

BLSG Board Meeting  
17 October 2019  
Unapproved Minutes

Present: Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting, Jeff Smith, Jeff Schumann, Wayne Rausenberger, Brad Lawes, Paul Vaczy, Mike Blaisdell, Steve Belcher, Will Mathis

Guests: Kerry White (BLSG), Tom Hogan (Proctor), Jay Michael (Lake Dunmore/BLSG PR), Rich Russ.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Jeff Whiting offered a motion, seconded by Brad Lawes, to alter the agenda and to place the two scheduled executive sessions at the end of the meeting. The motion passed.
3. Guests were introduced. A call for Citizen Concerns had no response.

4. Minutes of 19 September 2019 Meeting

Ben Lawton offered two corrections to the minutes of the September Meeting under Item #8, New Business:

1. Texas had an outbreak of West Nile Virus (not Eastern Equine Encephalitis).
2. Jeff Schumann was urged to seek approval from the Salisbury Select Board for approval as a full Board Member, rather than being invited by the BLSG Board.

On a motion by Jeff Whiting, seconded by Jeff Smith, the minutes were approved as amended.

5. BLSG Structure and Committee assignments (Agenda item #8)

Ben Lawton had circulated by email a number of documents relating to the activities of Board members. He passed out a sheet listing activities and interests, inviting the members to indicate their willingness and interests in the topics, ranging from Employee Relations through vehicle maintenance, pesticide oversight, continuing education and others. Board members filled out these forms and returned them by the end of the meeting.

Ben Lawton announced he is planning to resign. There is a need for a new slate of officers.

6. District Coordinator s Report (Agenda item #9)

The year-end report is being prepared.

There was a discussion about the material for the next Brandon Buzz, that should include material from the year-end report.

Paul Vaczy raised a number of questions, wondering if they would be covered in the report. How many people have opted out? 33. How many individual spray requests has the Board answered? 77. How many visits to private land? 77.

The question on how many times the full routes had been sprayed led to an informational discussion about the routes in Salisbury or adjacent vicinities and the variations in route coverage, but the short answer was 13.

7. Drone projects (Agenda item # 10)

Jay Michael reported that the North Carolina group, with whom the BLSG has been in contact, has offered three references of sites using their drones. The plan is to follow up on those references. There was also mention of a program to train drone pilots. The District's plan would be to check with the references, to determine what possible drone activities might be useful, and then to see what might be allowed. A path to FAA permission for drone operation seems possible.

8. Outreach (Agenda item #11)

The first item would seem to be sending out the BLSG report. There was discussion of the methods: Mailing to households, reliance on Town Reports, or additional action?

Kerry White noted that the BLSG has been able to reserve a room for April 1 in the Capitol in Montpelier, as an opportunity to present our mission to legislators.

9. Resistance Monitoring (Agenda item #11)

This activity faced challenges (see previous minutes) because it was hard to find the specific mosquito species, *Culex pipiens*, required in the additional terms of the BLSG grant. With the assistance of Prof. James Burtis from Cornell University, who with his assistant Joseph Poggi visited to offer guidance, numerous samples of the *C. pipiens* larvae were collected (in old tires) and tests for resistance proved negative. It was noted that Cornell University benefits from funding, from the Centers for Disease Control, as a Center for Excellence in Entomology, and that Prof. Burgess is working on the methodologies for resistance testing.

10. Treasurer's Report (Agenda item #7)

Wayne Rausenberger reported the following figures:

General Checking	\$25,442.89
Equipment/Capital Checking	<u>\$23,228.98</u>
Total Available:	\$48,671.87

Liability insurance has been taken off the trucks until next spring, and the BLSG has received a refund of \$895.00 on the insurance. The State owes \$7,369.52 for two invoices.

On a motion by Steve Belcher seconded by Mike Blaisdell the report was accepted.

11. Executive Session

The Board voted to go into Executive Session on the basis of V.S.A. Section 313(A) (3) employment of a public official.

Coming out of Executive Session, a motion was made by Brad Lawes, seconded by Mike Blaisdell, to establish a full-time position of Coordinator/Operations Director and the motion was approved.

12. Executive Session

The Board again went into Executive Session per VLTC Where premature general knowledge would clearly place the public body at a substantial disadvantage to discuss a contract.

Coming out of Executive Session, Wayne Rausenberger moved, seconded by Brad Lawes, not to accept the two current roofing bids and to advertise the job again for the spring. This motion passed.

### 13. Budget Finalization

The Board then reviewed a budget proposal prepared by Wayne Rausenberger, examining items, organization, and amounts. Wayne Rausenberger will present a revised budget at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7 at the Stephen Douglas House in Brandon at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher