

BLSG Board Meeting
21 May 2020
Unapproved Minutes

The meeting was held on Zoom, hosted by Will Mathis and chaired by Mike Blaisdell from the Stephen Douglas House in Brandon.

Participants included:

Board Members: Mike Blaisdell, Richard Russ, Paul Vaczy, Jeff Whiting, Jeff Smith, Wayne Rausenberger, Jeff Schumann, Chad Beckwith, Steve Belcher

Guests: Butch Shaw, Stephanie Jerome, Pete Conlin, Will Mathis, Tom Hogan, Bruce Baccei, Jay Michael, Pattie Casey and perhaps others not recorded.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. As there had been omissions in the announcement of the meeting, the first question was whether the meeting was legal; those present accepted Butch Shaw's suggestion that it was legal but that major decisions might be postponed. The second question involved the agenda: the Zoom meeting was under their free license, and so was limited to 40 minutes. The Board agreed to truncate the agenda, omitting the announced items numbering 8-11, and under the Treasurer's report the sub-headings 2 and 3.

2. Public comment was largely delivered by Butch Shaw, offering a report on legislative activity. Butch had good news for the Board. While Gov. Scott had proposed an across-the-board cut of 18% to all state budgets (with a possible increase to 22%), Butch had taken action to protect the funding, with a call to the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and later talks with Carey Giguierre. Carey Giguierre later reported that he had secured the funds to allow the standard allocation of \$140,000 (evenly divided between the BLSG and the Lemon Fair District). Other one-time funds were not likely to be available this year. But a conversation suggested that the State might be able to cover costs for aerial spraying.

Stephanie Jerome and Pete Conlin, invited to comment, had little to add.

3. On a motion by Wayne Rausenberger, seconded by Mike Blaisdell, the minutes of the Feb. 20, 2020 meeting were approved.

4. The Treasurer's report had been distributed by email. The financial status is:

General Checking:	\$62,666.88
Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement	\$ 8,362.72
Total:	\$71,029.60

Wayne also reported payment on insurance, all with slight increases, and Paid Workers Compensation. There are three outstanding invoices to the State, totaling \$4,118.56

On a motion from Jeff Smith, seconded by Jeff Schumann, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

5. Operations Report

In advance of the meeting, Will Mathis had distributed by email the text of an operations report, along with many pictures of trucks (two of them new to the District). Given the time constraint, he simply reviewed the headings: trucks are operational, with their sprayers calibrated, and so are the foggers. Public notice of spraying has been given; 'no spray' zones are being posted as the requests are received. Applicators have been hired and will be driving their spray routes to become familiar with them.

The good news is that the Otter Creek water level has been low, meaning less breeding grounds for mosquitoes. He thanked Brad Lawes for the use of a forklift and water.

Wayne Rausenberger then moved to accept the report, seconded by Jeff Smith.

Jeff Whiting had a question about the roof, that needs to be replaced. After some discussion, it was agreed that Will should advertise for bids on the roof repair. This motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Mike Blaisdell, and carried on a roll-call vote.

Jeff Schumann put a question, to which the answer was that the tracking devices in the trucks are being re-activated.

Jeff Whiting had a question about the pricing information on adulticides sent out with the email; Will Mathis replied that the information was included as it is a new product.

The motion to approve the report was then passed by a roll call vote.

6. Public Relations

Jay Michael commented that he was glad to have the flyer out. There was general approval of his effort, with thanks to those involved.

Mike Blaisdell noted that Will Mathis had been keeping up very well with the requirements imposed by Covid-19, following all State instructions.

Rich Russ had a question from a landowner about no-spray stakes that the landowner thought were misplaced; Will Mathis checked the map and answered that the landowner would have his property sprayed with a back-pack.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 18th at 7:00 pm. It will again be a Zoom meeting. Individuals who wish to participate should contact the BLSG before the meeting to be added to the list (to avoid Zoom-bombing).

The motion to adjourn passed by voice vote at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Belcher