

BLSG Board Meeting – 15 August 2019
Unapproved Minutes

Present: Jeff Whiting, Jeff Schumann, Wayne Rausenberger, Rick Enser, Paul Vaczy, Chad Beckwith (stand-in, Goshen), Will Mathis, Kerry White, Steve Belcher

Guests: Tom Hogan (Proctor), Bruce Baccei (Proctor), Jim Goodwin (Leicester), Jay Michael (Leicester/ BLSG PR)

1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
2. Jeff Whiting requested a change in the order of items, to put Citizens' Concerns at the front. There being none, the meeting proceeded. [See below #8, Operations Report]
3. The Minutes of the July 18th Minutes were approved on a motion by Rick Enser, seconded by Wayne Rausenberger, substituting an edited version of the tribute to Art Doty for the original given in the unapproved minutes.

4. Treasurer's Report

Wayne Rausenberger reported the following figures:

General Checking:	\$39,703.72
Equipment/Capital:	\$22,727.05
Available funds:	\$65,430.77

He also noted that 6 invoices have been submitted to the State, with a total due of \$36,555.61.

The BLSG still owes the Credit Line \$36,000 plus interest.

There was a question about the additional \$25,000 promised by the State; the State apparently wishes to hold it in escrow towards a future springtime (2020) larvicide treatment.

Jeff Whiting requested that the text of the grant be forwarded to Board members.

On a motion by Steve Belcher, seconded by Paul Vaczy, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

[N.b. Further discussion of the Grant appears below in the Operations Report]

6. Drone Update

The BLSG is still working to set up an exhibition of drone capabilities, and the Lemon Fair Mosquito District will contribute \$750 towards the cost. Those involved are still picking up on the work of Art Doty.

7. Outreach

Pittsford had requested a BLSG presence on Pittsford Day, to be held Aug. 17, and Kerry White said she would be there with the Argo and other informational materials.

The Lake Dunmore Association had also requested representation, and the BLSG will be present.

8. Operations Report

Will Mathis first reviewed the vehicle situation, having been charged in the last meeting with getting prices for replacement vehicles. At the moment, the gray truck must be replaced, and the green truck will probably not pass next year. The team has been examining, test-driving, and dismissing vehicles. Any suggestions would be welcome.

Conditions are becoming dry. Trapping and dipping are showing lower levels of mosquitoes.

There is an issue in Proctor, where a local citizen has lodged a number of complaints with the Select Board. Some of these did not involve the BLSG, such as water in her basement and the cutting of trees. Her BLSG-related complaint concerned a motorboat on Beaver Pond. The boat was there to distribute larvicide; the BLSG had obtained prior permission from the Proctor Select Board, and complied in its actions with our permits. The citizen had also complained to the Agency for Natural Resources and to the Agency for Agriculture.

Tom Hogan, representing Proctor, raised a question about a spraying operation that ceased and resumed the next evening; the explanation was simply that the operator had run out of product.

Another Citizen's question involved a person who had simply removed the 'No-Spray' post and refused contact with the BLSG to clarify the situation. Paul Vaczy was asked to intervene.

It was noted in discussion, in this context, that there have been neighbor-to-neighbor disagreements over no-spray zones, and that stakes have been moved. Jeff Whiting noted that some stakes may have been moved in the course of roadside mowing operations.

Resistance Monitoring

In the context of the operations report, Kerry White reported on Resistance Monitoring activities required by the state. This requirement was added at the end of the last year, and then included in this year's grant. The State at that time assured the District that the monitoring would require no more than one or two hours' work. The State asks the District to test two species of mosquitoes for resistance to pesticides/larvicides. One required species is *aedes aegypti*, that is not found in Vermont. The other is *culex pipiens*. The adult form of *culex pipiens* is almost identical to that of *culex restuans*. Both *culex* are found in Vermont.

Kerry recounted the efforts she had made to obtain samples of *culex pipiens* larvae, and noted that she had failed to find them. She requested help from Patti Casey, at the Agency for Agriculture, but Patti did not feel she could share what information she had. Kerry also consulted with James Burditt, at Cornell University; Cornell University is the place where the resistance testing would be conducted. It seems best to have a third party involved.

A question about the State Entomologist brought the reminder that the current concern is the Ash Emerald Borer. Mosquitoes are on the backburner. It was suggested that in Vermont, where the products are used only seasonally, the question of resistance is less critical than in places such as Florida where the pesticides are in constant use.

A question was raised as to the importance of resistance to adulticide vs. larvicide.

This grant requirement led to a challenge from Paul Vaczy, who suggested that the grant should not have been signed without review and discussion from the Board. Wayne Rausenberger took responsibility for pushing approval: he noted that in the past year, when the State imposed the resistance monitoring requirement, they had threatened to withhold the grant, and contrasted the previous administration, during which a claim submitted was usually returned within 15 minutes, to the present administration.

The question having been raised, whether the resistance monitoring requirement was actually a pass-down from some Federal funding source, it was noted that one of the two species offered for resistance monitoring does not exist in Vermont.

Kerry White noted that the time she devotes to acquiring larvae for resistance monitoring is billed separately from her other activities in service to the BLSG. She was encouraged to take

the time necessary to locate the *culex pipiens* larvae.

9. Old Business

Ben Lawton has been in talks with the State about the ramifications of the proposed Wetlands Reclassification; so far they have offered nothing in writing.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Belcher