

Q&A About BLSG Mosquito District's Full-Membership Proposal, to be discussed and voted on at Pittsford's Town Meeting to be held at the Lothrop School Gymnasium at 3447 US Route 7 on Monday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Q. What is the BSLG Mosquito District and when and why was it formed?

A. The BLS Insect Control District was formed in 1987 and the Town of Goshen was added in 1990 by petition. The BLSG Insect Control District is a municipal corporation chartered under the statutes of Vermont. It was formed to control nuisance mosquitoes in the floodplains on Otter Creek and the surrounding towns.

Q. Who runs the District? Does Pittsford have representation on the District's Board?

A. The District is run by a Board of Representatives appointed by the Select Boards of the respective towns. Each town has two representatives and one alternate to the Board. Pittsford currently has two representatives to the Board as well as an alternate and representation would remain the same.

Q. How are the District's operations funded? Does the State contribute? How are State funds used?

A. District operations are funded by contributions from each of the towns as well as a State contribution. The State funds surveillance, collection and identification of larvae and mosquitoes. The Legislature has appropriated \$140,000 per year for this effort. This also includes aerial applications of larvicides when the populations reach treatment levels. This is the ideal way to treat mosquitoes by preventing them from hatching. Once hatched, one mosquito can lay thousands of eggs.

Q. Describe the larvacide program, which Pittsford now benefits from?

A. Surveillance and sampling occurs on a routine basis in swamps and along the flood plains of Otter Creek as well as the tributaries leading into it. Pittsford benefits because the big breeding sites are identified and the larvae are treated (killed), thus preventing the emergence of adult mosquitoes.

Q. Describe the adulticide program, which Pittsford may decide to join?

A. The District maintains an integrated mosquito management program. We are not 100% successful with the larvacide program and some mosquitoes do emerge as biting adults. When this happens, the District employs trucks with ultra-low volume sprayers to dispense adulticides (ground spraying).

Q. How does the adulticide program work? Does the District treat based on sampling, phone calls from residents?

A. The adulticide program is funded by the towns' contributions. Currently the District has a building on 10 acres of land in Brandon which houses five trucks, five sprayers and an Argo which will go in swampy and marsh areas for both sampling and treating (with the larvicides). There is also a boat and an ATV

plus storage for all chemicals in a controlled environment and a laboratory for identification of adult mosquitoes.

Q. Does the District treat along private roads?

A. The licensed District applicators have both a commercial license and government license. The commercial license enables us to treat private roads.

Q. How far in from the road does the spray penetrate? How far in is the spray effective?

A. The sprayer provides a swath approximately 300 ft. wide and depending upon conditions, spray is effective 150 feet from the side of the truck.

Q. How long is the spray effective?

A. We spray at nighttime to avoid flying pollinators. The spray is effective immediately and dissipates soon, depending on air temperatures, wind speed and humidity.

Q. Is adulticide toxic? If so, please explain the safeguards used by the District to keep employees, customers and animals safe.

A. All pesticides are toxic, however, we are using ultra low volumes and atomizing into small particles. Unlike barrier sprays, which leave a residue, there is no residue left by BLSG adulticide applications. Employees are trained in best management practices and have personal protective equipment. Spray routes are listed on our website. Because of the ultra-low volumes applied, animals are not generally affected.

Q. May a resident in an adulticiding town “opt out” of the adulticide program? If so, how does this work? What measures does the District take to respect the wishes of those opting out of the adulticide program?

A. Residents may opt out by sending a written request to BLSG, identifying their parcel on the Town tax map. The Town representatives, in conjunction with staff of BLSG, will then mark the boundaries of the property. Additionally, it will be noted on our spray route maps.

Q. If Pittsford joins the District as a full-member, its annual contribution toward operating costs will significantly increase...How was Pittsford’s share calculated—what factors went into this calculation?

A. Currently, Pittsford is not receiving any adulticide treatment, only larviciding. The cost to the individual towns is calculated on the formula which weights number of houses per mile, number of miles of road to be treated, population density percentage of marshy swampy areas that need to be treated. This formula is applied uniformly over all of the member towns.

Q. Please explain how the District calculated Pittsford’s “buy in” figure was calculated.

A. The buy-in cost was calculated based on current assets of the BLSG. See Answer #6. The real value was determined by appraisal and by replacement cost. Additionally inventory of adulticide materials were included.

Q. What are the District's plans for the money from Pittsford's potential "buy in"?

A. The money received from Pittsford's buy-in will be used to buy additional trucks and sprayers to treat the Town of Pittsford.

Q. If Pittsford joins the District as a full-member and completes its "buy-in" payment(s) and the District ever disbanded, would Pittsford be entitled to recoup its share of the equity in the assets owned by the District?

A. If the District is disbanded, the assets will be sold and distributed proportionately based on each town's contribution to the yearly costs.

*Questions Drafted by Town Manager John Haverstock and Mike Blaisdell, one of Pittsford's two representatives on the BLSG Mosquito District Board; Answers Supplied BLSG Board Chair, Dr. Ben Lawton