

LFICD Board Meeting
January 7, 2025
via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: David Zarowin, Dinah Bain, Bob Cluss, Christine Chapline, Annie Murphy, Gary Rodes, Craig Zondag, Judd Markowski, Lew Castle (Gaines Insurance), Jeff Schumann (OCWICD)

Additions to the agenda: Officer election, New Business

2. Approve December 3, 2024 draft minutes:

The December 2024 minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$124,707.60

Cash received: 0.78

Total cash for month: \$124,708.38

Total Disbursements: \$4,797.49

Cash on hand: \$119,910.89

Total Accounts payable: \$1,500.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$118,410.89

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Field Coordinator Report and NMCA meeting report

Craig attended the annual meeting of the Northeast Mosquito Control Association in early December and reported the following to the board via email on December 16:

In talking to folks, I'm being strongly encouraged to present a paper next year further interpreting the work and contributions of Middlebury College and the GIS-Lidar Mapping program and internship. I was able to set up a display table with the GIS-Lidar maps and information and talk to folks of the benefits of this program. I learned that the State of Massachusetts does not allow drone use, even for area surveillance of wetlands! When I mentioned that we are now poised in our BMP (best management practice) in having access to larviciding via drone, the folks in MA strongly encouraged me to also report on our use of this practice and are planning on inviting State legislators to attend my presentation in hopes of beginning to break down some of the barriers that prevent this technology to be used in MA. It was a bit astounding how many districts and mosquito abatement programs reported a high presence of EEE this past year. *Culiseta melanura* wasn't the only competent vector (for EEE). As many as 7 other species of mosquitoes tested positive for EEE, two of them being common in the LFICD, *Coquillettidia perturbans* and *Anopheles punctipennis*.

Craig also met with Dr. Laura Harrington who is the Director for the NEVBD (The Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases) at Cornell and mentioned that he never received the follow-up data from the LFICD egg raft and larval submissions from last season. He has since received their report on pesticide resistance found in the mosquitoes reared from the egg rafts he submitted, showing that there was some resistance to methoprene, which is the same result as last year and is likely caused by cross resistance from agricultural pesticides.

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Farms and Markets presentation of their 2024 mosquito data at NMCA by Eliza Doncaster:

45% of the mosquitoes the VAAFM collected were *Coquillettidia perturbans* (cattail), which was also the predominate species that harbored EEE in one of the northeastern districts, not *Culiseta melanura*.

64 pools from the VAAFM traps were positive for WNV and 86 pools were positive for EEE. Asian tiger mosquitoes (which carry dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever viruses) have been identified as far north as Rutland.

5. Drone grant proposal discussion:

Recap: Bill Hegman, GIS specialist at Middlebury College, attended our December board meeting to talk about an opportunity to apply for a grant from an anonymous foundation that had expressed an interest in supporting the LFICD in acquiring a drone to be used for larvicide application.

A 3-board member committee met to begin to draft a proposal. Tonight's discussion is whether or not to write the proposal as a 1-phase (ask for money to buy a drone for our use in larviciding) or 2-phase (spend next season collecting data and experience while using a drone contractor for larviciding before buying our own drone) proposal. Lew Castle is here to discuss the insurance implications of owning our own drone.

Plusses for owning our own drone:

A drone in our possession would eliminate the lag time that using an outside contractor might have. CNY still has a 200-acre minimum. There is the uncertainty of response time with a contractor.

Negatives: We don't have experience using a drone for larvicide application. We would need a pilot who is also licensed for pesticide application.

Plusses for a 2phase proposal:

We will use next season contracting with CNY Drone Service, using their drone service as an exploratory phase to see how often larvicide application is called for and to get information from CNY about drone insurance and maintenance costs.

Negative: We don't know how flexible the foundation is in funding a 2-year project.

Bob will check with Bill Hegman for an update on how soon we need to submit the proposal.

The board made the decision to work on a 2-phase proposal, increasing the scope of Phase 1 to include gaining data from both LFICD's and OCWICD's use of CNY's drone service next season.

6. New business

Article in The Guardian about flesh eating bacteria spread by mosquitoes in Australia.
Gary is looking for a new web host other than Mac Highway because of the number of spam emails that are getting through the spam filter.

7. LFICD Officer election:

David Z. nominated Bob Cluss for board Chair. Bob was confirmed unanimously.
Dinah Bain remains Treasurer; Christine Chapline remains Secretary; Vice Chair is unfilled.

8. Adjourn: 7:00

Next meeting February 4, 2025, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Link to recording of the meeting:

<https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/Zrchnu2LI9i7ZrMMkgTAQ5ISklukYShLDNfe4GL-K2wy9YGKNSIbe5dmkDiL5UVA.mbRWCleYVh5mygYn>

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