

## **BLSG Meeting, March 17, 2016**

Present: Board- Dave Bishop, Jeff Whiting, Brad Lawes, Wayne Rausenberger, Ben Lawton and Pete Hare;  
Coordinators: Will Mathis and Mort Pierpont; Guests: Matthew Probasco, Misha Cetner, and Jay Michael

Meeting called to order at 7:15 p.m.

1. Matthew Probasco attended in order to follow up on the January 29, 2016 letter he sent to Ben Lawton, and to address, specifically, the Department of Environmental Conservation expectations for BLSG under Vermont's Pesticide General Permit (PGP) Compliance. The following are highlights of the very productive conversation between Mr. Probasco and the BLSG board:
  - While it was clear that the BLSG was in compliance with most of the PGP and does track and report most of the required information already to the Vermont Department of Agriculture, the BLSG needs to report the information required by PGP directly to PGP.
  - We discussed various ways to improve the "threshold" required for justifying the use of adulticide. Such thresholds might be established based on data from "sweeps" (i.e. use of nets to capture and count mosquitos), "traps" (i.e. physical traps which attract and capture mosquitos), "landings" (i.e. counting how many mosquitos land on a person's arm in a given period of time), as well as phone calls from residents reporting high mosquito activity.
  - Mr. Probasco explained that it is up to BLSG to establish a "threshold" system that makes sense. He emphasized that no one system was right and that BLSG may not arrive at the best system right away; what is important is that we do work to develop a system and demonstrate that we are working towards this goal.
  - We also discussed "Evaluation Alternatives," "Adverse Incident Reporting," and record keeping and reporting. In each of these cases, the BLSG is mostly compliant, it just needs to report this information to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. We also discussed ways to improve methods and execution of each of these compliance areas.
  - Mr. Probasco recognized that what is required under the PGP is largely duplication of what BLSG already provides to the Department of Agriculture. He sympathized with any frustration BLSG may experience from this redundancy of efforts.
  - Jeff Whiting volunteered to draft the BLSG Board response to the January 29 letter.
  - As a side note, it was pointed out by several board members how important it is for the state to ease the requirements necessary for the application of larvicide and to provide for the reimbursement of expenses of such application.
2. Treasurer's Report from Wayne Rausenberger:
  - \$5,000 was transferred to the Equipment Relacement checking account
  - Copy of budget was taken to Orwell Bank for review for credit line.
  - We received notice of a 13% increase in worker's compensation insurance.
  - Wayne will reinstate insurance on trucks on April 1, 2016
  - Wayne will pursue a quote from a different insurance carrier for D&O and General Liability.
  - Report passed (moved by Jeff Whiting, second by Pete Hare).
3. Town Directors' Reports: BLSG board members attended their respective town meetings and report that there were no questions or objections to the portion of town budgets allocated for the BLSG.
4. Public Notices: Ben Lawton will get notices to the newspapers and radio stations--two newspapers and two radio notices.
5. Argo and Mansfield Heli Flight:
  - Ben Lawton reported that Tim Schmoltz from the Department of Agriculture is still reviewing our request for funding for an Argo vehicle.

- Will Mathis reported that he has no update regarding what the cost would be for hiring the Mansfield Helicopter for applying larvicide.
6. Equipment Preparation: Mort Pierpont reported that preparations are being made to get all equipment ready for the upcoming season.
  7. Other Business: Wayne Rausenberger suggested that we look into centralizing our storage of documents. He also pointed out the need to clarify the official name for our municipal district. Commonly known as the "BLSG" and identified on our website as the BLSG Insect Control District, it actually is referred to several different ways on different documents.

At 9:10 p.m. we went into Executive Session (Moved by Jeff Whiting, second by Wayne R.) regarding 1.v.s.a. section 313.

At 9:15 we voted to come out of Executive session (moved by Jeff Whiting, second by Pete H). No action was taken on subject raised in Executive Session.

Moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. (moved by Pete H, second by Wayne R.)

Next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on April 7 at the Stephen A. Douglas House in Brandon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Hare