

LFICD Board Meeting
Tuesday, Sept 1, 2026
5:30 PM via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:31

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

2. Approve the August 4, 2026 draft minutes:

The August 4, 2026 minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$129,267.53

Cash received: \$29,931.77

Total cash for month: \$159,199.30

Total Disbursements: \$59,752.64

Cash on hand LFICD: \$99,446.66

Total Accounts payable: \$0.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net cash, w/grant cash not in CDs: \$99,446.66

Net current cash w/o grant cash: \$98,741.66

Net current assets with grant cash and CD: \$207,004.44

Private Grant:

Initial: \$72,200

Added to checking account: \$36,200.00

Initial CD deposit: \$36,000.00

Spent: \$500.00

CD interest in 2025: \$683.21

CD interest 1/2026-8/2026: \$874.57

Current Grant CD value (final): \$37,557.78

Current total value: \$73,257.78

CD#2:

Deposited (August): \$35,000

Dinah has not requested the yearly \$6,000 contributions from each of the 3 towns; our current balance does not include the towns contributions.

Motion:

Due to non-treatment, the LFICD will not request the \$6,000 contribution from each of the towns for LFICD fiscal year 2026.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dinah will write letters to the Towns to let them know we will not be asking for their 2026 contributions, but they should keep \$6,000 for the LFICD in their budgets for next year.

4. Field Coordinator Report:

Mosquito Season: Rain gauge amounts yielded approximately 3"-4" for the month of August. Several rain events yielded just 0.1". The Lemon Fair River has stayed well within its banks. One rain event created puddling in the floodplain and gave rise to some mosquito larval activity. Thresholds didn't warrant treatment of any kind. Adult mosquitoes that may have emerged would have been "bird food." However, Light Traps set up near the Cornwall Swamp have collected the most mosquitoes. I walked several acres of the swamp and couldn't even find puddling. We need to come up with a means of better surveillance of the swamp to pinpoint where concentrated hatches of mosquitoes are taking place.

NEVBD (Northeastern Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases): As required by the VAA-F&M, the interns and myself have been collecting mosquito egg rafts out in the field from artificial containers and bringing them back to rear them in the lab. New since July, we've deployed 2 more 5-gallon pails with water and grass clippings to attract "egg raft laying mosquitoes." We've had success in collecting egg rafts from just outside the lab. However, hatched eggs once again just yield *Culex restuans* larvae. A total of 223 egg rafts have been collected to date. Once we get a representative sample of early instar larvae (goal: min. 10 sets of egg rafts) we send them to the NEVBD at Cornell University in NY for pesticide resistance testing. Cornell also likes our Vermont mosquitoes and has set up in-house breeding colonies and have requested that we send as many as we can to grow the colony. Currently we still have not had a representative sample to send to the NEVBD program.

Middlebury Lidar-GIS Mapping Internship: Henry Chambers has finished up his internship contract with Middlebury College. He last met with us on August 14 along with Gary Rodes. He offered an orientation to the means by which we will be able to create treatment maps in the future and provide the updated information to a Drone Operator. He was unable to provide the larger maps which includes property boundaries and well heads in a printed form because that printer at the College was down. Maps are forthcoming this Fall.

Private Property Studies: Unfortunately, Henry Chambers, Middlebury College Mapping Intern, was unable to fly the drone over this study site for one last time to capture the placement of the Study Sites from the air. The last site visit took place on 8/18/2026. It was a post rain event visit with .85" to 1" recorded. Once again, conditions were such that no puddling occurred. CDC Light Traps were set up on two different nights yielding 595 and 397 mosquitoes respectively. Once again, *Aedes vexans* (floodplain mosquito) was the predominant mosquito collected. It's not clear as to where these mosquitoes are coming from, although the site is less than 2.5 miles North of the Cornwall Swamp. Other relevant field observations were documented. A written report was created and will be shared with the property owner.

Addison County Fair and Field Days on Wed., August 5th. Once again, the LFICD was well received by the Home & Garden Pavilion at the Addison County Fair and Field Days. We were fortunate to have Henry join us for a time, exhibiting some of the new technology the district is

gaining access to. 233 people stopped by the tables. Both Wrenna and Joe did a great job in working with the public, educating and answering questions. We had a new display of pinned insects that seemed to be a drawing card, particularly to families with small children. These are insects that are non-target species that get caught in our traps. They provided a segue to mosquito education. ~ The Mason jar with “Guess how many Mosquitoes are in the jar,” was also very popular and added another educational opportunity. The total number of mosquitoes in the jar was 28,594 to date, every single one looked at under the stereoscope and identified. A woman from NY guessed 28,537!... Only 61 mosquitoes off! Unfortunately, she was unable to claim the “Bugg Zapper Racket” prize as she had already left the Fair.

CDC Light Trap Site; Fairy Tale Farm, Bridport: Of all 8 Light Trap Sites, this site seems to yield the majority of *Cx. pipiens/restuans* mosquitoes. The property owner has given us permission to do some clearing of brush and create a path leading up to the pond not far from the trap site. I’ll start sampling for aquatic invertebrates at this site and see if there is any correlation of the presence of *Culex* at this site. I will also dip in the outflow of the “Skating Rink” to the west. Payne Drive divides these two areas.

Summer Interns: Wrenna finished her internship with us on Friday, August 14. She expressed gratitude in being able to apply technical skills involved in creating graphs (applied knowledge from school). Being both made aware and learning about insects and ecosystems gave her practical knowledge of “cause and effect” aspects of field biology. As the internship progressed, she became more acclimated to presence of “bugs.” Joe Baker finished her last day on Thursday, August 27.

OCWICD has requested help to identify larva for the State requirement of egg raft collections for the Cornell NEVBD program. Craig is meeting with their new employee to facilitate this.

5. Gary’s transition; reassign Gary’s duties:

Gary has listed the details for the accounts he is managing:

Text Now and Visible (Craig)

Pork bun (domain registry): Bob

Wix (website host): Bob

6. New business:

Bob has written a letter to the grant donor with a yearly update of spending activities.

November (public) meeting in Bridport on election day? Reserve the Bridport town meeting hall?

7. Adjourn: 6:40

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6 2026, 5:30 PM via Zoom.

To view a video of this meeting use the following link:

https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/yG5GzG1VUcxgAn7m1XdnY-1EfGfVjNakUgX8iBv0OZ1lWBbH7svL_QDw9_zA09IW.5uuAT8Z2Kz3YNTN1

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