

Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
20 April 2023  
Unapproved Minutes

Attendance:

Board: Doug Perkins, Tim Kingston, Jeff Whiting, Paul Vaczy, Ben Lawton, Steve Belcher

Guests: Wayne Rausenberger, Bruce Baccei, Tom Hogan, Will Mathis, Richard Russ

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. The Chair noted a quorum with all towns represented.

The Board members introduced themselves to Tim Kingston and learned something of his background.

#### Public Comment

Wayne Rausenberger thanked the individuals who had tried to get him the budget information he had requested at the previous meeting but noted he could not find whether the budget had been voted on. He felt there was no transparency in the matter of sick leave policy for the employees, or in the matter of the availability of meeting materials. He had much to say about Salisbury, asking what the plan of action might be and why there had to be a vote to amend the budget in light of the Salisbury Town Meeting vote on adulticiding. Paul Vaczy explained the terms of the vote. Wayne felt that Salisbury, after its 'stunts' should be expelled.

Doug Perkins noted that under state law for a Town to join or to leave a District, there must be a vote at a duly warned meeting, followed by other steps.

Richard Russ had a question about membership, that he saw as covering adulticiding and larviciding (Doug Perkins added Overhead). How could towns choose their services? The Chair answered that the Board followed the votes of the Town residents.. He noted that Leicester also had introduced a motion about adulticiding at their Town Meeting, but that adulticiding had been approved.

Tom Hogan wondered why, if Salisbury was not paying their share of the costs, they still had two votes on the Board.

The Minutes of the March 16 meeting of the Board were approved.

#### Operations Report

Will Mathis reported preparatory actions: low dip counts in Brandon, a Zoom meeting with Cornell U. to discuss testing for pesticide resistance, maintenance operations on the trucks. The Chair asked about new employees; Will has been trying to recruit some, without success. He is hopeful that an intern might be found to help around the shop and is trying to coordinate with the Lemon Fair ICD.

Asked about the trucks and products, Will said that two trucks were designated for Malathion and three for Permethrin.

On permits, the District has a permit for larviciding, but does not yet have the permit for aerial

treatment or for adulticiding. The five-year NRCS permit comes up for renewal next year; the District is in year two of its ANR permit. The Operations report was approved.

#### Chair's Report

The text of the Chair's report had been distributed earlier by email. He noted a busy month. VAAFM Secretary Tebbitt had replied to the petition requesting a revision of the regulations, to include the phrase 'or other means approved by the Secretary' for communication with the public under the rules for larviciding. He noted that such a change would have to wait until the next time the regulations were revised.

The Chair had been in communication with Steve Dwinell and Patti Casey about the progress of the adulticiding permit, which was in the 'public comment' phase until April 27. All comments so far had been positive. The permit will come with new conditions pertaining to the presence of endangered species.

The Chair's report was approved.

#### Treasurer's Report

Brad Lawes had distributed a report on the District finances. The numbers are:

General Checking (5020)	106,405.96
Equipment Replacement & Capital Improvement (7510)	14,348.36
Legal Account(7660)	994.26
Debit Card(1303)	589.29
Total funds available	122,337.87
Current Balance of 2023 Grant	50,091.40

The Treasurer's report was approved.

#### Old Business

In the absence of Brad Lawes, there was no news on the progress of the water supply for the shed.

Ben Lawton displayed some of the signage to be mounted with the plaque honoring Art Doty inside the shed; he had yet to pick up the piece with the picture.

The updated Trifold Brochure has been printed up and copies were distributed among Board Members. In response to a question, the Chair promised to distribute electronic copies of the brochure (two files, front and back) to be posted on Town Websites or elsewhere.

#### New Business

Proctor Petition for Membership in the District and Amendment to the Agreement

The Chair noted the vote at the Proctor Town Meeting and receipt of a letter from Proctor requesting admission to the District.

The Chair noted that the procedure required two votes by the Board and further action by the member towns: at the Board level, one vote to approve the petition and a second to approve an amendment to the Agreement adding Proctor to the list of member towns. The Secretary would then inform the Chairs of the Select Boards of the Member towns of the vote and request that

they schedule votes on the admission of Proctor and on the amendment. A simple majority vote is sufficient at this level. A two-thirds majority of the five towns (i.e. four towns) is required for approval.

Two motions, one to approve Proctor and one to amend the Agreement were offered. Both passed by the required two-thirds margin: they were unanimous.

#### Question of Salisbury and Budget Adjustment

At its Town Meeting, the citizens of Salisbury voted not to fund the adulticiding portion of their contribution to the OCWICD, but to continue funding larviciding and overhead. Adulticiding in Salisbury is funded until June 30, the end of the fiscal year. Thereafter, there will be some adjustment to the budget because there will be no funds from Salisbury for adulticiding. The reduction totals \$18,000 in chemicals and labor; the new total budget figure would be \$218,329. Jeff Whiting noted there would be no effect on other towns. Tim Kingston asked about the available stocks of chemicals. There is a possibility Malathion would no longer be permitted under the new permit.

The motion to amend the budget, reducing the line item for Adulticide Chemicals by \$9,500 and Adulticide Labor by \$8,500, was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Tom Hogan then noted he had not received a reply to his question, and this matter will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Belcher, Secretary