

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Regular Meeting of 8 October 2025
Unapproved Minutes

Attendance: Board Members: Lynne Peck, Doug Perkins, Jonathan Blake, Jeff Whiting, Ben Lawton, Bruce Baccei, Albert Wenta, Wayne Rausenberger, Steve Belcher, Tom Hogan
Guests: Seth Hopkins (Brandon), John Capen (OCW)

In the absence of Jeff Schumann, Jeff Whiting acted as Chair. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, with a quorum, and all towns represented.

The Agenda was adopted with the addition of a discussion of the proposed water system, to precede the discussion of the budget.

In Public Comment, Seth Hopkins noted that the Agenda was not posted on the web-site, and that the Zoom link was inadequate.

The Minutes of the Sept. 10. meeting were approved with two abstentions from members who had not been present.

District Report

In the absence of Kerry White, John Capen offered a handout, summarizing treatments in the member towns. The trucks are being prepared for winter; the Dodge still requires some work. There is still mosquito identification to be done.

Lynne Peck expressed concerns about the cost. In discussion, Jeff Whiting noted that Jeff Schumann was negotiating this question with Patti Casey; Steve Belcher felt the District needed to respect State requirements, and Doug Perkins cited the wording in the grant that made identification contingent on planned control activities, which are now suspended.

Lynne Peck then asked about a report on the call-in activity; John Capen had no data. Jeff Whiting noted that the interns had been charged with responding to phone-calls, with no mention of a log; Kerry White, who supervised the interns, was not present. Albert Wenta noted that this point supported the need for written protocols; John noted he had been given no job description nor any on-the-job training.

Water System

Doug Perkins had sent out documents on the changes to the proposed water system for the Shed, that will require modifications of the permit. Wayne Rausenberger questioned the changes, that the record showed has been approved in the May meeting. A motion by Doug Perkins to have Jeff Schumann sign off on the permit application passed 8-1 (the roll call vote follows the signature).

Treasurer's Report

Doug Perkins had sent out the balances by email before the meeting: Current bank balances:

Operations Checking	\$17,675.81
Audit & Legal	\$10,914.26
Equipment & Capital	\$26,124.94
Debit Card	\$ 257.32
Total cash on hand	\$54,972.33

Accounts Receivable	\$44,216.02
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(Unpaid VAAFM invoices = \$13,509.77 and Goshen / Leicester / Proctor town assessments = \$30,706.25)

FY26 Larvicide Grant balance	\$29,729.25
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He noted that the District is in good shape, although it has still not received a bill for the lawn-mowing. There was some discussion of the transfer of funds between accounts. He noted that he had found another title to a truck no longer in service.

Permitting Committee

Jeff Whiting reported that the State had released the application for a larviciding permit.

Finance Committee

At this point, the Board took up the proposed budget for the next year. A draft had been circulated before the September Meeting, and a second draft addressing the points raised had been distributed prior to this meeting. The assessment algorithm is based on four factors: Overhead is determined by the Equalized Education Grand List that changes from year to year. Larviciding is based on the acres of Class 2 wetlands in each town, which does not change. Adulticiding is based on in-town spray-route mileages and the number of dwellings in each town. Doug Perkins has been compiling updated mileage data, enhanced this year by the mileage data recorded by the sprayer-controllers. A total of 61 mileage data points were obtained, including at least three from each spray-route. The actual recorded mileage seems preferable to the previous estimate that was based on mapped mileage.

Wayne Rausenberger offered a motion to modify the algorithm and remove the category of dwelling units. The motion failed on a vote of 1-8 (the roll call tally follows below the signature).

Ben Lawton asked about the difference between the budgeted amount for adulticide next year and what had been spent this year. Doug Perkins explained that he expected a third order of the product (ca. \$13,000) that would increase the cost, and that the budget estimate was based upon the product needed to spray all 17 routes 7 times (once every two weeks) in the course of the 2026 season.

Discussion of the 25% Town match to the Larvicide grant led to a discussion of the overhead calculations. In the past, this match had been assigned mostly to the truck insurance. Doug Perkins offered a motion to adjust the larvicide expenses allocations to include the building insurance and other costs related to the trucks and the sprayers. This motion passed 7-1-1; the

roll call vote is included below the signature.

The Finance Committee will take up the Capital improvement budget next year when they get estimates for the planned water system.

Audit Committee

Albert Wenta reported productive and reassuring meetings with the Treasurer and the Bookkeeper.

Public Relations

Steve Belcher suggested the Lakeshore Times as a substitute for the Brandon Reporter, that has now ceased publications. The suggestion was not accepted: not a local paper, and the District can now reduce costs by advertising in two papers rather than three.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next regular meeting should be on Nov. 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Belcher, Secretary

1. Motion to Authorize Jeff Schumann to sign the permit.

		Yes	No	Abs.
Brandon	Wayne Rausenberger		X	
	Kerry White			
	Olya Hopkins (alternate)			
Leicester	Doug Perkins	X		
	Lynne Peck	X		
	(alternate)			
Salisbury	Jeff Schumann			
	Robbie Devoid			
	Jonathan Blake (alternate)	X		
Goshen	Jeff Whiting	X		
	Ben Lawton	X		
	Chad Beckwith (alternate)			
Pittsford	Steve Belcher	X		
	Will Mathis			

	Alicia Malay (alternate)			
Proctor	Bruce Baccei	X		
	Albert Wenta	X		
	Tom Hogan (alternate			

2. Motion to change the assessment algorithm to exclude dwellings

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

3. Motion to change the allocations within the proposed budget

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