

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
February 17, 2022

Representatives: Richard Russ, Wayne Rausenberger, Brad Lawes, Doug Perkins, Paul Vaczy, Jeff Schumann, John Kennedy (Zoom), and Steve Belcher.
OCW related: Will Mathis (Exec Director), Tom Hogan (Proctor, Zoom)
Public: Mike Frankiewicz, Barb Karle (Zoom).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted that a quorum was present and that all towns were fully represented except for Goshen and Pittsford.

Agenda

Paul Vaczy requested that data reporting be added to the agenda under new business. The Chair noted that Jeff Whiting, who had been asked to explain the system of cost allocation among the towns, was not in attendance, so that agenda item would be postponed until the next meeting. The amended Agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

Public Comment

Barbara Karle (a member of the Salisbury Conservation Commission) had two questions: Would the OCW make a presentation on home-based mosquito control? The answer was yes, with details to be worked out. Her second question was how many personal requests for spraying, presumably financed by tax dollars, had been made? This question could not be answered immediately, as it required a review of the records.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Nov. 18, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

Operations Report

Will Mathis reported that the costs for aerial application had been sent to Patti Casey; they have increased from \$14/acre to \$18/acre. The Operations Report was approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Brad Lawes reported the following figures for the finances:

General Checking	\$132,247.68
Equipment/Capital Improvements	\$ 13,953.25
Legal	\$ 6,312.76
Debit Card	\$ 233.41
<u>VAAFMM Grant</u>	<u>\$6,695.17</u>
Funds available:	\$159,442.27

The Treasurer's Report was approved by unanimous consent. Brad suggested creating a separate bank account to cover auditing costs. That motion was approved. Brad then requested authorization to purchase a locking metal cabinet for storage in the shed at a cost not to exceed

\$500. That motion carried by unanimous consent.

Executive Committee Report

An emailed summary of Executive Committee activity had been sent out by email prior to the meeting. Wayne Rausenberger had questions about the revised budget. The answer was that following the decision to level-fund the budget the same as last year, there were extra funds available, which were to be allocated to vehicle maintenance and fuel costs. There was a \$3,700 line item for contribution to the Equipment / Capital Improvement Account. Those adjustments to the 2022 – 2023 budget were what was approved at the Annual Meeting. Those budget adjustments resulted in a change to Salisbury's overhead plus larvicide assessment for last year. To Wayne's question about including the larviciding grant in the budget, the Chair responded that he had never yet seen a budget that did not include all sources of funding. The actions of the Executive Committee were approved by majority vote.

Chair's Report

The Chair had sent out a document by email before the meeting, describing actions taken in the period between the Annual Meeting and this meeting.

The most important of those actions was that when the Salisbury Select Board voted to approve the Resolution to Amend the Agreement, that brought the number of towns approving the Resolution to 4, and so met the 2/3s approval requirement. Consequently, on December 21, 2021 the name of the District officially changed from the First Brandon, Leicester, Salisbury, Goshen, Pittsford Insect Control District to the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District. Goshen subsequently approved the Resolution in January, so ultimately the vote was unanimous.

The Chair reported on a Zoom meeting with Cary Giguere, David Huber, and Patti Casey (Vermont Agency of Food and Markets, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division). The State does not need the mosquito sampling/identification data assembled by the OCW District; that data is for our internal use in making treatment decisions. There was discussion of the costs of larviciding (product and aerial application). At this time there is no possibility of increased funding for the grant, and in the future unspent funds will not be rolled over from one fiscal year to the next.

Paul Vaczy noted that Salisbury has paid the town's assessment for overhead and larviciding costs for last year, and that same amount was included in the general town budget for the coming year; the funds for adulticiding will be subject to a separate vote on Town Meeting Day. Wayne Rausenberger objected to this arrangement; Brad Lawes noted that the other towns in the District did not want such a split in services.

The Chair noted that he and Jeff Schumann had met with the Select Boards of all member towns plus Proctor, and that he now is reviewing files and materials passed on by former-Chair Ben Lawton.

Public Relations

Jay Michael and Kerry White were not in attendance. Jeff Schumann previously had produced a brochure on the BLSG that now will be updated.

Unfinished Business

The Audit will start in March.

Will Mathis is keeping an eye out for laboratory equipment and will submit his recommendations (and costs) when he finds what he wants.

On the question of the well and waste water disposal system for the shed, based on the 20-year life-cycle cost analysis done by Landmark Engineering, the mound septic system is much less expensive over time than a holding tank to be pumped out. There was discussion of the significant up-front costs for a mound system and what might be the source of those funds. A motion to move forward with the mound system design and permitting process was approved with one abstention.

The Secretary noted that thank-you letters had been sent to the LDFLA and to Lawes Agriculture for their donations to the BLSG last year.

New Business

The Chair circulated a sheet with Board of Trustees plus Proctor observer contact information to be completed/corrected.

After considering the pros and cons of five possibilities, the Brandon Senior Citizens Center, 1591 Forest Dale Road in Brandon, was chosen by majority vote as the site for OCW Board of Trustees meetings this year; the time will remain 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month.

A donation of \$100 to the Stephen Douglas house for the use of their meeting space in 2021 was approved.

A motion was approved directing the Secretary to republish the Agreement with all previous changes incorporated.

The Chair noted that Paragraph 4. A. of the Agreement specifies three-year terms for the Board of Trustees and that the two representatives from Salisbury are up for renewal. Wayne Rausenberger stated that Brandon reappoints their representative each year.

Wayne reviewed the logistics of the name change; the most important piece is verifying with the IRS that a new EIN is NOT needed as a result of the District's name change; thus far the IRS has not responded to inquiries. Bar Harbor Bank and the insurance companies need the correct EIN to go forward with changing account names. The authorized signers on the accounts would be Doug Perkins (Chair), Jeff Schumann (Vice-Chair), Brad Lawes (Treasurer), Wayne Rausenberger, and Eloise Crane (Book-keeper). The Chair stated that he would take responsibility for notifying relevant State legislators of the name change. Will Mathis is working on changing the District's email address and web-site URL.

The Chair noted that the no spray zone policy needs to be updated to match current practice. Motion approved to postpone this issue until the next Board meeting.

At the behest of the Chair a motion to adjourn was defeated unanimously.

The Chair then reported on the status of the appeal of the decision by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources that the BLSG (now OCW) does not need an endangered species taking permit as a result of our mosquito control operations. The Chair had reviewed the situation with Kane Smart, lead ANR litigation attorney for this case. Documents should be filed with the Environmental Court by the various parties by April with the case going to trial this coming fall. After discussion, the Board voted to not retain private counsel at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm with three items of New Business thereby postponed until the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Belcher, Secretary