

LFICD Board Meeting
Sept 3, 2024
Virtual Zoom meeting

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:40

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

2. Approve August 6, 2024 minutes:

The August minutes are approved with minor typo fixes.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$110,052.40

Cash received: \$6,548.06

Total cash for month: \$122,600.46

Total Disbursements: \$23,688.35

Cash on hand: \$98,912.11

Total Accounts payable: \$1,500.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0

Net Current assets: \$97,412.11

The Treasurer's report is approved.

A Draft Budget proposal is needed for our October meeting discussion. The biggest change from this year will be in the proposed cost of treatment (by drone company now, vs helicopter company). The public budget hearing is to be held during our November 5, 2024 meeting.

We need to address updating the Formation Agreement again to reflect how we now operate.

4. Field coordinator's report:

Field Conditions: The month of August only yielded 5.65" of rain. The largest rain event of the month yielded 1.4" and 0.6" within the same 24-hour period. The Lemon Fair River stayed within its banks the whole month. However, puddling in the floodplain proved some hatching activity. Field surveillance included a complaint call from a resident in Bridport who lives adjacent to the Potash Creek. The potential issue stems from the neighbor who owns most of that section of the stream. We received permission and on August 14th, we treated the 1.4-acre area with Mosquito Dunks. We further surveyed the properties to identify artificial habitats breeding mosquitoes. Both residents expressed gratitude for our work and education. On August 14th, we also surveyed and conducted a prophylactic treatment in the Cornwall Swamp using Four Star Briquets (45 Day briquettes). This is a site we have been monitoring and treating for several years. On August 16th, we surveyed the "Skating Rink" off of Rte. 125 and adjacent to Payne Drive. We treated this area by hand also with the Four Star Briquets. On August 21st, we conducted a post treatment survey and mopped up some areas and also treated the south side of Rte. 125 at that site. On August 21st, we also hand treated an area referred to as "Lemon Fair Flats" located adjacent to Lemon Fair Rd. on the NW side of the bridge going over the Fair. The Lemon Fair River is currently at its lowest that I have seen in several years. The CDC Light Traps have yielded 78,672 mosquitoes so far this year.

Addison County Fair & Field Days: As mentioned in the July FC report, the Home and Garden Building afforded us a table at the Fair again this year. It was the fastest 13+ hours of any given day. That morning

began picking up CDC Light traps, then loading up everything to display at the Fair. Ryan and Ev were amazing. It was an opportunity for them to share their experience from being in the lab and field, data entry... and they were fabulous! They engaged with folks on numerous occasions for 25+ minutes at a time. Ev kept track of every person that stopped by. An amazing 321 people were recorded! This has become a highlight for the interns because it gives them an opportunity to articulate what they've learned and more importantly, educating folks on what they can do to reduce mosquitoes on their properties.

Craig has received an emailed letter from the Northeast Mosquito Control Association (NMCA) requesting members and their districts to support a letter they plan to send to the US Senate and House Appropriations Committees. The NMCA email states:

By signing on in support of our letter, we hope to demonstrate the importance of supporting our work to Congressional leaders and hopefully will improve our mosquito surveillance efforts nationwide. Specifically, this letter supports:

1. Appropriations authorized in the permanent provisions of the Strengthening Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health (SMASH) Act and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness (PAPHA) Act, as well as reauthorization of expiring provisions of the Act.
2. An additional \$10 million in appropriations in the Fiscal Year 2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to establish a nationwide database for mosquito monitoring, disease surveillance, and pesticide reporting.
3. Federal legislation, such as H.R. 2864, should be amended to allow public safety and public health agencies reasonable accommodations to continue using drones produced by any manufacturer approved by the FAA to monitor and control mosquitoes.

A motion was made for the LFICD to support and sign the NMCA's letter requesting federal funding for a mosquito surveillance database and other mosquito surveillance efforts. The motion was passed unanimously. Craig and Bob will send our response back to the NMCA by Thursday, Sept 5.

5. Discussion on OCW request to have Craig train OCW employees

Stephen Belcher, OCW interim chair, contacted Craig and met with him at our lab. He suggested that the OCW might want Craig to help train new employees on mosquito identification and lab practices.

Craig would be open to helping them during the off season.

A discussion was had on whether any help Craig gives the OCW should be a separate consulting opportunity for Craig, or should any work for them go through his LFICD employment, which has the benefit of creating closer association between the two districts.

No decision was made, but we will revisit if the OCW does ask for assistance.

6. Discuss open meeting law requirement to post video, need paid Zoom account, web designer (Gary)

Gary is not present to discuss, but with an LFICD Zoom account and Zoom cloud storage, a Zoom link to the meeting videos can be posted on our website rather than having to post the videos themselves.

7. Adjourn: 6:40

Next meeting: October 1, 5:30 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting