

LFICD Board Meeting
Dec. 7, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Draft minutes

1. Call to order: 5:32

Present: David Dodge, Dinah Bain, Gary Rodes, Christine Chapline, Alissa Shethar, Judd Markowski, Wendy Lynch, Craig Zondag
(Late start to our discussions due to a mix up in the zoom link on the original draft Agenda, which was sent to the town clerks. The board waited for possible public participation before beginning the budget discussion).

2. Approve November 2 Minutes:

The November minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$78,916.95
Cash received: \$35,139.33
Total cash for month: \$114,056.28
Total disbursements: \$4,399.74
Cash on hand: \$109,656.54
Total accounts payable: \$1,200
Accounts receivable: \$0
Net current assets: \$108,456.54

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. 2022 Budget Presentation and Approval:

The LFICD 2022 budget is about the same as in the past few years. The budget is based on a calendar fiscal year; the State Grant is on a July-June fiscal year.

Income consists of a \$70,000 grant for certain reimbursable expenses from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture and \$18,000 from the 3 Towns. Major budgeted reimbursable expenses include payroll of \$60,000 (assumes another bad mosquito year), aerial treatment of \$25,000 (if needed), purchase of larvicide of \$15,000 (if needed).

The largest non-reimbursable budgeted expense is \$4,400.00 for liability insurance.

The Board approved the proposed budget unanimously.

5. Field and lab report:

Craig and the LFICD Board would like to thank Jean Raymond for 19 hours of volunteer time helping to sort mosquitoes this fall.

Intern updates:

Sam Chester has asked Craig for letters of recommendation for graduate school programs in Earth Science and expressed how much he enjoyed his field and lab experience with us.

The annual Northeast Mosquito Control Association conference has begun and Craig is participating.

Of interest so far in the conference reports:

VT reported 1 case of West Nile Virus in humans, but no mosquito pools tested positive; there were no Eastern Equine Encephalitis cases.

NH had 4 cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus; VT does not test for JCV. NH also had 3 cases of Powassan virus (spread by ticks).

MA had 11 cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

There was an influx of late season mosquitoes in all the reporting states with spikes at the end of July and in August (except NJ, which had a wet spring).

A MA group conducted aerial spraying of spinosad (a natural larvicide) against *Culiseta melanura* (a EEE vector) larva and then took water samples to test for spinosad concentration. They found it to be too diluted and not well enough disbursed to be effective against *Culiseta melanura* larva in cattails.

Conference attendees are reporting that mosquito control products have been hard to get during the pandemic.

Craig's winter plans: Craig plans to contact road commissioners to discuss roadside ditching to ensure that the ditches are able to drain so that they don't harbor mosquitoes. Craig will meet with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture mosquito group to standardize mosquito trap reporting.

Proposed treatment strategy for 2022:

Ongoing field surveillance in monitoring larval activity will continue as usual with the caveat that treatment recommendation will take place with much lower thresholds for both the Lemon Fair River Valley and the Cornwall Swamp. In the event the Lemon Fair is in high flood, key mosquito breeding areas will be specifically targeted, focusing on the high-water line, the Maple Swamp and a new area of emphasis within the WRP (federal Wetlands Reserve Program).

In addition, we are looking at the first ever significant prophylactic treatment using 150-day briquettes within a one mile stretch of the Lemon Fair River, addressing mosquito breeding grounds identified as "scroll bars" which are adjacent to the river channel and also in ditches and regions of the floodplain that sustain water long enough to promulgate a hatch. This treatment recommendation is coming to us through the State by means of the work created and documented through a GIS- LiDAR Mapping Internship with Middlebury College.

6. Outreach:

Alissa will update the LFICD address information with the Better Business Bureau. Internet address brokers have contacted us to sell us the “lficd.com” address; we are not interested.

7. New Board member update: none

8. New Business:

The LFICD budget is on tonight’s Cornwall Select Board’s agenda; David and Wendy will attend to answer any questions.

9. Adjourn: 6:50 pm

Next meeting: Virtual meeting January 4, 2022, 5:30 pm.