

**Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Cornwall, VT
August 4, 2015**

Minutes

1. Call to order: 5:05

Present: David Dodge, Dinah Bain, Lew Castle, Chuck Burkins, Christine Chapline, Alissa Shethar, Craig Zondag, Melissa Lourie

2. Approve July minutes

The July minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report

Cash forward: \$63,638.61

Cash received: \$0.13

Total cash for month: \$63,638.74

Total disbursements: \$9,307.54

Cash on hand: \$54,331.20

Accounts payable: \$0

Accounts receivable: \$200.00

Net current assets: \$54,531.20

No sales tax was due on the plane after all (after documents on the establishment of LFICD were sent to the State).

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Field survey and IPM update

Field tech survey hours in July shifted from larval surveying to IPM (Integrated Pest Management) surveying—particularly adult mosquito collection and identification. For instance, the techs have set traps regularly (4-5x so far) on Blue Spruce Farm (Weybridge), since the first trap that was set caught 3,000 mosquitoes there.

Craig is seeing pockets of mosquitoes throughout the valley in dense vegetation resting habitat. Weybridge mosquitoes could be coming off of Snake Mtn., but there is no practical way to survey up there.

The valley is still drying down; recent storms have been absorbed quickly.

Light trapping data—a large number of samples of adult mosquitoes have been collected, but the identification process is slow and there is a learning curve for the techs.

Goal for adult trapping: Identification of mosquito species will determine if the problem mosquitoes are coming from the flood plain. If we have problems with adult flood plain mosquitoes even though the larval counts have been low, it will demonstrate that we need to lower the larval threshold for treatment. If the larval threshold had been an average of 5/dip instead of 20/dip, we would have treated 600 acres 3 or 4 times this season. Other districts across the country make the assumption that when they find any larva there will be a lot more out there. Adult trapping and identification also helps us to advise landowners on whether their

problem mosquitoes arise in the floodplain or vegetation, etc. and how to ameliorate their problem.

So far, the identified mosquitoes have largely been flood plain mosquitoes. Large numbers of flood plain mosquitoes makes the case for prophylactic larviciding with a long lasting larvicide in the spring. Puddles in the floodplain that persist between events breed adult mosquitoes that continue to multiply exponentially during the summer.

David spoke with Tim S. (VAA) about using an ARGO amphibious vehicle for treating the range of acreage that is too low for hiring helicopter treatment but large enough to need treatment (50-600 acres). Tim is skeptical and would prefer leasing a vehicle to try it out rather than buying one.

We need to figure out how to staff next year for the IPM work. The VAA is willing to spend money on IPM data. Right now it is difficult to manage 3 light traps with 3 techs. This year is something of a pilot study to determine where traps should be placed in the future. Craig can visualize managing up to 8 light traps.

We need to establish a new spreadsheet for light trapping data (Craig Z. and Chris C.):

Counts

Species

Physical factors (wind speed, rain, etc)

Date, time, waypoint

Chuck B. has overlaid the collected data (larval sampling, light traps, resident complaints) on Google Maps in layers to look for patterns of mosquito problems.

5. Public outreach

The mosquito complaint hotline went live in July.

Most calls came in mid-July after the information for the hotline was posted. There were 23 total calls. Some people gave very specific information. The calls are clustered. The flyers were placed in Weybridge later than in Cornwall or Bridport and there have been no calls from Weybridge thus far. The Addison Independent called the hotline and would like to know the results of the public complaint line. Alissa S. will write a response statement for the Addison Independent.

6. Plane update: Lew C. checked on the status of our old plane (for the benefit of Tom Vanacore) and discovered that the buyer has had to put \$25,000 into repairs.

7. Tom Vanacore

Tom Vanacore had requested a spot on the agenda to discuss his idea of establishing a private aerial service, but he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

8. BLSG meeting update

The July 9, 2015 BLSG Insect Control District meeting was attended by Chuck B. and David D. in order to continue cooperative efforts.

BLSG is in a similar situation as LFICD—not many larva found, but a lot of adult mosquitoes.

The BLSG is still considering buying an Argo vehicle, but would probably only be using liquid treatment products from it.

9. Grant Agreement:

The grant agreement with the State for 2015-2016 was reviewed and brought up to date; David D. will send the draft to Tim Schmalz (VAA) for comment.

10. Sovereign Immunity (Vt. League of Cities and Towns)

The issue of whether or not the mosquito districts qualify for sovereign immunity for liability issues was on the BLSG agenda in July. The BLSG decided to rely on insurance up to their limit and then rely on sovereign immunity. Lew C. has contacted the League of Cities and Towns, which is set up to help municipalities with liability issues. LCT and sovereign immunity is specific to municipalities doing specific activities; which we believe would not apply to the LFICD. We have \$1,000,000 in liability coverage. We will ask to be named as additionally insured on JBI's (or any other service) policy if we use them for treatment.

11. Adjourn: 7:00

Next meeting: Sept. 1, 2015, Bridport Town Office, 5:00