

BLSG Board Meeting Minutes 5-16-19

Present: Stephen Belcher, Michael Blaisdell, Art Doty, Rick Enser, Ben Lawton, Will Mathis, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Schumann, Kerry White, Jeff Whiting, Paul Vaczy.

Guests: Rebecca Holmes, Salisbury; Russell Jones, Reporter; Barb Karle, Salisbury; Jay Michael, LDFLA; Richard Russ, Brandon; Christine Turner, Salisbury.

Jeff Whiting called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

1. Motion to change the order of the agenda as follows: Move the Operations report before the treasurer's report. (Moved by J.Whiting 2nd by M.Blaisdell) Approved.
2. Introduction of guests.
3. Citizen's concerns. Barb Karle from Salisbury is a member of the Salisbury Conservation Committee. B.Karle has concerns about the use of adulticide at the Salisbury School. B.Karle spoke to a School employee named Bruce, he believes that he does not need to specifically opt out of adulticide treatment, that he should receive a call from the District if they are spraying the school. Will Mathis asked B. Karle to contact Peter Barrows, the school superintendent and to have him contact the District with any concerns that he has. Discussion about whether the school wants adulticide treatment or not, B.Karle believed they may not want to be designated as a no spray because they may want adulticide treatment if the mosquitos are a problem. June 14th 2019 is the last day of school. Discussion about the arrangement with the Brandon schools. B.Karle asked what the specific law is regarding this. The District does not have the specific legal language available for the meeting, however B.Karle was encouraged to call the District and given the number to ask what specific law she is inquiring about and the District can research the question and provide an answer to her. B.Karle is concerned about a bat colony that may be on the school property. B.Karle said that State naturalists employed by the state have been to the school to study the bat population. DEC has maps available online. Discussion about the bat population and white nose syndrome and any impact from adulticide treatments, no studies were specifically cited. Discussion about F&W protocols for adulticide treatments versus the District's requirements. R.Enser believes that the District should have to go through the same protocols as F&W when they do an aerial adulticide treatment. Notation made that R.Holmes from Salisbury was recording the meeting. A.Doty asked R.Enser who else should we get additional permits from in R.Enser's opinion? R.Enser does not believe that the District has additional permits. Currently the District has the required permits to provide both adulticide and larvicide treatments. At this time there are not any restrictions on the products that the District uses.
4. Minutes from 4/18/19 approved providing a correction to #12, line 3 is made to read there are currently 57 no spray requests District wide, not just in the town of Salisbury. Approved (Moved by S.Belcher, 2nd by A.Doty).
5. Operations Report: Technicians have been surveying, collecting, analyzing and treating hotspots by hand. Efforts have been successful on a small scale, however hand treatments have had a minimal impact on reducing the overall mosquito population compared to an aerial application. Through observation and data collection the technicians have determined that the District is on the 4th wave of mosquitos, this will be

an endless cycle for the rest of the season. The last hatch emerged into adults and these adults are currently reproducing, this last hatch would have been worth treating aerially however the District only has \$20,000 left in grant money from the state. The District's larvicide inventory is dwindling. At this time the District does not have adequate funds for an aerial treatment. The Town of Proctor has accepted the District's proposal for mosquito control. Proctor will pay \$15,000 for treatment relating to larviciding/adulticiding, trapping and posting citizens properties. The cost is \$1,500 per route with labor, insurance and chemical. When the \$15,000 has been expended services will cease and Proctor will arrange a new agreement with the District. A.Doty researched drones he found the company "Leading Edge" They have developed a drone that is capable of lifting 40lbs/1 bag of product for treatment, 22VAS unmanned aerial unit. Precision Vision has an App that prepares a treatment map, a trained person can operate the drone. B.Lawton met people from TX at the recent AMCA meeting who are using this technology now. The Leading Edge company has a package that provides training for pilots and includes the App. The cost for the package is \$39,000. The drone can treat 2.5 acres/min and is much more precise than the traditional aerial treatment method at a fraction of the cost. The drone has a camera that the operator can use while treating, so the operator can see where the product is placed, it can use granular or liquid products. Leading Edge will do a free demonstration. Discussion about the sensitivity to drones, discussion about grant possibilities. J.Whiting would like for an employee from the Dept. of AG present at a consultation. Discussion about LFICD and whether they utilize a drone. The board authorized A.Doty to set up the consultation. Motion to accept the Operator's Report (Moved by S. Belcher 2nd by W.Rausenberger) Approved.

6. Treasurer's Report:

- a. General Checking balance is \$14,812.16.
- b. Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking has a balance of \$4,976.04.
- c. Total available funds are \$19,788.20.
- d. Insurance bill is \$10,622.39, after the audit it will likely increase by \$4,500.
- e. There will likely be one more legal bill, at this time the cost is \$56,105.01, discussion about options for paying for the remaining legal fees.
- f. The Dept. of AG has denied paying for any insurance to cover the cost of insuring larvicide, so we can assume that we own the product if we are required to insure it. The Dept. of AG also denied paying for the costs of consultation for the helicopter pilot to gain the required permitting for helicopter landing sites used for larvicide treatments.
- g. Discussion about ordering new product.
- h. M.Blaisdell inquired about the additional \$50,000 from the State. B.Lawton believes that it has not been officially approved, it is a one time payout. It was originally requested by Butch Shaw as an increase to the grant, but it was reduced to a one-time payout. Not sure if the amount of money would be split with LFICD. LFICD treats about ¼ of the acreage that BLSG is responsible for. This is the first year that the Dept. of AG is telling the District that if they do not use all of the Grant money available it will not be available during the next season, it is a use it or lose it arrangement now. In the past amendments were made to the Grant if more money was needed for larviciding exceeding the \$70,000. The

State would never provide a definitive answer about where that money was coming from. The original agreement with the State was that the State always covered all larvicide costs, if the District begins paying for the larvicide costs then the burden has shifted to the District. Discussion about emergency funds and possible funds through FEMA, discussion about the distinction between catastrophe and disaster language. It is believed that funds are facilitated through the state with the assistance of Regional Planning Commissions. Discussion about individual Towns paying for the larvicide treatments and why LFICD towns contribute to larvicide. There will be more information next week when the State approves the budget. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Moved by S.Belcher 2nd by P.Vaczy) Approved.

7. Public Relations:

- a. The board and guests from the last meeting identified the following issues that should be addressed through PR:
 - i. Environmental Concerns
 - ii. Cost Effective
 - iii. Community Asset
 - iv. Perceived as responsible
 - v. Scientific Credibility
- b. PR Committee prepared a press release for the Addison Independent/Brandon Reporter. The release only made it into the Reporter.
- c. Rutland Herald has contacted the Committee and would like to print the press releases in their paper.
- d. A meeting is scheduled with Angelo, owner of both the Addison Independent/Brandon Reporter.
- e. Committee is beginning to work on pamphlets/posters, other goals and objectives.
- f. P.Vaczy would like an FYI email when a press release has been submitted in the event he receives questions.
- g. W.Rausenberger shared a pamphlet used by the State of Vt to use as a possible template.
- h. Discussion about AMCA

8. New Business:

- a. Too many emails with almost all board members included. Please do not send emails or engage in discussions via email because it can constitute an open meeting legal issue. The original email sent was simply an agenda, but a discussion began.
- b. M.Blaisdell asked if Operations could ask people why they are opting out. Discussion, is this information needed, W.Mathis sets the stakes and he usually has some conversation with landowners.
- c. B.Lawton went to Washington DC to attend the AMCA meeting. He visited 15 different Representatives/Senators. AMCA was in Washington to advocate for more money from the CDC. NJ Mosquito Control District is also doing tick abatement as part of their mission. Vermont received money from the CDC which they used to build their new laboratory. There is a new SMASH ACT, AMCA is asking for additional money, Rep. Soto from FL and Sen. Argus from

Maine introducing this bill. The money from the federal government is not funneling down to the District.

- d. R.Enser discussed his desire to have the Salisbury appropriated money only be used for larvicide purposes. Discussion about operation costs and use of the money to match the State Larvicide Grant which is 25%. Questions about whether the District sprays Brandbury State Park and if so, why does the State not pay for this treatment. Discussion about private property spraying. Salisbury representatives do not believe that private driveways should be sprayed, comparing the service to snow plowing. R.Enser stated that if there is a mosquito problem on someone's private property it is their problem. J.Whiting outlined that there is a distinction between a private road with many homes on it and a private driveway and that discussion about this is relevant. Spraying single private driveways can be revisited. Discussion about whether the Salisbury representatives would like to vote on the issue this evening, Salisbury declined noting that it would not pass at this time. More discussion about the lack of adequate funds to provide larviciding from the State. Our current legislators have been advocating for more funds.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM

Submitted by Kerry White