

LFICD Board Meeting
Sept 5, 2023
Virtual Zoom meeting

Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:32

Present: David Dodge, Christine Chapline, Craig Zondag, Gary Rodes, Bob Cluss, Dinah Bain

2. Approve August minutes: The August minutes are approved.

3. Approve Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$99,260.75

Cash received: \$25,670.44

Total cash for month: \$124,931.19

Total Disbursements: \$22,095.14

Cash on hand: \$102,836.05

Total Accounts payable: \$1,400

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$101,436.05

Dinah updated the August Treasurer's report up to August 1; the updated August report was approved.

The September Treasurer's report was approved.

4. Field Coordinator report:

The continuing mosquito issues have been far beyond what the LFICD could have done anything about. Complaint calls are coming from residents who live far from the LF or Otter Creek.

A motion was made to give each of our two interns a \$100 bonus in recognition of the extra public outreach work they did during Field Days. The motion was passed unanimously.

Field Conditions: The month of August recorded 13" of rain, with one rain event on August 3 yielding 4.7" in about one hour's time. Combining July's rain with August, the total rainfall amount was 30". The Lemon Fair River valley sustained the longest period of floodwater since the LFICD has been keeping records. Mosquito hatches have been moving targets and it's been difficult to connect enough dots to recommend an aerial treatment. Only selective acreages had large larval counts and many areas didn't yield any larval activity.

Light Traps: All 8 light traps continue to be set up weekly. We've surpassed the year 2021's highest trap year of 64,827 mosquitoes. We are more on the order of 105,000+ for 2023.

Sustained puddling from repeated rain events have promulgated hatches everywhere, not just limited to the Lemon Fair River and Cornwall Swamp.

Treatments: A total of four treatments were conducted by hand. The first one on August 4 on Lemon Fair Road. Three more treatments were conducted on August 11, one in Bridport, one in Cornwall and one in Weybridge. A total of 8.1 acres were treated with 122 lbs. of VectoBac GS.

This somewhat liberal treatment application was respectful of water depth and turbidity. All treatment reports have been submitted to the State VAA F&M.

Pesticide Resistance Monitoring Program: We fulfilled our obligation to the State VAA F&M by collecting mosquito egg rafts and rearing mosquitoes in the lab and sending 11 sets of *Culex pipiens/restuans* larvae off to Cornell for pesticide resistance testing. Thanks goes to Monument Farms Dairy for allowing us to collect egg rafts on one of their sites.

5. Treatment alternatives:

In light of the number of complaints about the nuisance mosquito situation this season, a discussion was held on whether or not the Towns will want to think about the LFICD conducting adulticiding treatments, or the possibility of merging with the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District, which does adulticiding.

We should arrange to have a discussion with each of the Select Boards to discuss residents' expectations and what we can and cannot do within our budget with larviciding, and also to discuss the financial and practical considerations that are involved with potential adulticide treatments.

6. What else should we be doing to help residents with their mosquito problems?

The public is not aware of the mission of the LFICD, which is to treat nuisance mosquitoes coming from floodplains. Now that they have experienced a bad mosquito year from excessive rainfall causing puddling everywhere, we need to identify what our mission is when most of the mosquitoes are not coming out of the Lemon Fair or Otter Creek.

A discussion was had on what we can provide to residents other than advice, such as ways to mitigate the mosquitoes on their properties if this weather pattern continues. Should we use the Town's contributions to help provide mosquito dunks to property owners with mosquito habitats on their properties?

7. Status of Mosquito Data: no discussion

8. Chair transition:

David Dodge is resigning as LFICD Board Chairman as of this meeting.

Bob will set up the Oct. Zoom meeting.

We need to set up a meeting with Patti Casey and Steve Dwinell at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, possibly during our October meeting, to discuss the season and our concerns. Bob will contact them and see if they are available for the Oct 3 board meeting.

9. New business: None

10. Adjourn: 7:05

Next Zoom Virtual Meeting Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 5:30 PM