LFICD Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
5:30 PM via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:37
Present: Dinah Bain, Bob Cluss, Christine Chapline, Gary Rodes, David Zarowin, Judd Markowski, Annie Murphy, Craig Zondag

2. Approve the April 7, 2026 draft minutes:
The April 7, 2026 minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:
Cash forward: $133,250.73
Cash received: $20.73
Total cash for month: $133,271.46
Total Disbursements: $7,070.14
Cash on hand LFICD: $126,201.32
Total Accounts payable: $0.00
Total Accounts receivable: $33,859.95
Net cash, w/grant cash: $160,061.27
Net current cash w/o grant cash: $124,361.27
Net current assets with grant cash and CD: $197,182.27

Private Grant:
Initial: $72,200
Added to checking account: $36,200.00
Initial CD deposit: $36,000.00
Spent: $500.00
CD interest in 2025: $683.21
CD interest 1/2026-4/2026: $437.79
Current Grant CD value**:** $37,121.00
Current total value: $72,821.00

4. Field coordinator report: (Craig)
Maintenance and getting ready for the new season**:** on-going maintenance and preparation for the season include going through files, making necessary purchases… I'm still shopping for magnetic placards for vehicles identifying LFICD and also placards Identifying LFICD transporting Larvicide. Judd suggested 2 businesses in Vergennes to contact for the signs. Craig requested two new tally counters for counting trapped mosquitoes, the board approved the purchase.

Cornwall Town Meeting follow up**:** I did a presentation at the Cornwall Town Hall on April 22. Seventeen people were in attendance. The presentation was well received. As of today, May 5th, I have had two resident site visits in Cornwall.

Field Conditions: So far, we've had two high water events in the Lemon Fair River. I collected my first larvae on April 18th on the flooded floodplain and brought them back to the lab to rear. Of the ones that survived, they were identified as *Aedes vexans*, our common floodplain mosquito. I'm spending more time in the field so far this season so as to keep a closer pulse on larval activity under conducive conditions

5. Intern update:
LFICD Field Tech:
Currently, we have one intern that has agreed to join us for the season and an offer has been made to a second candidate. The intern who has agreed to take on the Field Tech position is Joe "Joelle" Baker. She is finishing her Junior year at Middlebury College and will graduate next year with a Bachelor of Arts in Conservation Biology. This year I've had the opportunity to interview students for two hours each, beginning with an orientation to the lab and then heading out to the field. I felt that this "eyes wide open" experience could really help them make a well-informed decision as to what would be expected of them. Joe responded immediately after the interview that she would be honored to take on the internship.

Middlebury College GIS-Lidar Internship:
Charlie Bettigole is bringing on Henry Chambers. A Middlebury College intern this summer, Henry is funded through the Center for Careers and Internships (CCI). This funding is made possible by Middlebury College donors who are committed to expanding access to meaningful experiential learning opportunities for students. Henry is studying in Paris, France this semester. Charlie is going to arrange a meeting with Henry and myself toward the end of May.

The board discussed increasing the interns' compensation rate since the lab interns at Middlebury College are making more than our current rate of $15 per hour.
Judd moved to raise the intern compensation to $17.50/hour for the 2026 season. The motion was approved unanimously.
Milage compensation rates are the same as those set by the federal government, currently $0.725 per mile
Craig will communicate the change in hourly compensation to the 2 intern candidates.

6. Drone Landing Site Permissions:
LFICD will use its own form, revised from the OCWICD form at the April board meeting, to present to landowners for drone landing site permission
A proposal was received from CNY Drone Service. They have increased the rate from $14 per acre to $!5 per acre, with a minimum charge of $3,750. The board voted to accept the terms of their proposal. CNY has received their 2026 aerial permit from the State.
Aero Drone Solutions in VT are a potential second option and Bob will try again to contact them.
Craig will work this week to get permissions from land owners of useful drone landing sites and hopes to use the national wildlife management areas on the floodplains that are managed by Jim Eikenberry.

7. Insurance:
Workman's comp, liability and public officials' liability insurances have been paid and are in place. Our property insurance needs to be renewed by May 26; Dinah will contact Lew Castle (Gaines Insurance) to be sure that is taken care of.

8. New Business:
Gary is investigating the purchase of a new computer for the lab. The board has previously approved up to $2,000 for the purchase of a new computer.

9. Adjourn 6:58
Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 5:30 PM via Zoom

To view the recording of this meeting use the following link:
https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/i9nmz6uC0DVCsFizBL1hn3kUydvvSf3u2_aJ26yv3DtwDFGXz9pxAnL04xKTwsqH.AGXlkYzoQUdFeQvs
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