

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board of Trustees Meeting
19 May 2022
Draft Minutes

Board Members: Doug Perkins, Jeff Schumann, Richard Russ, Wayne Rausenberger, John Rouse, Ben Lawton, Paul Vaczy, Steve Belcher

Others: Will Mathis (OCW), Tom Hogan (Proctor), Bruce Baccei (by Zoom, Proctor).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted that there was a quorum without full representation (Pittsford and Goshen were only represented by one member).

The Agenda was amended to include discussion of the job description of the District Coordinator under ‘Unfinished business.’ The Board then recognized two new members, one present: John Rouse, and one absent: Brenda Fox-Howard, for Pittsford.

With no discussion, the Minutes of the 21 April Board meeting were approved.

Wayne Rausenberger, acting for Brad Lawes, presented the Treasurer’s report.
At this time, funds available are:

General Checking	\$129,585.98
Equipment/Capital	\$ 10, 648.36
Legal	\$ 6,172.76
Debit Card	\$ 2,039,59
Grant Funds	\$ 6,236.45
 Total:	 \$154, 683.14

*** Capital Improvement and Engineers
The report was approved.

Operations report

Will Mathis reported many ‘no-spray’ requests, most of which have been processed. There have also been many individual requests for spraying.

The trucks have had maintenance and are scheduled for inspection. He does not yet have full staffing.

They have initiated larviciding activities by personal application. The District does not have the funds for widespread aerial application of larvicides. There was discussion of a longer-lasting larvicide (inappropriate for the current flood conditions). A fan-boat might suffice for the applications of larvicide, as it can travel over shallower waters.

Wayne Rausenbergers advised care on the costs and the wisdom of conserving the funds available, noting with disapproval the proposal a few years ago to offer a reduction to the towns. The larviciding grants is not sufficient to the needs.

Doug Perkins noted a need for attention to the expected capital improvement costs and their funding.

The Operations Report was approved.

Chair's Report

A summary had been distributed by email before the meeting.

The Chair noted that the permits for the well and the waste-water treatment had been granted. The Notice of Intent and the Pesticide Discharge Management Plan proposals have been submitted; in regards to administrative requirement, they are complete. But the technical requirements are being revised by the Agency for Natural Resources, and so the technical aspects of the applications remain pending.

The lawsuit against the ANR is moving very slowly, and will probably only be heard next spring.

The Chair has been reviewing the historic materials provided by Ben Lawton; Steve Belcher asked for access to those materials so as to scan them and fill out the Mosquito Board archive.

The Chair's report was approved.

Old Business:

Audit

Telling and Hillman P.C. have submitted a draft report; their financial statement does not align with the OCW methods of reporting. Jeff Schumann moved for a Committee to review the materials and draft a response. The motion was approved.

One issue was the difference between the fiscal and calendar years. Town payments made according to their tax schedule (i.e. usually after the mosquito season has ended) cover the costs of the next (calendar) year. Wayne Rausenberger noted costs incurred – particularly insurance costs – before the mosquito season.

Another issue raised by T&H was the lines of approval for expenses. There was discussion of the review of payments, and whether the Board needed to see every bill.

Well and Waste Water System

The Chair noted that we have received cost estimates, including a 20-year comparison of the relative costs of a holding tank vs. a mound system.

Wayne Rausenberger questioned a recent bill from Landmark, and noted that he was attempting to get the shed connected to the Brandon public water supply. His motion to suspend further action on the Well and Waste Water System failed, on a show of hands.

The discussion continued, addressing the number of employees who would be using the system and proposing a comparison with the current cost of a port-a-potty, \$137/month. A motion to table the discussion carried.

By-Laws revision

Wayne Rausenberger had proposed a change to the by-laws in regards to the Treasurer's presentation of a budget to the Board of Trustees. On a motion by Jeff Schumann, citing the ongoing audit and possible changes to financial operations, this motion was tabled.

Data Reporting

This question arose from Paul Vaczy's response to constituent queries. It was noted that Will Mathis posts an Excel spreadsheet with the data regularly. Discussion involved presentation and formatting.

Legislature letter

As the Legislature has adjourned, the proposed letter is untimely. Ben Lawton proposed

addressing the letter to the Governor. Coordination with the Lemon Fair ICD was mentioned, but ruled out: the State treats each entity as separate, and so no attempt to piggy-back costs will be approved.

Art Doty Memorial

The proposal for a sign commemorating Art Doty met the suggestion that there should first be a sign identifying the District. A motion to table discussion passed.

Trifold informational leaflet

Jeff Schumann presented the prices for printing, in variable quantities. The final text will be approved at the next meeting. The Board voted approval of an order of 1,000 copies at the cost of \$175.

District Coordinator Job Description

Wayne Rausenberger offered various motions to amend the description: reporting to the Board vs. reporting to the Chair, communications with the media. These did not pass. A motion to remove the term 'subordinate' from the description, with the stipulation that the District Coordinator should not have a voice in determining compensation for the position, was approved.

A motion to combine several of the enumerated functions related to management of staff (#4 ,#5 #12) was approved.

Wayne's motion to amend #18, on management of District expenditures was amended by Jeff Schumann: the 'Board' is replaced by the 'Treasurer. The motion carried.

Wayne questioned the language relating to the Coordinator being a Town Representative. Paul Vaczy made a motion to remove the sentence, and it carried.

Pesticide General Permit

Wayne Rausenberger opened the discussion with a protest against a \$3,500 bill from an attorney who had been retained, with subsequent approval by the Board, to review the PGP permit application. Ben Lawton noted that the law-suit filed some years ago made such review advisable. Doug Perkins noted that the lawyer's comments had been useful and pertinent in the discussion of the permit application during the last Board meeting. Jeff Schumann moved to table discussion, and the motion carried.

The Board then went into Executive Session, citing State law about "premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage." No action was taken upon leaving Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm.

The next scheduled meeting should be June 16, at 7:00 pm at the Brandon Senior Center [Address] or by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Belcher