

BLSG Board Meeting  
16 September 2021  
Unapproved Minutes

Board Members: Wayne Rausenberger, Brad Lawes, Doug Perkins, Steve Belcher, Richard Russ, Jeff Whiting, Ben Lawton; by Zoom: Paul Vaczy. Chad Beckwith, Jeff Schumann  
BLSG: Will Mathis, Bruce Baccei (Proctor).

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm. In the absence of Mike Blaisdell, Jeff Whiting served as Chair. Introductions were not needed, and no members of the public were present to offer comments.

The minutes of the August 19 meeting were approved, on a motion by Brad Lawes, with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report:

The report sent by email prior to the meeting offered these figures:

General Checking:	\$121,534.26
Equipment and Capital:	\$ 35,224.04
Legal:	\$ 7,720.26
Debit card:	\$ 1,297.04

Funds available: \$165,775.60

Brad noted that the BLSG still awaits three checks, for a total of \$25,245, from the State.

Brad also noted problems with the supply of treatment chemicals. After some discussion, Doug Perkins offered a motion that Will Mathis be authorized to order as much Adulticide products as he will need next year. The motion passed.

Paul Vaczy put a question on the status of the proposed audit. (see below).

The Treasurer's report was approved, on a motion by Ben Lawton.

Operations Report

The exciting part of the report was how the Argo had gotten stuck in a ditch near Bullock Rd., beyond the reach of tow-trucks and such services. Will Mathis bought a 'come-along', a ratcheting system that allowed him to raise the Argo from the ditch and get it back to the shed for maintenance.

He noted, for the benefit of Paul Vaczy, that there had been hand-treatment of larvicide in Salisbury on Sept. 2, off Snead Road. Adult numbers have been low but may rise with expected warmer weather. The spraying season is not yet over.

The vehicles are in good shape; improvements to the shed proceed.

Chad Beckwith asked whether a fan-boat might not be more useful than the Argo, and this led to a discussion of the use of local watercourses (the Otter Creek and its tributaries) for access to areas requiring treatment, the presence of beaver dams obstructing access and raising water levels.

On a motion by Wayne Rausenberger, the Operations Report was approved.

State Affairs

Mike Blaisdell had been in contact with Patti Casey in relation to the lawsuit against the Agency for Natural Resources about the need for a permit for the 'taking' of species as a consequence of the aduenticiding operations. Patti requested help (unspecified); Mike noted that in the previous lawsuit, the state had pushed the burden onto the BLSG.

There was discussion of the forms of support the BLSG might provide – documentation, expert testimony. It was also suggested that the American Mosquito Control Association might have advice.

A second question arose from the Cornell University report on resistance to pesticides in the mosquito populations. One figure seemed to show resistance to Methoprene. Will Mathis noted that the BLSG has not used Methoprene for several years. The tests may need to be adjusted.

### Salisbury

On Salisbury, one question is that of a landowner whose property encompasses a large swamp area. He refuses access to BLSG personnel for sampling. Paul Vaczy has talked to the landowner, and said the BLSG needed to reach out, not acknowledging that he represents the BLSG in Salisbury. Salisbury has taken no action on the proposals to revise the 1978 Agreement that established the Insect Control District.

On the related question of the revisions to the Agreement, it was agreed that the By-laws Committee would meet, review the comments received thus far from the town Select Boards, make any further revisions to the draft Agreement Amendment Resolution felt to be needed, and that the Committee members would then take a final draft of the Resolution back to their respective Select Boards for final comments as soon as possible.

Financial Audit: Brad Lawes noted that the estimate from Telling & Associates of Middlebury was for \$7,900, above the \$5,000 figure approved in a previous meeting. A motion to accept a figure between \$7,900 and \$8,500, offered by Doug Perkins, was approved.

### Public Relations:

Will Mathis reported an inquiry from Pittsford, relating to the acquisition of a parcel by the Nature Conservancy off Fire Hill Rd. in the western portion of the town. BLSG operations should not affect this land.

### New Business: Improvements to the Shed

Brad Lawes reported discussions with Spafford, who might drill the well. The preliminary estimate of costs was \$12,000 (=/- \$2,000). On septic systems, the best option, given the clay soils around the shed, is a tank to be pumped. Brad Lawes will get an estimate from Dundon Septic for the cost to design the septic system and obtain the necessary State permit; Doug Perkins will likewise get an estimate for that work from his contact at Lincoln Applied Geology. For the interior of the building, a shower was strongly approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher