

LFICD Board Meeting
February 3, 2025
via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: Dinah Bain, Bob Cluss, Annie Murphy, Gary Rodes, Judd Markowski, Craig Zondag

2. Approve January 7, 2024 draft minutes:

The January 7, 2024 minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

No Treasurer's report for February, but no new activity.

4. Field coordinator report (Craig Zondag):

I met with Bill Hegman and his intern from last year, Aiden DiLorenzo on Jan. 21 to go over some of the new research utilizing an infrared drone. The data and images are capable of teasing out features in the landscape that might otherwise be overlooked. Once again, I am looking forward to working with Bill and another intern this season from the GIS-Lidar lab, particularly as we will look at pairing technology with a drone service being made available to the LFICD this year. I will be meeting with Bill again on Feb. 11 at 9:30 AM.

The LFICD Field Tech Internship posting will go out by Feb. 7 and be posted on HandShake. It will be advertised as a 13-week internship, beginning June 1, and ending August 29. Once again, we are hoping to recruit 2 college students.

I met with Zach Szczukowski (VAAF, in charge of Uncrewed Aerial Systems pesticide permitting) and David Huber (deputy director of VAAF) on-line to discuss this year's Aerial Permit on January 23. Permits are currently being worked on and also coordinating permit allocation with Rick Jordon of CNY Drones. I also had a phone conversation with Rick Jordon to go over some preliminary planning in setting up the season. Rick may be coming up as early as April to do some test flights and calibrate the payload drone for the granular product. The cost for Rick Jordon to come for a test run and calibration needs to be determined.

5. Drone grant proposal: (Bob Cluss)

Bob has written a 2-page draft proposal for a grant to explore drone usage in larviciding. The board worked on edits to Bob's draft proposal, which he would like to submit by mid-February. The draft is written as a 2-phase, 2-year project. The major budget areas include:
Year 1: working with CNY drone on drone usage training, licensing, etc.
Year 2: purchasing a drone, dry spreader, insurance, etc. to become operational.
Bob will email Patti Casey to fill her in on the proposal.

6. To-do list:

a. Reviewing and revising the LFICD Formation Agreement.

b. 1-year Aerial permit application:

Craig is already working with the VAAF on the yearly aerial permit, Chris will help, as necessary.

7. New business:

Chris has cancelled her Zoom account, so the Sept. and Oct. Zoom recording links will cease to work as of Feb. 18. Public meeting rules only require the recordings to be up for 30 days after the minutes are approved.

Gary is working on changing our web-host account away from MacHighway. He will look into Proton Mail as a provider.

8. Adjourn: 6:55

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 5:30 PM via Zoom

Link to meeting video:

https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/XX5Kaj7rbPj3WUGSvD9RXmhozPS4tcR7I7SwqTzJxsGw9i85ffCjncHA5tZmh6D.WNV5DCEIZu_nIH3j

Passcode: Mj!932zQ