

BLSG Board Minutes 04/12/2018

Present: Chad Beckwith, Steve Belcher, Mike Blaisdell, John Haverstock, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Wayne Rausenberger, Kerry White, Jeff Whiting, Will Mathis.

Ben Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

1. Minutes from 3/15/18 approved (Moved by Jeff W. 2nd by Wayne R.).
2. Official addition of the town of Pittsford to the district.
 - a. An increase from \$15,000 to \$24,638.55 in Pittsford's annual contribution toward the BLSG Mosquito Control District's operating costs;
 - b. Four annual installment payments of \$17,750.00 to "buy in" to the equity of assets owned by the BLSG Mosquito Control District which are related to general operations (eg., adulticide applications, building, trucks, sprayers, etc).
 - c. A one-time payment of \$2,477.55 to account for the Town's share of current inventories of adulticide.
 - d. Discussion about the BLSG name with the addition of the town of Pittsford. Wayne R. made a motion to discuss a possible name change with advice from an attorney to assure a name change is completed accurately. John H. 2nd motion, approved. Jeff W. moved to table discussion for a future meeting, Brad L. 2nd. motion to table discussion to a future meeting approved. Jeff W. moved to formally accept Pittsford in to the district based on the current name "First Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen Insect Control District" Brad L. 2nd, motion approved.
3. Treasurer's Report.
 - General Checking balance is \$57,161.38.
 - Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking is \$5,794.41.
 - Insurance is back on trucks effective March 26, 2018.
 - Workers comp. premium has gone down about 8% from \$8.14 to \$7.48 per \$100. We have received a refund of \$501.00. We have not had the final audit for 2017 and we will owe more based on our increased payroll. This audit will result in an increase in premium above what has already been paid for 2018-2019.
 - Applied for line of credit with Heritage Credit Union, and we were turned down. Lake Sunapee Bank and the Middlebury Bank have turned us down in the past. Orwell Bank currently has our line of credit, do not anticipate a problem renewing, do not know the interest rate.
 - Treasurer will send out reminders of each town's assessment for 2018-19 fiscal year.
 - Treasurer's report approved. (Moved by John H. 2nd by Jeff W.).

4. IPM/IMM, Pollinator protection program discussed.
 - Wayne and Will met with local pollinators to discuss the pollinator's protection plan in which locals supported. There are about 10 individuals with bee colonies within the district, they are diligent about sending in their "no spray" requests.
 - Will plans to add beaver management to the IPM.
 - Discussion about using local health officers as a resource. Cellar holes that collect and hold water are mosquito breeding habitat.
 - Abandoned tires were discussed.
5. Legislative Issues.
 - Discussion about current bills that may impact the BLSG Insect Control District.
6. (PGP) Under national pollutant discharge elimination systems (NPDES)
 - Misha Cetner has three questions about the PGP:
 - i. Names and contact information for decision making individuals.
 - ii. Action threshold is historical and scientifically determined. Thresholds for aerial treatments will be 20/dip and 10/dip for hand treatments.
 - iii. Proof of action thresholds. This information is on the website and they will be directed to the section with the information.
 - Recent publicity discussed.
7. Progress on the VT AG Grant FY 18/19 & 19/20.
 - Need to amend the current grant for this fiscal year.
 - Discussion about a meeting with the state to confirm current process and contacts for invoices.
 - Discussion about determining averages for dry vs wet seasons.
 - Aerial costs discussed.
 - Discussion about different products and the costs associated with them.
8. Preparation for the upcoming season: permits, notices, calibrations, posting.
 - Notices have all been sent out.
 - Licenses are in the mail.
 - Aerial applications are in.
 - Calibrations have been scheduled.
 - Spray routes for Pittsford need to be completed. Plowing routes are available if needed.
 - Wayne found a donated truck, it needs about \$1500 in repairs. Will and Wayne looked it over and plan to take it to Green Mtn Garage to assess it more. Board approved acceptance of the donated truck with up to \$2,000 of repairs and contingent on a considerable life expectancy. (Moved by Mike B. 2nd by Jeff W.).
9. Non-chemical Vector Controls. Mike B. presented alternative options he has researched.

10. Liability Ins. through VLCT discussed.
11. \$100 donation to the Stephen Douglas house for use of the facility for meetings.
Donation approved. (Moved by Wayne R. 2nd by Brad L.).
12. Community out reach options discussed. Will is sharing treatment information with James Eikenberry, Wetlands Specialist (NRCS).
13. Other
 - IRS fined BLSG for nonpayment, \$872.35. Ellie appealed it and a refund is anticipated.
 - Discussion about the need for an attorney relationship.
 - Subcommittee established to interview a potential attorney for the district.
Subcommittee approved. (Moved by Steve B. 2nd by Wayne R.).
 - Board meetings dates will return to the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Ben Lawton called the meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.