

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Regular Board Meeting
21 April 2022
Approved Minutes

Attendance:

Board Members: Jeff Schumann, Doug Perkins, Wayne Rausenberger, John Haverstock, Steve Belcher, Paul Vaczy, Richard Russ, Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting (Zoom)

Other: Will Mathis (OCW); Tom Hogan and Bruce Baccei (Proctor); Brenda Fox-Howard, Pittsford.

Public: Mike Frankiewisc

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The chair noted the presence of a quorum, all towns save Leicester fully represented.

Jeff Schumann then moved to change the agenda and to discuss the NOI/PDMP submission after the Chair's report. This motion was accepted without discussion.

Wayne Rausenberger offered a correction on a date given in the Minutes of the February meeting that was accepted. The Minutes of the meeting of March 17 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

(Brad Lawes was absent; Wayne Rausenberger reported).

The Treasurer offered the following summary of funds available:

General Checking	\$128,875.83
Equipment/Capital Improvement	\$11,453.25
Legal	\$6,207.76
Debit Card	\$2,113.41

Funds available: \$148,650.25

The Treasurer had received a check for \$3,500 from the Lake Dunmore/Fern Lake Association to cover the costs of adulticide treatment in the properties in Salisbury adjacent to Lake Dunmore.

Wayne had questions about the terms of the commitment, but his motion for a contract to specify the use of the funds did not carry. He then noted various bills submitted.

The Credit Line with the Orwell Bank has been renewed, and they have agreed to pre-approval of a loan-line, whose form required signatures provided by the Executive Board members present. There was some discussion of the choice of bank and the possible need for the loan.

The District may continue to use the old Bar Harbor checks, on the presumption that the IRS will not change the EIN.

It was noted that the District is in the middle of an audit, and other financial measures should await the result of the audit and the recommendations of the auditors.

Chair's Report

The report had been distributed by email to Board members prior to the meeting. The Chair requested approval of the decision of the Executive Board to sent the NOI/PDMP proposal to David Cooper, a lawyer, for review prior to the meeting. Wayne Rausenberger asked why the

Chair had contacted Misha Cetner (VT DEC) prior to submission, noting such prior contacts had not occurred in the past. Ben Lawton suggested it was useful to be more pro-active with the State, and that it had been a good idea to consult David Cooper. The action of the Executive Committee was approved, on a motion by Paul Vaczy.

Operations Report

Will Mathis noted that the Public Notices had appeared in newspapers and on the radio. There had been numerous 'No-Spray' requests, and to date most of them had been posted. He reported on the maintenance procedures performed on the trucks and expected future maintenance needs. The sprayers have been serviced. Calibration awaits temperatures reliably above 50 F. He thanked Wayne for his work on the name changes, the Chair for his work on the permits, and Brad for use of his facilities. His report was approved.

Notice of Intent/Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP) Submission

Doug Perkins had earlier sent out the draft versions of these documents, and later sent out a version annotated by David Cooper, an attorney (see below). Jeff Whiting had also offered comments that were not distributed. Not all members had the full text file before them. The Board worked through the document, reporting and discussing proposed changes. One question involved multiple titles associated with the activities of Will Mathis: District Coordinator, Operations Coordinator, Executive Director. It was agreed to use the term 'District Coordinator' in the NOI/PDMP and to await the recommendations of the auditors for the titles intended to distinguish between operations and overhead.

The Chair did note that Misha Cetner had informed him that the Federal guidelines for the Pesticide General Permit (PGP) had changed, and the DEC was still at work incorporating the changes.

On posting the notice, it was noted that the defined period of days did not reflect the actual operations of Town Clerks, some of whom only come in one day a week. The Chair promised to bring this issue to the attention of the DEC.

Audit

A member of the audit team has been out of commission for a week (Covid). The process continues and is expected to be complete within a week or so.

Well and Waterworks at the Shed

There is some question about the location of the well; the State may accept the precautions taken to prevent the spread of pesticides, in the case of a spill. The District will move forward with drilling well upon receipt of the permit.

Republication of the 1978 Agreement

The Chair noted that by inadvertence, the town names had been left in the preamble; the Secretary argued that the later language redefining the District obviated any immediate need for a second round of resolutions and votes by the Town Boards. The Board concurred.

By-Laws

Wayne Rausenberger had announced, by email, a proposal to amend the duties of the Treasurer, to the effect that at the October Meeting the Treasurer would propose a draft budget to be

discussed and then approved at the November Meeting.

Jeff Schumann noted that the auditors might raise questions about how the District conducts its business, and proposed waiting to amend the By-Laws until the District had received the auditors' report. His motion was approved.

Executive Session

In the absence of a timely reply from Jeff Foley (who is consulting other lawyers), the Session was deferred.

Executive Director Position

Wayne Rausenberger raised questions about the nature of the position and the need for different titles. The answer, offered by several Board members, was that the different titles reflected the different budgetary categories (operational vs. overhead) and were needed for transparency.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:15 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2022, at 7:00 pm at the Brandon Senior Citizens' Center on Rte. 73.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Belcher