

LFICD Board Meeting
May 2, 2023
Cornwall Town Hall

Draft minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:35

Present: David Dodge, Christine Chapline, Dinah Bain, Craig Zondag, Judd Markowski, Gary Rodes, Bob Cluss

The agenda was modified to add an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss employee compensation matters.

2. Approve April minutes: The April minutes are approved.

3. Approve Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$112,786.45

Cash received: \$0.68

Total cash for month: \$112,787.13

Total Disbursements: \$5,039.09

Cash on hand: \$107,748.04

Total Accounts payable: \$0.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$9,350.00

Net Current assets: \$117,098.04

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Field Coordinator's report:

Field Conditions: The first larval activity showed up April 13 & 14 in the Lemon Fair Valley north of the Rte. 125 bridge. Modest concentration found in ditches and nearly no larvae on the floodplain. The Otter Creek has been in high flood for 3 weeks (avg. cfs: 2700 – 3000). Some larval activity was identified near the Fishing Access on Swamp Rd. in Cornwall. The water levels in the swamp breached Swamp Road. ~ Water receded and reflooded the valley the week of April 21. Surveillance in Bridport proved evidence of larval activity in the North Central Floodplain and much higher concentrations in the WRP-NRCS site "East of Payne." So far, all larvae have been identified as *Oc. stimulans*. They are univoltine (one brood per year) and lay eggs that survive the winter. This predominantly Spring/snow melt mosquito stays close to its breeding habitat and historically has not proven to be a nuisance species, unless you walk into their territory. They can be aggressive toward humans. I plan to closely monitor this "East of Payne" site into the first week of May.

Interns: GIS-LiDar Mapping: Unfortunately, the Middlebury College internship opportunity is being placed on hold for this year. Bill Hegman, Middlebury GIS Specialist/Teaching Fellow has taken on a larger project for the College which takes priority given his limited resources.

However, Bill is quite enthusiastic about working with the LFICD next year. He also obtained a new drone with infrared capabilities, which may serve us better for Phase III (Cornwall Swamp).

Interns: Field Biology Technician; We have only received 7 applications this year, versus 18 last year. I believe HandShake (College intern software) has changed their format, whereas students can express interest in this opportunity, but don't apply. I have hired one intern so far from Middlebury College. Her name is Audrey Maxwell and she is currently a Bio-Chem Major. I have another interview set up for Friday, May 5 with a student from UVM. The intern program starts June 1.

Tire Slicer/Sidewall Cutter: The Vermont Agency of Agriculture ("VAA") took delivery of their Tire Slicer/Sidewall Cutter in April. The VAA hopes to see this program roll out in 2023. It's still not clear what role the LFICD will have with this program.

If the VAA will bring the tire slicer to our open house on July 22, we should contact the Champlain Valley Farmer's Coalition so they can advertise it to their members.

5. Status of the to do list for 2023 treatment season

The Aerial Permit has been received from Patty Casey (VAA).

Our 2023 insurance policy has not been received. David will contact Lew Castle.

We do not yet have a quote from North Fork for their rates for possible aerial treatment: Craig will contact them.

Public notices for treatment have gone out to radio and the Addison Independent newspaper.

6. Status of web, email and phone accounts

The Hotline number does not appear to be working. Craig will also need to put the app on his phone to get text translation of hotline calls.

7. New business: none

8. Executive Session:

At 6:42, a motion was made and passed to go into Executive Session to discuss employee compensation matters.

Out of executive session at 6:52

The motion was made to raise the FC salary starting May 1, as discussed in executive session.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Adjourn 6:53

Next meeting: Zoom Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 5:00 PM