

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board Meeting of September 10, 2025
Approved Minutes

Attendance

Board Members: Jeff Schumann, Robbie Devoid, Wayne Rausengerger, Albert Wenta, Bruce Baccei, Tom Hogan, Ben Lawton, Lynne Peck, Kerry White, Steve Belcher

Others: Adam Fasoli (LDFLA), John Capen (OCW)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, the Chair noting a quorum with all towns represented.

The Agenda was adopted without changes.

There was no public comment.

The Minutes of the August 13th meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

District Report

Kerry White reported a good season, now wrapping up. The interns have returned to school. Lots of work has been done and the lab is looking good.

John Capen reported plans to winterize half of the spray trucks.

Lynne Peck asked about resistance testing; Kerry White reported problems with a first batch of specimens; others have been sent, but the Cornell Lab may be closing down its seasonal operation. The specific species required have been hard to find.

Robbie Devoid asked about the future effects of the current drought conditions; there is insufficient data.

Steve Belcher noted the announcement of recognition of the interns by the Mosquito Control Association and commended Kerry for her training; John Capen later commented that Kerry's knowledge had been essential in guiding the interns. Kerry felt that letting the interns be creative was the key.

Treasurer's Report

As Doug Perkins is away, Lynne Peck had forwarded the financials (balance statements and profit-loss statements).

The bank balances stand as follows:

Primary Checking	\$37,267.76	
Audit and Legal	\$ 9,664.26	
Equipment & Captial	\$20,013.83	
Debit Card	\$ 266.69	
Grant Balance		\$43,429.02

Permitting Committee

Jeff Whiting is away. Jeff Schumann reported that he will be meeting with Patti Casey

Finance Committee

The Board had received, by email, a statement of the algorithm used to assign town costs and a draft of the budget. Questions about the algorithm involved the difference between the mileage estimated and the mileage recorded in newer data. The formula also had a glitch that had led to questionable numbers. The purpose of this review was to examine the budget categories and to raise questions to be answered in October.

The proposed budget total represented a 5% increase over last year's total. Individual towns may see some variation in their assessments, because the ratios particularly of the Equalized Education Grand List may have changed. A second consideration is that last year's budget included a sum provided by the District from its reserves, as the District did not feel it proper to increase the Towns' assessments by 5%. This year's budget, with a 5% overall increase, would mean a much greater increase for the Town, because they are also being asked to cover the shortfall.

Specific questions involved the funds for a book-keeper, capital expenses, the 'Audit and Legal' fund, the truck maintenance, and the purchase of product.

Audit Committee

Albert Wenta had a number of specific questions that he will resolve in a meeting with Lynne Peck.

Public Relations

Steve Belcher noted no activity, but an item of concern: the planned closure of the Brandon Reporter. This will affect public notices required by the State.

The Truck Sale

Jeff Schumann reported an offer of \$6,111.11 for all three trucks; employees, given the opportunity to match the offer, had not done so. A motion to approve the sale passed by unanimous consent.

Executive Committee

Jeff Schumann reported that he was debriefing employees at the end of the season, as the District prepares for the annual shut-down of operations.

Board members were reminded of the obligation to go through the Ethics training.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher
Secretary