

BLSG Board Meeting  
15 July 2021  
Unapproved Minutes

In attendance:

Board Members: Mike Blaisdell, Jeff Whiting, Doug Perkins, Wayne Rausenberger, Richard Russ, Paul Vaczy (Z), Jeff Schumann (Z), Ben Lawton, Steve Belcher

Guests: Dave Atherton, John Haverstock, Bruce Baccei (Z).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm and participants were introduced. There were no public comments.

The Minutes of the BLSG Meetings of June 24 and July 1 were approved.

The Treasurer's Report had been emailed out. With thanks to John Haverstock for Pittsford's prompt payment, the report was approved [need to get figures from Wayne].

Will Mathis had emailed an operations report. Weather conditions have been favorable to mosquitoes (rain), and less so for the control efforts. Larvicide applications operate in a limited time-frame; testing and sampling are ongoing efforts. Adulticide applications have been hindered by the weather.

Will had also forwarded information about laboratory equipment available for sale, as part of the plans to upgrade the BLSG facilities. After discussion, the report was approved with a request to Will to provide a list of the needed equipment and an estimate of the prices at the next meeting.

Wayne Rausenberger noted that Will had received a complaint from a resident in Leicester that Mike Blaisdell had said he would address.

In the absence of Jay Michael, there was no report on PR

On the matter of Salisbury, there was extensive discussion.

Paul Vaczy had previously noted that there were no funds in the Salisbury budget for the BLSG. He modified this statement in the discussion, noting that the Town Meeting vote was aimed at adulticiding, and that there is support in Salisbury for the larviciding program. He recognized that a financial contribution from Salisbury would be required, but that many steps were required to permit such: an information campaign, and eventually a vote to authorize the cost. He did state that the town does not expect free service.

Dave Atherton spoke, having talked with Patti Casey in Montpelier. By his report, the State position is that the BLSG is a single district, and so has the obligation to treat all areas in the District, according to the sampling results and the presence of mosquitoes. He later noted that the BLSG seems to face a choice between requiring \$8,000 from Salisbury for treatment (see below) or the \$70,000 grant from the State.

John Haverstock noted that the other towns were left to make up for the Salisbury shortage.

Following the July 1 meeting, a committee of Board members met to review the

apportionment of costs between Adulticiding, Larviciding, and Overhead costs. By their calculations, the sum due from Salisbury solely for Larviciding is \$8,507. Jeff Schumann spoke to note that the work had been done fairly.

On a motion by Jeff Whiting, the Committee's work and figures were approved.

#### On By-Laws:

The By-Laws Committee does not plan to bring the revised By-Laws up for a vote until the situation with Salisbury has been settled.

The By-Laws Committee is recommending that the name of the District be changed to 'The Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District,' rather than defining it by the names of the member towns. There was consensus that the name-change was long overdue.

On the Agreement, many detailed changes were approved, clarifying issues such as the town payments, voting margins (per Roberts Rules of Order), and the time-frame for action from the towns. The most significant change was the addition of language covering a town's withdrawal from the District (per State law) and the question of non-payment of assessments.

Doug Perkins offered a motion that the participants in the By-Laws committee should go before the Select Boards of the member towns to present the documents and issues, to hear the comments, and then to report back to the Board. It was noted that in the vacation season, Select Boards rarely have full attendance. Dave Atherton asked if an attorney had been consulted, and the answer was yes. The motion passed.

#### Other Business:

Doug Perkins put forth a motion that the BLSG should be present at the LDFLA gathering on August 29; he accepted an amendment from Steve Belcher that there should also be a BLSG presence at Pittsford Day on Sept. 4. The motion was approved.

Doug Perkins then raised the question of the pay-scales for the employees, now paid at different rates depending on work for larviciding or adulticiding. He moved to raise the rate to a uniform \$30/hour (up from \$22/hour for adulticiding); using averages, the cost will amount to \$6,000/yr.

The motion passed, with Jeff Whiting and Ben Lawton abstaining.

Doug Perkins then noted the description of the position description of 'Executive Director' for the BLSG, to which some changes had been made. The description was approved.

Wayne Rausenberger then noted that the Lemon Fair District, in conjunction with Middlebury College, was using drones in their activities. This is a possibility that the BLSG has been investigating (starting in the time of the late Art Doty), but that the State has discouraged on the grounds of national permitting. The potential benefits – data collection, cost-savings on larvicide applications – are enormous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28. The next regularly scheduled meeting should be at 7:00 pm on August 19, with location and Zoom access to be announced in the future.

respectfully submitted,  
steve belcher