

BLSG Board Meeting , June 4, 2015

Present: Ben Lawton, Brad Lawes, Jeff Whiting, Steve Kellogg, Wayne Rausenberger, Pete Have, Dave Bishop, Jeff Smith, Jeremy MacLachlan, Will Mathis (applicator)

Guests: Elise Hayden, Art Doty and Paul Doty

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Minutes approved (moved by Steve, second by Dave)
2. Treasurer's Report by Wayne Rausenberger
 - Wayne presented updated budget
 - We purchased a boom, spreader, aprons and gloves for \$596
 - We clarified that Wayne, as Treasurer, has the ability to authorize expenditures forseen in our budget without consulting the Board in advance. Any purchases not budgeted for, however, require Board approval.
 - Motion to buy adulticide beyond what has been budgeted, using savings on larvicide labor. Moved by Steve, second by Dave. Approved.
3. Adulticide Report by Ben Lawton
 - Mort is out of town for a couple of days
 - A point was made that stakes placed to indicate "do not spray" need to be in clear view for applicators to see
 - More reflective tape will be purchased
4. Report on contact with the Dept. of Agriculture
 - Ben spoke with Tim Schmoltz. Tim would authorize larvicide aerial spraying if we had 700 acres infested with larvae
 - At this point we are unable to apply larvicide in Pittsford
5. Discussions with Town Manager of Pittsford
 - Pittsford would like BLSG to help them with sampling and mapping
 - Discussions with Pittsford are ongoing, no agreement has been reached yet
6. LDFLA Meeting
 - Ben Lawton attended a meeting of the LDFLA at their invitation
 - Ben gave the LDFLA an overview of the workings of the BLSG which the members of LDFLA found very helpful
 - Ben discussed the BLSG's interest in an ARGO vehicle, explaining that he is still pulling together arguments to convince the state that this is worth getting (and, therefore, qualifying for 75% reimbursement from the state)
 - Pete explained that he believed that LDFLA would be favorably inclined to help finance that gap between what the state would pay (75%) and what remains (25%) for an ARGO purchase
7. Larvicide Report by Will Mathis
 - Will continues to hand apply all larvicide
 - He checked and treated 50+ acres on 6/3

- Overall, he has identified 250 acres with larvae and treated 200 of them
 - Overall, Will has tested approximately 4,000 acres
 - Most believe that we could test and apply much faster if we had an ARGO machine
 - Much discussion about state regs that prevent reimbursement for aerial sprays for anything under 1000 acres—should we get an ARGO?, should we enter an arrangement with Rebecca Air at \$10,000 guaranteed pre year?
8. Insurance and Sovereign Immunity
- We have a commercial and non-commercial government license
 - We are still trying to resolve whether or not we have sovereign immunity
 - Our liability insurance pays up to \$1million per incident and up to \$2 million aggregate
 - We need to clear up the issue of our organization’s correct name for insurance purposes
 - Wayne was able to lower insurance on our building
 - Paul Gladding will give us quotes on insurance
9. Guests—Elise Hayden
- Elise wanted to share her concerns about the application of adulticide and its toxicity
 - A few times in the past adulticide has been sprayed on their Fern Lake property, despite their requests that it not be applied.
 - Ben Lawton explained that we are not using malathion this year; the product we are using dissipates within 8 hours
 - Elise was concerned with record keeping in 2013
 - She urges BLSG to have an “opt in” program rather than “opt out”
 - Ben explained that everyone has the opportunity to “opt out.” BLSG advertises this in newspapers and radio. He pointed out that the vast majority want to be sprayed.
 - Art Doty—observed that BLSG has done a good job for many years.
 - Paul Dot requested that the BLSG budget be printed in the Brandon Town Report

We went into Executive session at 8:50 (moved by Dave, second by Ben) and out of ES at 9:15

10. Motion that ERC meet with employees. Moved by Pete, second by Brad. Approved .

Meeting adjourned at 9:35

Respectfully Submitted,

Pete Hare
June 9, 2015