. Equipping the trucks with computers programmed through GPS for the routes would cost \$25-30,000 for the equipment, not counting the labor involved in programming the tablets.

As the applicators learn their routes, they are also introducing variations for efficiency; the data is being compiled. Doug Perkins noted that training on the routes should be documented, for future use by other applicators and in case there are questions about the qualifications.

Lynne Peck put in a request that expense receipts include the purchase involved. She also relayed a question about drive-way spraying.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent out the current balances and statements (budget/actual) by email before the meeting:

Operations Checking Account: \$ 15,258.35

Audit / Legal Account: \$ 860.26
Equipment/Capital: \$ 21,181.94
Debit Card Account: \$ 354.82,
but note that this account “owes” the Equip Replace / Cap Improve Account \$600

Subtotal: \$37,655.37 cash on hand

Remaining FY-25 Grant Balance: \$27,997.22

Total funds available: \$65,652.59

A key concern was expenses: in May, \$63,430; in June \$85,010. This last figure includes the purchase of two trucks for a cost near \$30,000. Some expenses, charged against the larvicide grant, await reimbursement from the State. There were questions about how some labor costs were charged. Overtime became an issue.

A motion to approve a moratorium on overtime payments at a certain threshold passed, initially, on a show of hands, along with an amendment. Seth Hopkins (Brandon Town Manager) then noted that the new version of the Public Meeting Law required a roll-call vote on questions not passed by unanimous consent when some participants are remote. Following the roll-call vote, this motion to approve the moratorium failed in a vote of 5-6 with one abstention (the tabulation of the roll-call vote is appended following the signature). The roll-call tallies for this vote and others are appended below the signature.

Ben Lawton noted that this was a unique year, in which the District is reconstructing itself. Will Mathis’s question about why John Capen was not spraying involved details of licensing and payments.

A question about the backlog of calls (some 800 recently): no, they are not being answered, because the staff’s time is needed for other services. The Answering Service script has been revised; the interns have put together a generic email response directing callers to the website and the sign-up service for notifications on spraying.

Wayne Rausenberger had concerns about the purchase of the trucks, the grounds maintenance contract, and the Capital expenses [these had not been properly reported in the May meeting minutes]. He received explanations.

He then offered a motion to require the Treasurer to deliver the report in a window 3-1 days before the meeting. On a vote 5-6, with one abstention, the motion failed.

Wayne then questioned expenses and the absence of information on invoices. Board members who are also Select Board members described their practice. A motion to require presentation of invoices failed, on a vote of 3-8 with one abstention.

Permitting Committee

Jeff Whiting had sent out an email report. Salient issues are treatment reports: with supplementary information, the data from the flow-meter software is acceptable to the State, especially as the flow-records (1.41 oz/acre) are what they should be.

The website id was raised: the old blsg website still seems operational, but has not yet been superseded by the ocwcid website.

The Finance committee, the Audit Committee and the PR Committee had nothing to report.

Executive Committee

The first item was ratification of the purchase of equipment for the laboratory. It passed with unanimous consent.

The second question was disposal of old trucks. Employees had made an offer, well under the value per a website. A local sales agent priced them far below the web-site. A motion to table discussion passed by unanimous consent.

A new truck is available, at a slightly reduced price for a few days. The purchase would involve using LDFLA funds donated for the purchase, a loan from an LDFLA member (the total not determined), and perhaps the funds from selling the old trucks to the employees. A motion to approve the purchase was approved by unanimous consent.

On the disposition of the old trucks, the motion by Steve Belcher to approve the sale to the employees failed by 3-7 with two abstentions.

The fate of an old Nissan, for which the District still holds the title, was raised. Will Mathis said it had gone to a junkyard years ago.

New Business

Wayne Rausenberger expressed dissatisfaction with the actions of the Executive Committee. He thought they were spending too much money. He was concerned that Brandon, the largest town in the District, had no voice on the EC.

Ben Lawton and Robbie Devoid answered him. Ben noted the progress in the past year and said it was the best Board he could remember. Robbie noted the change since the first meeting he had attended had been a great improvement.

Doug Perkins announced that he would not stand for re-election as Treasurer.

At 9:51, Steve Belcher offered a motion to adjourn that was promptly accepted.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher

Motion to Approve a threshold of 33 hours for notice

		Yes	No	Abs.
Brandon	Wayne Rausenberger		N	
	Kerry White			X
	Olya Hopkins (alternate)			
Leicester	Doug Perkins		N	
	Lynne Peck		N	
	(alternate)			
Salisbury	Jeff Schumann	Y		
	Robbie Devoid		N	
	Jonathan Blake (alternate)			
Goshen	Jeff Whiting	Y		
	Ben Lawton	Y		
	Chad Beckwith (alternate)			
Pittsford	Steve Belcher		N	
	Will Mathis		N	
	Alicia Malay (alternate)			
Proctor	Bruce Baccei		N	
	Albert Wenta	Y		
	Tom Hogan (alternate			

Motion to Approve Moratorium on Overtime Payments

		Yes	No	Abs.
Brandon	Wayne Rausenberger		N	
	Kerry White			X
	Olya Hopkins (alternate)			
Leicester	Doug Perkins	Y		
	Lynne Peck		N	
	(alternate)			
Salisbury	Jeff Schumann		N	
	Robbie Devoid		N	
	Jonathan Blake (alternate)			
Goshen	Jeff Whiting			X
	Ben Lawton	Y		
	Chad Beckwith (alternate)			
Pittsford	Steve Belcher		N	
	Will Mathis		N	
	Alicia Malay (alternate)			
Proctor	Bruce Baccei		N	
	Albert Wenta	Y		
	Tom Hogan (alternate			

A Motion to require presentation of bills at Board meetings

		Yes	No	Abs.
Brandon	Wayne Rausenberger	Y		
	Kerry White			X
	Olya Hopkins (alternate)			
Leicester	Doug Perkins		N	
	Lynne Peck		N	
	(alternate)			
Salisbury	Jeff Schumann		N	
	Robbie Devoid		N	
	Jonathan Blake (alternate)			
Goshen	Jeff Whiting	X		
	Ben Lawton		N	
	Chad Beckwith (alternate)			
Pittsford	Steve Belcher		N	
	Will Mathis	X		
	Alician Malay (alternate)			
Proctor	Bruce Baccei		N	
	Albert Wenta		N	
	Tom Hogan (alternate			