

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
Board Meeting  
March 16, 2023  
Unapproved Minutes

Present:

OCW Board: Doug Perkins, Jeff Schumann, Paul Vaczy, Jeff Whiting, John Rouse, Steve Belcher

Others: Will Mathis (OCW), Bruce Baccei and Tom Hogan (Proctor), Wayne Rausenberger.  
There were problems with the Zoom connection.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. The Chair noted a quorum although not all towns were represented. The Agenda was approved.

Public Comment

Wayne Rausenberger offered several comments. First, that on the previous Monday night, two Brandon representatives had been approved by the Select Board; these appointments have not yet been communicated to the District. Second, he noted that at the previous meeting the public was not allowed to question the guests from Montpelier, and suggested that in the future a warning about limiting comments should be offered in the agenda. He was impressed by Steve Dwinell's comments, and had conversation with him after the meeting. Third, he requested information on the District policy on sick time for employees. Fourth, he requested Budget information from past years. Fifth, he noted inaccuracy in a Rutland Daily Herald news story about the Salisbury vote not to approve adulticide treatment. Sixth, he urged that in the warning to Amend the Agreement (required by the vote from Proctor to join the District) there should be added a clause that a 3/4 vote of the Board should allow removal of a town.

The Chair noted that the last request would violate State Law; such a decision rests with the member towns.

Bruce Baccei and Tom Hogan commended the Chair's representation of the District at the Proctor Town Meeting.

The Minutes of the Meeting of Feb. 16 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Brad Lawes was not present, but had distributed the figures for Funds Available by email:

General Checking:	108,159.92
Equipment/Capital	14,348.36
Legal	1004.26
Debit Card	688.29

Total	124,200.83
-------	------------

Balance remaining on the 2023 State Grant: 50,091.40

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

### Operations Report

Will Mathis noted that much of the activity was covered in the Chair's Report: the District is preparing the Integrated Pest Management plan and the permit for Adulthooding. The report was approved.

### Chair's Report

The text, with details on the interactions with the State, had been distributed earlier. It covered an emailed response to Wayne Rausenberger following the previous meetings, reports from David Lodge on drone usage, press contacts, and information about the communications with the State about the permits and the discussion of the Executive Committee on that topic.

The Chair's report was approved.

### Unfinished Business

The trifold had been held up until a report from Proctor could be included and is now headed for press.

### New Business

#### Posting of Public Notices of Intent

The new regulation that came into effect on Feb. 24 sets onerous requirements for notification of the public. The State had suggested making use of media such as the Front Porch Forum. An attempt to set up an FPF account that would allow communication with the 5/6 towns in the District was unsuccessful. A one-time notification is all that is required. Individual Board members will try to take action.

#### Petition to Secretary Tebbetts

The petition is to amend the language on public notice under the Larviciding rules to allow the same qualifier as appears under the Adulthooding rules: 'other means of public notification deemed acceptable by the Secretary.' The petition was approved.

#### OCW Integrated Pest Management Plan

The Chair reported detailed feedback on the draft plan from Steve Dwinell. One question was the threshold of trapped mosquitoes for action; after discussion that included species, what they bit, and comparative data, the Board approved a threshold of 15 for a net-sweep and 40 for a 24-hour light trap. The Agency would also like species identification on the same day as the trapping, prior to action; the District does not have the personnel for such a task. Given that almost all the endemic mosquitoes bite humans, and that females are the ones attracted to traps, the Board agreed that action on counts alone should be sufficient (as modified by later data). The District does not yet have the data on the acreage treated by hand for a cost comparison with aerial treatment, but is collecting it. By contrast, costs for adulthooding are less than \$1/acre.

The maps requested on the habitat of endangered species are being prepared through the good offices of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission.

Submission of the Plan to the State was approved.

#### Adulthooding Permit Application

Jeff Whiting suggested that some clarifications should be added to the request for the 'Standard

Operating Procedures' to distinguish calibrations done by an external company and those done in-house.

A motion to submit the application when complete was approved.

Proctor

The Town of Proctor voted in their Town Meeting to become members of the District. A vote to admit the town requires a two week warning; following approval by the Board, the request must be forwarded to the Member towns for approval within two months. Inclusion of Proctor requires an amendment to the recently revised Agreement that established the ICD.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm. The next scheduled meeting should be on April 20. The venue will be announced in advance.

Respectfully submitted,  
stephen belcher