

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Board of Trustees Meeting
17 November 2022
Unapproved Minutes

Present

Trustees: Doug Perkins, Jeff Whiting, Paul Vaczy, Alicia Malay, Doug Bailey, Ben Lawton, Steve Belcher. On Zoom: Brenda Fox-Howard

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted a quorum; Pittsford and Goshen had complete representation.

The Agenda was approved without changes.

Public Comment

Wayne Rausenberger expressed concerns about the budget and transparency. He cited the budget line item for the Audit, the YTD expenses attributed to Legal, and the change in funding for Capital Improvements. He wondered about the line items for the Operations Coordinator/ Executive Director and their funding, the donations (under income) and the liability insurance figures. He noted the absence of a line-item for the invoices to the State that, per a vote at the last meeting, are not being submitted. He also questioned the understanding of the terms of the grant, the inclusion of the grant under income and its exact amount.

Charlotte Firestone, speaking from Proctor, asked about the truth of a rumor in Proctor that there would be no 'no-spray' zones allowed. She was told that 'no-spray zones' continue to be allowed.

Board members then introduced themselves to the new member present.

The Minutes of the previous meeting, with one amendment, were approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported the following funds available:

General Checking	32,782.93
Equipment/Capital	14,348.36
Legal	2,552.76
Debit Card:	731.39

Total Funds Available: 50,415.44

Current Balance on 2023 Grant 50,091.40

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Operations Report

An area map of the six-town territory was displayed; it will serve in the preparation of the new Spray Route Maps.

The Operations Report was approved.

Chair's Report

The Chair noted an update to the report distributed by email: he had received a call from Kane Smart on the matter of the lawsuit that the State/ANR is defending about the issuance of the

OCW permit; the trial is scheduled for March of 2023. The OCW would be involved only as witnesses.

Patti Casey had raised the question of testing for larvicide resistance in the past year. The samples taken this year were only sufficient for testing adulticide resistance. A future limiting factor involves Cornell University's participation, that will be dependent on the renewal of the resistance-testing grant from the Federal government.

The Chair's report was approved.

Unfinished Business

There is still no news on the well.

Ben Lawton showed samples to illustrate the plaque and the supplementary text. A motion to proceed, with costs not to exceed \$400 was approved.

On the tri-fold, printing costs have gone up. There was some discussion about the number needed and the uses of the brochure. One reason for a new brochure is that the name and contact information have changed. There were suggestions for alternate means of disseminating the information. Further action was postponed until the next meeting.

Report from the Ad-Hoc Algorithm Committee

In the absence of Jeff Schumann, Committee Chair, Steve Belcher spoke, describing the selection of factors to be measured and the purpose of revising the algorithm: to come to an equitable assessment of costs among the member towns on the basis of updated information. The District now has a more accurate measurement of the road-miles involved in adulticiding operations.

The Committee opted to use the town Equalized Education Grand Lists as a basis for the Overhead costs (at 33.3% of the total), the extent of wetlands for larviciding costs (10.3%; note that most larviciding costs are covered by the State grant), and a combination of dwellings and road-miles sprayed for the adulticiding costs (28.2% for each).

The Committee advanced a motion: That the Board adopt the algorithm and weighting and metric update schedule presented in their report for the creation of the OCW 2024 budget and the FY 2025 Town Assessments.

The Chair offered an amendment to the Committee's motion: That the words "and weighting" be struck from the committee's motion and a new sentence be added: Budget category weights to be established each year based on the ratios of member towns' portion of Overhead to Larvicide Operations to Adulticide Operations expenses in the proposed budget.

To the question why the algorithm should be adopted, the answer was that the new algorithm results in a much more equitable distribution of District costs among the towns and that it offered Proctor a clearer view of their future obligations should they choose to join the District.

After discussion, the proposed amendment was defeated and the Committee motion given above was approved.

Sick Leave Reimbursement

A motion to approve the payout to employees of 30% of their unused sick leave grant was approved.

Board of Trustee Stipends

Trustees (including alternates) are entitled to a fixed sum for each meeting attended. The Treasurer will contact each Trustee to determine their wishes.

Donation to Brandon Senior Citizen Center

A donation of \$150 to the Senior Citizen Center, in appreciation for the use of their facilities, was approved.

NW Mosquito Control Association Meeting in early December.

Doug Perkins, Jeff Schumann, and Ben Lawton (at his own expense) plan to attend; the cost per person will be around \$1,100/person. Several Trustees opted to allocate their stipends to the costs of attending the Conference.

Payment for Individual Spray Requests

This is a recurrent question. Will Mathis noted that almost all these requests can be honored through the usual operations of the District, and that the accounting of costs would be a challenge. After further discussion, the motion offered by Paul Vaczy to charge for individual spray requests was withdrawn.

Budget Approval

It was noted that Goshen, Salisbury, and Proctor have yet to pay their assessments for the year. The Chair noted the need for slight adjustment of expenses, in that two employees do work that should be charged to Overhead, and the Liability Insurance line should be increased.

A motion that the total sum of \$236,329.00 for the 2023 budget be approved, and that the Executive Committee be authorized to adjust the assignment of funds within that total.

This motion was approved.

Proctor Membership

For the upcoming mosquito season, Proctor is being charged \$17,500 for contracted services. Should they wish to become a full member, their yearly assessment would be 9.1% of District expenses and their buy-in cost (based on the assessed value of OCW assets, including inventory) would be \$8,200 a year for four years. A motion to release these figures to Proctor was approved.

Town and State End-of-Year Reports

The Chair had noted slight corrections required. The Reports were approved.

The Chair requested a performance review, turned the meeting over to the Secretary, and withdrew while Trustees prepared written comments. These will be anonymized and delivered to the Chair by the Secretary.

Elections

There were no nominations from the floor. Steve Belcher was approved as Secretary, Brad Lawes was approved as Treasurer (with the caveat that this will be his last year in that position), Jeff Schumann was approved as Vice-Chair, and Doug Perkins was approved as Chair.

The Chair noted plans to attend upcoming Town Select Board meetings to present the annual report, FY 24 assessments, and answer questions.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 16 Feb. 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Senior Citizens' Center, 1591 Forestdale Rd., Brandon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Belcher