

BLSG Board Meeting Minutes 4/18/19

Present: Chad Beckwith, Art Doty, Rick Enser, John Haverstock, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Smith, Kerry White, Paul Vaczy.

Guests: Wendel Jacobs, Salisbury; Jay Michael, Leicester & LDFLA; Jeff Shumann, Salisbury; Preston Turner, Salisbury.

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

1. Introduction of Guests and Citizens concerns. No concerns were raised.
2. Minutes from 3/21/19 approved (Moved by W.Rausenberger 2nd by B.Lawes).
3. Minutes from Special Board Meeting 3/27/19, Adjournment needs revision from 8:40PM to 7:40PM. Approved (Moved by W.Rausenberger 2nd by B.Lawes).
4. Meeting notes from initial Public Relations (potential)Sub Committee need to be distributed to the board members. This will be tabled until next meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. General Checking balance is \$40,184.07.
 - b. Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement Checking has a balance of \$4,975.83.
 - c. Total available funds are \$45,159.90.
 - d. A new bill arrived today from the attorney's office in the amount of \$14,185.93, the total cost for the lawsuit is now \$55,855.01. The treasurer anticipates one more bill from the attorney.
 - e. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report (Moved by B. Lawes 2nd by P.Vaczy) Approved.
6. Election of Secretary. Motion made to table the election until the next board meeting (Moved by P.Vaczy 2nd by C. Beckwith) Approved.
7. Update on tracking devices for trucks. The tracking devices for the trucks are \$50/ea and \$20/month for the tracking service. The District might be able to negotiate a lower monthly cost. The other option suggested could cost thousands of dollars. The tracking device for \$50/ea can be used for hand treating, it provides live updates about every 30 seconds and the battery is good for about ten days. It is \$250 to purchase one for each truck and \$20/month for use. The monthly cost can be canceled when the District closes for the season. Discussion about the current GPS units in the trucks. Motion made to authorize B.Lawes to purchase the \$50 units for the trucks (Moved by P.Vaczy 2nd by J.Smith) Approved.
8. Jay Michael handed out a public relations survey for board members and guests to fill out. This information will be used while formulating public relations materials.
9. Public Relations. Kerry provided a proposal for a public relations special committee. Discussion about public relations, the function of the committee and Kerry's role. Discussion included surveying the public, influencing the news, BLSG speaking to the public in a cohesive manner from specific individuals, discussion about media options. Motion was made to allow Kerry to form a subcommittee and report back to the board and function as the public relations coordinator for the District. (Moved by J.Haverstock

2nd by B.Lawes). J.Haverstock handed out an email from M.Blaisdell with a draft of a notice of treatment that he would like the committee to consider. W.Mathis is working on a new website he will try to complete it soon.

10. Operations director's report. Will has been completing the work needed for the helicopter landing zone, Will and his staff hand delivered all the letters required to adjoining landowners. Today was the helicopter landing zone hearing in Brandon. The hearing went well, the aviation board asked about varying scenarios. Green Mountain Power was present and had objections to one of the routes, a transmission line would need to be moved. This route was removed from the permit. The aviation board gave Green Mountain Power one week to submit any further concerns.
11. The staff have been sampling, there should be a significant hatch next week or the week after, we do not have the money to apply larvicide at this time.
12. Rick Enser has a proposal based on last years budget. We (Salisbury) want their contribution to be used for larvicide only. Discussion about the Salisbury contract with the district and whether they can opt out of adulticide treatment. There are 57 no spray requests District wide so far. P.Vaczy would like for the District to no longer spray private driveways without charge. If residents want their driveways sprayed they can pay a fee to the District. Other board members believe that residents pay for mosquito abatement with their tax dollars and spraying driveways has historically been part of that benefit. Discussion about whether this would generate money that could be used for larviciding. R.Enser discussed public relations and the need for education and the need to educate the public about their responsibility for source reduction on their own property. This information is provided through the town in Pittsford. R.Enser, serving as the Town of Salisbury Health officer, will be offering to visit homes to educate people on mosquito abatement and source reduction. R.Enser does not feel like there should be any roadway spraying. Discussion about larvicide funding. Questions from newer board members about larvicide, the funding and ideas for treatment. Because there is not funding for larviciding there will be more need for adulticiding this season. Discussion about the current relationship with the department of Agriculture compared to years ago. Discussion about the grant timing, July 1st and if the District can borrow in advance for larvicide use. The District can not spend grant money now in anticipation of receiving it on July 1st. Ben called Cary Giguere and is waiting for a response from him. We have received emergency money in the past for larviciding. BLSG Representatives lobbied to add \$140,000 to the BLSG grant but in the cross over it was cut to \$50,000 and is limited to just this season. There is concern that the \$50,000 will be split with LFICD. A District in CA with the same amount of acreage, 7,000 has an annual budget of 5.2 million dollars. Will proposed purchasing a fan boat a few years ago, and this may be a cheaper option than aerial treatments. Ben shared some fan boat information. There are products on the market that would meet our needs but are not approved to use in Vt. The District currently has \$28,000 left in the grant for larviciding. Discussion about mosquito life cycle and the pros and cons of treating the first hatch. 6,000 acres costs about \$221,503 to treat aerially. One summer "season" can have up to 3 aerial treatments. There is also a cost for CDC traps, the CO2 to use the traps, the lab and surveying which is all an additional cost. \$70,000 is not close to the amount needed to manage 7,000 acres of wetland. Discussion about political action. The need to get information to the public about funding issues and the consequences of low funding. Ben has requested a meeting

with the department of health and the department of agriculture. We are getting some assistance from Moosalamoo Woods & Waters, they are providing free tax maps to individuals. These maps can also be obtained from the town clerks office. The Moosalamoo website gives an opt out deadline of May 1st, which is not accurate. An opt out can be sent at any time. The District suggests that individuals opt out earlier in the season, prior to adulticide treatments.

13. The District has been approved to use the card room at the state house next April.
14. Ben is going to AMCA May 13th -15th. He will be in Washington DC and plans to meet with Leahy, Welch and Sanders regarding mosquito abatement funding.
15. Cupcakes provided by the Town of Pittsford, Thank you!
16. Motion to adjourn (Moved by J.Haverstock 2nd by A.Doty). Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.