

LFICD Board Meeting

Oct 5, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Draft minutes

1. Call to order: 5:42

Present: David Dodge, Dinah Bain, Gary Rodes, Christine Chapline, Alissa Shethar, Craig Zondag

2. Approve Sept. 7, 2021, minutes:

The Sept. minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$98,450.84

Cash received: \$0.15

Total cash for month: \$98,450.99

Total disbursements: \$17,244.42

Cash on hand: \$81,206.57

Accounts payable: \$1200.00

Accounts receivable: \$35,143.52

Net current assets: \$115,150.09

4. Field and lab report: (Craig Zondag)

I have extended the permanent trap season by one week. The last collections took place the second week in Sept. However, I'll be setting up traps at sites of particular concern and complaints as weather allows. Light traps yield fairly fresh-looking *Oc. trivittatus*, indicating that these species have still been emerging from temporary woodland and upland puddles. The Lemon Fair River is well within its banks. I'm starting to receive the data from the Vermont Agricultural and Environmental Laboratory for the mosquito submissions I gave them back in early September. We're nearing the end. However, aside from being one of our largest trap years,

we have witnessed record numbers of individual species. Season total: 57,000+ mosquitoes. New species have been collected: *Psorophora ferox* and *Ochlerotatus hendersoni*. *Ps. Ferox* has been known to carry as many as 6 virus isolations. *Oc. hendersoni* has no known virus isolations. In fact, very little is known about the biology of this species. At the writing of this, (10/4/2021) the State of Vermont has reported that 1,668 pools (1 pool = 50 mosquitoes) have all tested negative for EEEv and WNV. We have also collected record numbers of *Culiseta melanura*. This species has shown up at all but one of the 8 permanent trap sites. The State has assured me, despite the “bump” in their population there has been no indication of EEE.

UVM UAS/Drone Workshop: I have completed a three-week (two weeks of actual instruction) course on “Unmanned Aircraft Systems (“UAS” aka Drone) Workshop.” The workshop provided information focused on mapping using UAS technology and data analysis and using ArcGIS (geographic information system mapping software). As we look toward this technology, initially for surveillance our hope is to see the necessary provisions in the State of Vermont to allow mechanical drones to be deployed that could be used in larvicide treatments. I will be studying this Winter and work toward getting my FAA UAS Part 107 Certificate (commercial drone license). This would allow me to begin conducting surveillance with greater accuracy and efficiency of high-water lines using a small surveillance drone.

Complaint Calls: I’ve collected mosquitoes from numerous complaint sites and I am creating a separate spreadsheet for tallying and identification. This data will be helpful in comparing sites and habitats by species and relevant prevalence. Of 3,396 mosquitoes trapped between 4 different properties, 2,130 were *Oc. trivittatus* and 463 were *Ae. vexans*. These totals are separate from the permanent Light Trap sites. There are still some properties I’ve not been able to get to. I plan on visiting the remainder of these properties even though the mosquitoes may not be as bad. It will afford me to still note potential breeding areas and make recommendations.”

Craig will attend annual Northeast Mosquito Control Association meeting Dec. 6-8, which is virtual again this year.

5. Public outreach: no new complaints this month.

6. Select Board Meetings:

Scheduled Select Board meetings to discuss the 2021 season:

The Cornwall Sept. 21 Select Board meeting was attended by Craig, David and Chris.

Bridport Select Board meeting: Tues, Oct. 12

Weybridge Select Board meeting: Tues, Nov. 2

7. Drone update:

Craig will email Bill Reynolds at Leading Edge Technology to ask for help with language for discussing the permitting of payload drones with the VAA.

8. New board member: none

9. New business: The 2022 LFICD draft budget is due in Nov. David and Dinah will work on it.

10. Next meeting:

Virtual meeting: November 2, 2021, 5:30 P.M.