

LFICD Board Meeting
Sept. 2, 2025
Via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:45

Present: Dinah Bain, Bob Cluss, Annie Murphy, Christine Chapline, Craig Zondag, David Zarowin

2. Approve July 1, 2025 draft minutes (The August LFICD board meeting was cancelled):

The July 1, 2025 minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report

	August:	September:
Cash forward:	\$138,711.37	\$129,442.16
Cash received:	\$111.87	\$115.89
Total cash for month:	\$138,823.24	\$129,558.05
Total Disbursements:	\$19,059.62	\$15,955.14
Cash on hand:	\$119,763.62	\$113,602.91
Total Accounts payable:	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Accounts receivable	\$0.00	\$35,301.23
CD:	\$36,000.00	\$36,111.12
Net Current assets:	\$155,763.62	\$185,015.26

4. Field Coordinator's reports for July and August (Craig Zondag)

July report:

Field conditions in the first week and a half of July have proven very dry with the Lemon Fair River at some of its' lowest levels of flow. Precipitation for the month of July averaged approximately 2.5 inches. Nearly all rain events were isolated and sporadic across the landscape. The flood plain never even puddled. CDC Light Traps are yielding far less mosquitoes and the predominance of species are the "Cattail Mosquito" (*Coquillittidia pertubans*) as opposed to the "Floodplain mosquito" (*Aedes vexans*) which was the prominent mosquito in early June. Light traps have yielded 79,525 mosquitoes to date with 20,820 *Ae. vexans* and 37,595 *Cq. pertubans*. Nuisance levels are low throughout the survey area and I've received numerous reports from folks stating that there is little to no mosquito activity around their homes.

I met with Meissa, from Bill Hegman's Middlebury College GIS-Lidar Mapping Internship, on 7/9/2025. She began to go over the work she has done with regard to designing "treatment polygons" that can be easily downloaded to a drone operator. We are very fortunate to have had the support of this program and all that it has offered over the years.

On July 19th we hosted our Annual LFICD Open House. Meissa and LFICD intern, Kaeli Gusek, were present. Patti Casey, and two VAA-FM employees brought the sidewall tire cutter to demonstrate. About 50 tires were delivered to us from the OCW for the demonstration. The OCW then picked up the sidewalls.

Kaeli Gusek and myself, took the canoe out on the Lemon Fair River to document an old “causeway” that was built across the Lemon Fair River to allow farmers to access the fields to the east. This causeway effects the flow of the river and potentially creates conditions for mosquito habitat as well as affect the overall drainage of the river.

On July 30th, the LFICD had a booth at the Home & Garden Pavilion.

Both interns will be leaving on or around the 19th of August. It’s going to take a unique rain event or series of rain events to provoke a treatment scenario at this point.

August report:

Precipitation for the month of August averaged approximately 1.7 inches. Nearly all rain events were isolated and sporadic across the landscape. The flood plain never even puddled. Once again, CDC Light Traps are yielding far less mosquitoes. The week of August 26 and 27 yielded a total of 96 mosquitoes between 8 Light traps. On July 2nd, one Light trap alone yielded 5,944 mosquitoes and a total of 18,047 mosquitoes for the week between 8 Light traps. Light traps have yielded 81,863 mosquitoes to date. with 21,269 *Ae. vexans* and 38,584 *Cq. pertubans*. Nuisance levels are low throughout the survey area.

On August 12th, I was given the opportunity to address the Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee ~ Quarterly Meeting. It gave me an opportunity to address the question, “What would the REMC do if there was a mosquito outbreak with the potential for disease transmission on a large scale?”

End of Season: I will continue to set CDC Light Traps through the end of September. I’ve received support from the VAA-FM to continue operations as usual. The value in the practice of collecting mosquitoes into the Fall is establishing a record of what shows up during this time of year and also if a significant rain event yields a potential hatch.

Please note: The VAA-FM collects blood fed mosquitoes throughout the state and submit them to the VT Dept. of Health for testing. Also, please note, that there is greater potential in the late season mosquito that can transmit disease. Female mosquitoes capable of laying more than one batch of eggs require a blood meal for each batch of eggs laid. If the blood meal they get is from an infected bird or mammal repeatedly, the viremia begins to concentrate within that female. If you happen to be the next blood meal, you could be injected with the disease. The current diseases being tested for in the State of VT are West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and Jamestown Canyon Virus. Protect yourself!

5. Discussion on using the private drone grant money to pay CNY Drone Service to treat in the OCW if conditions warrant

So far, we have spent \$500 of the Vermont Community Foundation (VCF) money for CNY Drone Service to demonstrate their drone in early Spring. Dry conditions have not warranted an actual drone treatment for mosquito larva during the season.

The Board discussed whether or not we should use VCF grant funds to support the OCW mosquito district if they have sufficient larva to warrant a treatment? Due to drought conditions, it is not likely that a treatment will be needed in either district during the remainder of the season. However, we need to get practical experience with using CNY Drone Service for larviciding. If the OCW has a need to treat before the LFICD, should we use some of the drone grant money to support the OCW district, while also getting trial run experience for us?

Suggestion: a cost share, such as the OCW pays ½ the cost of the drone service in their area for 1 initial treatment. If CNY treats both districts during the same initial event, we will pay for all of our treatment + ½ of an OCW treatment.

A motion was made to use drone grant money to pay ½ the cost for an initial treatment in the OCW if requested by them, if and when a hatching event warrants. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob will contact Jeff Schuman and let him know of our decision.

6. Formation Agreement revision update:

The subcommittee to revise and update the 2005 LFICD Formation Agreement met in July to edit and suggest new revisions to the 2017 amended version of the LFICD Formation Agreement. The suggested revisions essentially fixed the out of sequence dates in the budget hearing process and tried to clean up the wording and have it conform throughout the document. We don't believe any substantive changes were made to any of the document's described procedures or intent. The amended document needs to be sent to each of the towns' Select Boards with a letter asking them to accept the revisions.

7. Approve Craig going to the 2025 Pest Management Professionals Meeting.

A motion was made to pay for Craig to attend the Pest Management Professionals meeting in West Lebanon, NH on October 14, 2025, including fees, overnight hotel and mileage. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Preliminary budget discussion-how to account for the drone grant money?

A discussion was held on the best way to include the drone grant money in the Treasurer's Report and Annual Budget accounting, so that money used for drone services and paid for by the VCF drone grant is clearly delineated.

9. New Business:

Bob would like to move the October meeting to October 14, all present were in favor.

10. Adjourn: 6:55

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 5:30 PM, via Zoom

Video of this meeting:

https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/LuXki5oS27UBD2tJkDw_yfoCWbcbp0MAfcXlc5Zv9PWZ_LIVIR9X8CVZLo02BI-m.WKgBu0CC6toBo6FF?startTime=1756849585000

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