

BLSG Monthly Board Meeting held 7/9/2015 at the Steven A. Douglas House Brandon, VT.

Attending: Board Members- B. Lawton Chair- Goshen, J. Smith- Leicester, S. Kellogg- Salisbury, W. Rausenberger- Brandon, J. Whiting- Goshen.

Also attending- M. Pierpont Adulticide Coordinator, W. Mathis Larvicide Coordinator, A. Doty, Also D. Davis and C. Burkins from the Lemon Fair Insect Control District for a portion of the meeting.

B. Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM. He asked J. Whiting to keep minutes in absence of Secretary. The revised agenda had previously been sent out.

Revised agenda

1. Approval of minutes of last meeting
2. Treasurers report
3. Public comments/concerns
4. Larvicide coordinators report
5. Adulticide coordinators report
6. coordination with Lemon Fair insect control District
7. Progress on Argo acquisition
8. Insurance and sovereign immunity issues
9. Review of notice spray policy
10. Executive session to discuss agreement with town of Pittsford and BLSG
11. Any actions from the executive session
12. Adjournment

1. The minutes of 6/4/2015 were reviewed. S. Kellogg proposed to amend the section on insurance and Sovereign Immunity to read:

Our Liability Insurance pays up to \$1 Million per incident and up to \$2 Million in aggregate with only \$500 Thousand coverage for Larvicide and Adulticide spraying. Moved Rausenberger, second Kellogg to approve the Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

2. W. Rausenberger presented the Treasurers Report. He reported that the Workers Comp audit is complete and we will receive a refund for last year. The State Larvicide Grant has been increased from \$11.5 K to \$16.5 K. Moved S. Kellogg, second B. Lawton to approve Treasurers report. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments/ Discussion- None

4. Larvicide Coordinators Report: Not finding sufficient areas to conduct aerial Larviciding treatment. Not finding larvae in large concentrations in the traditional swamp areas. Many hay fields and woodland pools are flooded like in early spring after snow melt. Spot treatment is being done as areas are identified. Light traps to detect mosquito concentrations have been put out. W. Mathis will be requested by B. Lawton to provide results in a timely manner to M. Pierpont to allow effective adulticide treatments on areas of concentration.

5. Adulticide Coordinators Report: M. Pierpont reported that he has received 56 calls for spraying on the hotline in last 2 days. There are a lot of bugs all over district and some areas are particularly bad. He reported that he will need to purchase \$8 K additional chemicals to maintain the spraying program to treat the current levels of mosquitos. This will probably not be the last purchase for the year. This years

budget was based on recent dry years experience and the use of lower cost Malathion rather than Permethrin which is now used. This purchase will be covered by the transfer of funds from the Larvicide Labor account approved at the previous meeting. Moved Kellogg, second Whiting to approve the purchase of an additional \$8 K of adulticide chemicals. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Kellogg asked that the request to speak with a live operator be moved to start of phone message. After discussion it was decided to leave as it is with a reminder to stay on the line to request treatment after the message. The message contains the previous days spraying areas and the plans for the coming evening which may answer the callers questions.

Mort presented his SOP for spraying and will publish it on the web site.

1 sprayer is down for repairs. The spare sprayer is currently in service.

6. The representatives from the Lemon Fair District discussed their current experience which is similar to our recent experience with Larval counts and flooding of hayfields. Will and the Lemon Fair larval sampler are coordinating efforts and combining areas to be treated if the thresholds for aerial spraying can be met. They are interested in contracting Larval treatment from BLSG if we are successful in obtaining an ARGO vehicle. B. Lawton requested that the LFICD notify the State that they support our request for funds to purchase the ARGO. The Board expressed an interest in sharing the use of the ARGO after our needs are met.

7. B. Lawton reported that Tim Smoltz had passed the request for the ARGO on to Jim Leland for approval for covering 75% of the cost by the State. Pictures and descriptions of the vehicle were circulated. M. Pierpont reported that Matt Daniels owns an ARGO in Leicester and could be contacted to arrange a discussion on his experience using it in his swamps and to view the machine.

8. J. Smith prepared a handout of Vermont Law covering Sovereign Immunity which was distributed for Board members to review. D. Davis discussed Cornwall analysis of the issue.

9. Ben Lawton presented a proposed policy to be adopted to cover how No Spray requests will be managed going forward.

BLSG Policy Regarding Requests for No Spray Zones

Approved 7/9/2015

1. The established policy is the property boundaries

2. Requirements: landowner is requested to submit in writing a request for no spray zone ,request to include town tax map of property boundaries. If no town tax map then survey map delineating boundaries.

Submit to: BLSG

PO Box 188

Brandon, VT, 05733

3. A Town representative and the Adulticide Coordinator to meet with landowners to Mark property boundaries.

4. In most cases placing posts on the property line allows the driver ample time to stop spraying, example: the reflective tape is a trigger for the drivers, Green = turn on as you pass, Red=equals stop when you see it, Black and yellow = stop for a bees, Red and white = end of district

5. Properties need to be marked and markers need to be clearly visible to drivers at night and cleared of

brush. Landowners need to be responsible for maintaining the visibility of the stakes

6. No written request, no maps, no stakes ,then the property gets sprayed! this is what will happen ,we are not responsible!

7. Existing No Spray Zone requests to be updated yearly before April 15th.

A simple email or other written request to renew should suffice without resubmitting tax maps.

However, the Landowner should also call the mosquito hotline 247-6779 to verify that the stakes are still in place and clear

8. NOFA landowners need to submit documentation each year. This is a NOFA requirement!

Moved by Kellogg, seconded by Smith to accept the No Spray Zone Policy as modified above to correct typos. Motion carried unanimously. The Policy will be published on the BLSG web site. The response to the recent request by Wright to expand their no spray zone will be handled consistent with this policy.

10. Moved by B. Lawton, Second by J. Whiting at 9:15 PM to enter Executive session to review the proposed contract between the Town of Pittsford and the BLSG for Larviciding services and to review the Information request from the Vermont Law School.

Motion carried unanimously. The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:35 PM.

11. Moved by Kellogg, seconded by Smith to authorize B. Lawton to sign the Agreement Between the Town of Pittsford and the Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen Insect Control District May 15 – September 15, 2015 as written. Motion carried unanimously. B. Lawton signed the contract and it was witnessed by J. Whiting acting Secretary. It was previously signed by the Pittsford Town Manager.

B. Lawton will forward the Vermont Law School request to the State Ag Department.

12. The next meeting will be held on Thursday August 13th at 7:15 PM at the Steven Douglas House in Brandon due to schedule conflicts

for Board members. J. Whiting will send a notice to the Town Clerks for Posting.

13. Moved by W. Rausenberger, seconded by S. Kellogg to adjourn at 9:55 PM. Motion carried unanimously.