

## **BLSG Board Meeting Minutes 9-20-18**

Present: Stephen Belcher, Mike Blaisdell, Jim Bosman, Art Doty, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Will Mathis, Wayne Rausenberger, Kerry White, Jeff Whiting.

Guests: Rebecca Holmes, Jay Michael, Lynn Peck.

Ben Lawton called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Introduction of guests:
  - a. Rebecca Holmes represents the “Spotted Salamander” a quarterly publication from Salisbury.
  - b. Jay Michael is attending as a representative from the Lake Association. Jay thanked the District for attending the Lake Association’s picnic and preparing a public outreach presentation for the attendees. Jay thanked Will for bringing the Argo. Jay offered to be a liaison between the Lake Association Board and the BLSG Board, he can attend future BLSG Board meetings. Jay brought a donation from the Lake Association for \$1,000.
  - c. Lynn Peck is a concerned citizen from the town of Leicester. She also owns property in Salisbury.
2. Minutes from 8/16/18 approved (Moved by J. Whiting 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rausenberger).
3. Treasurer’s Report:
  - a. General Checking balance is \$47,876.41.
  - b. Two grant invoices submitted to the state have not been paid yet, these two invoices total \$8,823.81. When these invoices are paid the General Checking will have a total of \$56,700.22.
  - c. Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking has a balance of \$4,284.00.
  - d. \$17,177.45 is owed from the General Checking account to the Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking account.
  - e. Brandon, Goshen, Pittsford contribution for next season is accounted for in the General Checking account totaling \$41,441.26. This leaves the General Checking account with a true deficit of \$1,918.49.
  - f. Discussion about cash flow thru the end of this season. The district anticipates payment from Leicester and Salisbury before the end of the calendar year.
  - g. Treasurer’s report approved (Moved by A. Doty 2<sup>nd</sup> by J. Whiting).
4. Amendment to the Grant:
  - a. W. Rausenberger discussed the amendments to the grant. Patti Casey is working on amendments to the grant. W. Rausenberger would also like the amendments to include larva thresholds and revisions to the cost per acre for aerial treatments. In addition, W. Rausenberger would like a complete copy of the grant when it has been revised with the new amendments. Will plans to

contact Patti Casey by email regarding the amendments and to request a copy of the entire grant document when it has been completed.

5. Coordinator's Report:
  - a. The sprayers have been removed from the trucks and cleaned. Will has begun the winterizing process.
  - b. Next year the District needs to be very selective about choosing where to treat aerially because of the lack of larvicide funds.
  - c. Stephen Belcher thanked Will for bringing the Argo to the Pittsford Days event. This was a public outreach event for the District.
  - d. Coordinator's report approved (Moved by J. Whiting 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Blaisdell).
6. Contract Services, Proctor:
  - a. Will plans to send a counter offer letter to the town of Proctor for mosquito control services. The board would like Will to include the specific services that the District can provide within the counter offer.
  - b. Proctor wanted to join the District last year. The District asked Proctor to wait until the inclusion of Pittsford was completed.
7. LFICD/BLSG Merger Discussions:
  - a. The District is waiting to hear back from LFICD.
8. Public Relations:
  - a. Kerry White is working on PR materials and beginning the process of contacting local legislators to discuss the larvicide needs of the District.
  - b. Kerry prepared the outreach materials for the Lake Association picnic. The materials need additional work that will be completed in the upcoming weeks.
  - c. Jay Michael offered to speak with Kerry to prepare an article for the Lake Association newsletter.
9. Compatible Use Authorizations:
  - a. Discussion about the importance of having a copy of the authorizations. Jim Eikenberry from NRCS has given verbal/email permission to treat lands associated with NRCS. Mr. Eikenberry has told the District that he has in his possession the Compatible Use Authorizations. The District has requested copies since 2016 and will continue to do so.
10. Name Change:
  - a. Discussion about changing the name soon or waiting until other issues have been resolved. Discussion tabled for another meeting, approved (moved by A. Doty 2<sup>nd</sup> by M. Blaisdell).
11. AMCA & NEMCA:
  - a. The District will join both organizations this year.
12. Other:
  - a. Lynn Peck asked the Board why the District is having financial challenges. Lynn does not believe that the public is aware of the challenges that the District is facing right now. The Board cited a reduction in grant money from the state, it is now capped at \$70,000 for larvicide. One aerial treatment of larvicide is typically over \$100,000. There are costs associated with

surveillance and IPM work. A. Doty does not believe there is a line item in our state budget for mosquito abatement. Lynn asked if our local legislators are aware. Lynn asked if there are other ways to generate larvicide money from local residents. Discussion about nuisance mosquito abatement versus vector/health concern mosquito abatement. The state maintains control of money allocated for vector control mosquito identification and abatement. Rebecca Holmes asked why BLSG receives the same amount of larvicide money for treatment of over 6,000 acres of wetland versus the LFICD District that is responsible for approximately 1,500 acres of wetland. A. Doty raised his concerns about potential future storms and not having adequate larvicide product on hand rendering the District unprepared. A. Doty talked about the history of the District and the clear delineation of responsibilities in the past. The District was responsible for adulticide activities and the state took responsibility for the larvicide treatment. It appears the responsibility for all larvicide treatments have shifted to the District.

13. Executive Session:

- a. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation. Motion approved (Moved by J. Whiting 2<sup>nd</sup> by A. Doty). Executive session began at 8:15 PM and ended at 8:30 PM.
  - b. The Board approved delegation of Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting and Will Mathis to represent the District in a meeting with the Toxic Action Committee scheduled for 9/21/18. (Moved by B. Lawes 2<sup>nd</sup> by W. Rausenberger).
14. Art Doty suggested that we should be making greater outreach to schools, which used to be the standard practice. Art said that he can work with Kerry White on this initiative.

Ben Lawton called the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Minutes Prepared by: Kerry White

