

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board Meeting of November 12, 2025
Approved Minutes

Board Attendance: Doug Perkins, Jonathan Blake, Jeff Schumann, Jeff Whiting, Bruce Bacceti, Albert Wenta, Wayne Rausenberger, Kerry White, Lynne Peck, Steve Belcher, Robbie Devoid, Will Mathis (on Zoom)

Guests: Seth Hopkins (Brandon).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. There was a quorum and all towns were represented.

The Agenda was adjusted and then adopted.

The Minutes of the October meeting were approved.

District Status Report

Kerry White said that reports had been sent to the State; there is little other activity.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had sent by email a balance statement:

Current bank account balances:

Operations Checking	\$60,625.20
Audit & Legal	\$10,914.26
Equip Replace & Capital Improvement	\$24,394.99
Debit Card	\$257.32
Total cash on hand	\$96,191.77

Accounts Receivable/Unpaid VAAFMM invoice \$865.00

FY26 VAAFMM Grant balance \$23,702.84

Funds are expected from Pittsford and Brandon, and the end-of-year balance should be around \$118,000 (last year it was around \$126,000). The Capital Expenses figure is still subject to change, as funds used for other purposes are still being replaced.

Trustees are entitled to a stipend (\$50/meeting) should they choose to accept it; newer members may not yet have filed the W-9 forms required.

The District has not received any bills for the lawn-mowing.

Delivery of the annual financial report, due to Towns on Jan. 15, 2026, will have to come earlier, as the Treasurer will be absent for medical reasons in January. He requested that the Executive Committee be allowed to approve the report. He then reviewed contact information for delivery of the Town assessments.

Permitting Committee

Jeff Whiting had sent out information by email before the meeting. A Zoom meeting with the

State is scheduled in the coming week. The District is preparing to renew its Larviciding Permit (5-year); current State requirements seem ill-defined. The OCW District and the Lemon Fair District both want to lower the dipping thresh-holds for larviciding and to include the count of adults in certain species not measured by dipping as a factor for action. This would allow the increase of larval controls and should reduce the need for adulticiding. The Vermont threshold is higher than that of other states.

He also discussed issues with the software associated with the sprayer flow-meters during our first year of use. The District encountered problems uploading the data to the State earlier in the season; the corrective measures seem to be working and to satisfy the State. The option of acquiring the proprietary tablet from the company must be weighed against the additional costs (ca. \$28,000) and additional complexity in operations. Jeff Schumann will discuss these issues with the vendors at the National Mosquito Control Association meeting next month.

The Audit Committee had nothing to report.

The PR Committee had nothing to report.

Executive Committee

Jeff Schumann reported that the Lemon Fair ICD had received a grant for drone operations; they did not have cause to use it because of low sample counts, and offered a collaborative arrangement with the OCW ICD.

Wayne Rausenberger asked why the interns were still being paid; they are digitizing the route map books and are not being paid from the grant.

Unfinished Business

Logos, magnets, shirts: Jonathan Blake suggested checking with local vendors. A decision will be made at a later meeting.

New Business

Annual Report

The Chair had circulated a draft of the Annual Report to be sent to the Towns. There were questions on data and phrasing. The upgrade of technology was removed from the wish-list. The report was approved as amended.

Ad Hoc Personnel Committee

A motion for the OCW to create an Ad Hoc Personnel Committee with the responsibility to hire, manage, and terminate if necessary OCW employees and contracted service providers to fulfill the operations of the district. The committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice-Chair and 1 additional Trustee appointed by the chair. This motion was approved by unanimous consent.

Ad Hoc Policy Committee

A motion to create an Ad Hoc Policy, Standard Operating Protocols and Job Descriptions Committee with the responsibility to research, review, revise and/or create the District's policies, SOPs and JD and present them to the Board for adoption. The committee shall consist of 3 Trustees. This motion was approved unanimous consent. Wayne Rausenberger, Kerry White, and Steve Belcher were named members.

Compensation of Officers

Jeff Schumann noted that he and others had been putting in many hours of work over the year, and requested that compensation be authorized. By past practice, the District already allows the Chair and the Treasurer \$1,200/year for the extra work required by their duties. Jeff Schumann suggested that the first 15 hours of work/month be voluntary, and that Officers should be paid for the next 15 hours/month.

Kerry White noted that Officers should not be involved in operations, and the extra time required in the past year was a consequence of not having an experienced District Coordinator to supervise operations. In past years, the Board was intended to serve as a steering-committee. A vote was taken: 6-2-3. (The roll call vote is given below the signature)

Seth Hopkins then noted that per Vermont law, the vote required an absolute majority of the Board (i.e. 7 votes), and the motion had failed.

Landscaping Quote

After discussion of delivery means and issues, the question was referred to the Finance Committee.

2026 Budget

The Budget was approved by unanimous consent.

Election of Officers

Chair: Jeff Schumann was nominated but declined and stated that he would resign from the Board at the end of the meeting.

Vice-Chair: Jeff Whiting was nominated but declined.

Treasurer: Doug Perkins was nominated but declined. There were no other nominees, and so per the By-Laws he will continue in office until replaced.

Auditor: Albert Wenta was nominated and approved.

Secretary: Stephen Belcher was nominated and approved.

Doug Perkins then moved to reconsider the vote on Officer Compensation, in light of the stipulation presented by Seth Hopkins. This motion passed, 7-3 (the roll-call vote is given below the signature).

The vote on Officer compensation was taken again and passed 7-2-2 (the roll-call vote is given below the signature).

Following this vote, Jeff Schumann and Jeff Whiting accepted their nominations and were approved as Chair and Vice-Chair by unanimous consent.

Doug Perkins announced his intention to submit an Amendment to the By-Laws, Article II Section 7, on the subject of the election of officers.

Lynne Peck stated that she was resigning from the Board but would continue as book-keeper until the end of the calendar year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher

Nov. 12, 2025
Vote on supplementary Trustee compensation

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

The motion required an absolute majority (7 votes) to pass, and so failed 6-2-2

Nov. 12, 2025
 Motion to reconsider the vote on Compensation

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

This motion passed by a vote of 7-3.

Nov. 12, 2025
 Motion for Supplementary Compensation for Trustees

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

This motion passed 7-2-2