

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District
Special Board Meeting
19 January 2023
Unapproved Minutes

Attendance:

Trustees: Doug Perkins, Richard Russ, Brad Lawes, Ben Lawton, Paul Vaczy, John Rouse, Steve Belcher

Other: Will Mathis (OCW), Bruce Bacceti (Proctor), Tom Hogan (Proctor), Wayne Rausenberger. Zoom was available but no-one signed on.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. The Chair noted that there was a quorum and that all towns were represented, although not fully.

The Agenda was approved without changes.

Public Comment

Wayne Rausenberger questioned the omission from the Minutes of the last meeting of certain details from his remarks, focusing specifically on the question of \$50,000 dollars from the State Grant. There was some discussion of the possibility of carry-over from year-to-year (no longer possible). Doug Perkins and Brad Lawes noted that the confusion arose from the differing financial cycles of the State and the OCW: the \$50,000 that Wayne noted came from the 2022 State grant running to June 30, 2023, and so does not count as revenue for the new budget; the anticipated \$70,000 from a State grant starting on July 1, 2023, does not lead to a \$120,000 sum, but rather to partial sums totalling \$70,000/year, carrying over into 2024 in the OCW budget cycle.

There being no changes, the minutes of the November 17, 2022, Regular Meeting were approved.

The Chair offered his report. He noted that Patti Casey and Steve Dwinell (replacing Cary Giguere) of the Agency for Ag. will be visiting on Feb. 16 and attending the Board meeting. In Leicester, a petition is being circulated not to fund adulticiding; this question may come up at the Town meeting.

Will Mathis and the Chair have been working through the OCW website, updating material. For instance, the website listed Permanone as a product used by the OCW, although it has been discontinued by the manufacturer. The Chair requested that someone check the links on the website to make sure they are active; Brad Lawes, Paul Vaczy, and Steve Belcher agreed to perform that task.

The Town of Proctor will be voting on joining the OCW at their Town Meeting. The Chair's Report was approved by unanimous consensus.

Chair Performance Review:

The comments written down anonymously by Trustees in November were copied by the Secretary and delivered to the Chair. He has taken note of their substance. There was some

discussion about introducing new items in the agenda: whether they should be specified at the start of the meeting when the Agenda is approved, or whether they can be introduced under 'New Business'. Steve Belcher noted the difference between actionable items (requiring a prior warning) and informational, where Board members might request, under 'New Business', that certain topics be pursued.

Meetings Schedule

It was agreed that meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Senior Citizen Center, with thanks to the Center for their hospitality.

Proposed Pesticide Regulations: Document CVR 20-031-012

The Chair had earlier distributed the draft of the proposal for new pesticide regulation and the draft of his letter of comment to Patti Casey. The window for public comment had closed, and the OCW was not the only organization that missed the opportunity; news reports cited other State agencies claiming a lack of input.

The principal issues with Section 6.07 (Mosquito Adulticide Permit) were the requirement for individual notification to households and the suggestion that the OCW should work to reduce mosquito habitat. The first entails significant costs and presumes that people living in an area where the Insect Control District has been operating for 40 years are unaware of the activity (the time frame is different for Goshen and Pittsford, later members of the District). There was some discussion of other forms of public notification. The second suggests that the District has any control over private lands, and it does not.

The Board approved sending a copy of the email to the eight Vermont Senators and Representatives who represent the six towns served by the OCW. With some editing changes, the letter of comment was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54.

The next regularly scheduled meeting should be on February 16 at 7:00 pm in the Brandon Senior Citizens Center at 1541 Forestdale Rd. (Rte. 73), with a Zoom connection to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Belcher