

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Regular Board Meeting
15 Sept. 2022
Approved Minutes

Attendance

Board Members: Doug Perkins, Brad Lawes, Richard Russ, Jeff Whiting, Ben Lawton, Paul Vaczy (Zoom), Brenda Fox-Howard (Zoom), Jeff Schumann (Zoom), Steve Belcher.

Others: Bruce Baccei (Proctor), Will Mathis (OCW), Wayne Rausenberger

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted a quorum, without full representation by member towns.

The Agenda was adopted without change.

Public Comment:

Wayne Rausenberger stated that Doug Bailey had been appointed an alternate member of the Board for Brandon (and supplied contact information to the Secretary). He then added further comments.

There was a discrepancy in the figures offered by the Treasurer and those reported in the Minutes of the Meeting of August 18.

He asked if the audit had been completed; the Chair noted that the report was not yet final. Wayne requested a hard copy of the resulting document.

He noted that V-Tel had been granted an easement on the shed grounds, on condition that they maintain the property, and that V-Tel was not honoring its obligation.

He raised a question about public comments: at the last meeting, he had been allowed to comment during the discussion of the budget. Was public comment only allowed during the 'Guest Welcome and Comments' item on the agenda? The Chair noted that public comment rules varied across organizations, and that the Board might allow public comments during discussions under exceptional circumstances, if they so voted.

He noted a discrepancy in the budget on the issue of adulticiding/larviciding and town choice of treatment, that differed from a report in the *Rutland Herald*.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of August 29 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the following figures:

General Checking:	\$24,056.29
Equipment/Capital	14,348.36
Legal	2562.76
Debit Card	884.29
Total funds available:	\$41,851.70

For the 2021-22 Grant Balance:	\$6,396.45
expenses not covered:	7,936.80

For the 2023 Grant:	
starting balance	\$70,000.00
unpaid invoices	18,043.60
Remaining balance:	51,596.40

The expenses not covered in the previous grant will count towards the 25% match for last year. The business office at the State is swamped, dealing with the extra federal funding; key personnel are also absent at this time.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Operations Report

Very little to report. The mosquito season seems to have ended. Current operations involve winterizing the equipment.

Chair's Report

He had made inquiries about the extent of wetlands in the district. The Rutland County Regional Planning Commission contact responded quickly: the Pittsford-Brandon-Proctor area has some 8,820 acres of wetlands (the previous estimate for the entire district was 6,000). These are all 'class 2' wetlands. He still awaits a response on wetlands acreage from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The Chair's request to Leicester on the number of seasonal residences produced no result; the 2020 Census may offer better information. These questions relate to the formula for calculating town assessments. Current assessments are based on data from 2000 and 2010.

On the Pesticide Management Discharge Plan: the State requested that more detailed maps be included; these are forthcoming, and in the meantime the previous permit remains valid.

On the Audit: details are being worked out before the final report is finished.

On Membership: the Chair noted that he had not received official notice of the appointment of Doug Bailey.

Unfinished Business

Well/Waste-Water

Brad Lawes noted that the Town had not refused the project to extend their water-line down to the OCW shed, and that the engineering was still underway.

Art Doty Memorial

Richard Russ offered a sample plaque, and there was discussion of the design and how to include an image of Art Doty. Decision was deferred to a later meeting.

New Business

By-Laws

In June, the Board approved an amendment to the By-Laws to read:

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 in November. After which the Treasurer will notify each town separately of

their upcoming assessment.

The Chair questioned the language of the Amendment, that duplicates extant language and noted there had been no determination on its placement in the By-Laws. After discussion, a motion by Jeff Schumann to consider the amendment a statement of procedure, not part of the By-Laws, was approved unanimously.

Budget Format

A copy of the final 2022-2023 OCW budget had been sent to Trustees by email before the meeting. The discussion involved a variety of details and questions about what line items should or should not be included in the 2023-2024 budget. The newly decided sick-leave policy, with financial implications, was an issue.

An additional item was the spray-route maps. They do not correspond to the actual practice and should be redone. Brad Lawes noted that this comes under office expenses and requires no further approval.

The Board went into Executive Session for the purpose of Contract discussions. Bruce Baccei (Proctor) and Will Mathis (OCW) were invited by the Chair to participate. Coming out of Executive Session, the Board took no actions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Oct. 20, at the Brandon Senior Citizens Center at 1591 Forestdale Rd. Zoom connections will be announced with the Agenda.

respectfully submitted,

stephen belcher
Secretary