

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
16 June 2022

Board members present: Jeff Schumann (acting Chair), Wayne Rausenberg, Richard Russ, Paul Vaczy, John Rouse, Steve Belcher

Others: Will Mathis (OCW)

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm; Jeff Schumann noted that there was a quorum, although not all towns were fully represented.

There was no public comment, nor amendments to the agenda.

The Minutes of the previous Board meeting of May 19th were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report

Wayne Rausenberger, speaking for Brad Lawe, offered the following summary of the finances:

General Checking:	\$78,852.73
Equipment/Capital:	\$14,348.36
Legal:	\$ 2,592.76
Debit Card:	\$ 1,846.77

Total funds available: \$97,640.62

This report was approved.

Wayne then noted costs relating to the larviciding grant; with one invoice that was not submitted (per the Chair), the District is now down by \$1,140.33. This led to a discussion of the State's acceptance of carry-over costs (that would come out of the next year's grant), noting that carry-over would impact the funding for the next year. The costs of resistance testing in the mosquito populations, in response to the the chemicals applied, also limit the value of the grant. Nor does the Grant recognize the expansion of the OCW into Pittsford.

Another issue was truck insurance: the State grant requires insurance, but the trucks are inactive for six months of the year and the insurance companies grant a rebate when the trucks are not moving. State policy, expressed in the terms of the grant, has varied.

Wayne Rausenberger moved that the Board should hold a special meeting to review the terms of the State grant, and the motion was approved.

Operations Report

Will Mathis had before the meeting sent out photo-heavy email on the activities of the team.

These emails included data on larva counts and on mosquito sampling.

Steve Belcher at this point offered a plate of cookies to the treatment team, on behalf of a grateful Pittsford resident.

The Operations report was approved.

The Chair's report was approved.

Under the category of Unfinished Business:

The draft report of the letter responding to the Audit firm was approved, following some discussion of the original terms and whether the response conformed to them or constituted an expansion.

Well and Waste-water treatment:

The possibility of connecting the Shed to the Brandon water system is active. Until that matter is resolved, the question of wells is moot.

By-Laws

Having seen his motion for an amendment deferred multiple time, Wayne Rausenberger requested a vote. He moved an amendment to the the By-Laws covering the presentation of a budget by the Treasurer; Jeff Schumann then offered an amendment to the amendment, specifying that the budget should be in a format approved by the Board. Jeff's amendment was approved, and then Wayne's amendment was approved:

The Treasurer shall in October of each year prepare a proposed budget for the upcoming year in a format determined by the Board no later than the August meeting. Said budget proposal to be vetted line by line with additions and deletions so noted. Budget then to be voted on November. After which the Treasurer will notify each town separately of their upcoming assesment.

On the matter of Data reporting, Paul Vaczy was satisfied with the expanded view of the data provided by Will Mathis in his Operations report materials.

Letter to Gov. Scott

There were meetings of Town and State representatives, following a request to the Brandon Select Board for a letter requesting additional funds for larviciding made by Wayne Rausenberger and Richard Russ. The advice from the State representatives was that the letter should be addressed to Anson Abbetts, head of the VT Department of Agriculture. Will Mathis noted that a letter sent in 2018 had received no answer.

A motion for the Executive Committee to draft a letter (among several versions submitted) to be approved by the Board was approved.

On the Shed and the Art Doty Memorial

Jeff Schumann had a design for a memorial plaque. Steve Belcher advised against too visible identification of the building, given the past hostility to mosquito spraying. Jeff Schumann will get a price for the plaque.

PR Trifold flyer

The expense of \$175 for 1000 copies had been approved.

Pesticide General Permit (PGP)

The State is reviewing their standards in the light of changes in the Federal regulations; in the meantime, the OCW application is on hold until the State review is complete. Wayne

Rausenberger raised a question about the legal costs (the Board paid \$3,500 for a legal review of the PGP) and what future costs might be entailed. Paul Vaczy and Steve Belcher, the latter speaking for the pair, noted there was no way to measure the costs of compliance until the rules had been issued. Paul noted that the involvement of an attorney early in the process was a good precaution.

New Business

Jeff Schumann noted a request by Doug Perkins to remind the Board that per the By-Laws, the Chair and the Operations Director are the ones who speak for the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm. The next regularly scheduled meeting should be July 21, at 7:00 pm. in the Brandon Senior Citizen Center at 1591 Forestdale Rd.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Belcher