

LFICD Board Meeting
August 1, 2023
Virtual Zoom meeting

Draft minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:32

Present: David Dodge, Christine Chapline, Craig Zondag, Judd Markowski, Gary Rodes, Bob Cluss, interns: Audrey Maxwell and Ramsey Anis

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

3. Approve Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$97,773.99

Cash received: \$15,569.17

Total cash for month: \$113,343.16

Total Disbursements: \$24,711.55

Cash on hand: \$88,631.61

Total Accounts payable: \$1,400.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$25,669.96

Net Current assets: \$112,901.57

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Field Coordinator report:

Field Conditions: Rain events for the month of July yielded 15.79" to 17" of rain within the LFICD watersheds. Flooding was expected, but not to the extent of what we discovered in the field. High water lines exceeded anything I have yet to have discovered or experienced in the field since I started working for the LFICD. Dipping daily and thoroughly throughout the Lemon Fair River valley yielded few numbers of mosquito larvae. Instar developments were late thirds and fourths and pupae, indicating mosquitoes present, from prior to the flood event. At no time during sustained surveillance could we identify a new hatch associated with this flood event. But the mosquitoes came! Our CDC Light Trapping yielded somewhat normal to even low numbers of mosquitoes respectively with the exception of one small area in Bridport off of Rte.125. On one evening, one trap yielded 4,000 mosquitoes and on the second week, approximately 5,000. This isolated event is from an upland wetland (approximately 4 acres in size) that ultimately feeds into the Lemon Fair River floodplain. I'm remiss in having overlooked surveillance of this location. I dedicated efforts to the larger picture of 800-900 acres of the LF River valley lighting up and preparing for a potential aerial treatment. Despite diligence in surveillance, we could not recommend a treatment due to not having enough contiguous acreage with larval counts high enough to trigger an aerial treatment.

Treatment: On July 13, 2023, the LFICD conducted a larvicide treatment by hand over 3.5 acres SW of the Lemon Fair Rd. Bridge in Weybridge. Pre-treatment dip counts exceeded 100-300 + larvae/dip. Post treatment survey proved 90% effective. On July 15, the Lemon Fair River flooded to new heights as mentioned above.

Complaint Line: Seventeen complaints were written up and recorded. They are broad in geographical locations indicating upland and woodland mosquito presence. I've responded to all of the registered complaints either in person, through email or a phone call and have been working at visiting each site for inspection. In addition, an announcement in FPF went out alerting people to stay safe and we provided recommendations for IPM. No complaints have come in since the FPF announcement went out.

Open House: On July 22nd, we hosted our LFICD Open House. The weather cooperated and even the mosquitoes came. We had some new faces at this event, which is always especially welcomed. I'm always delighted with people who return year after year to touch base and have a genuine interest in what we're doing. The interns did a great job updating and printing out weekly graphs and helping with education. Thank you, Board, for your support and presence at this event. Thank you for the refreshments and Dinah, thank you for the fan! It provided another valuable example of IPM. And thank you to the Weybridge Congregational Church for providing the outdoor space with tent, sandwich board, tables and chairs.

Pesticide Resistance Monitoring program: We began surveillance and collection of mosquito egg rafts in mid-July. Timing is everything. And so far, our timing has been a bit off. We had also been observing less mosquito activity in and around the tire piles that we collect the egg rafts from. The goal is to rear and identify at least 10 sets of *Culex pipiens* and send them off to Cornell Univ. for testing. We also we'll be collecting specimens for the Connecticut Field Station for further testing.

Addison County Fair and Field Days: The LFICD will have a presence at the Fair again this year on Wed. August 9 in the Frances Monroe Home and Garden Ctr. There is much to get ready for this in addition to lab and fieldwork. If you're at the Fair on Wed., be sure to stop by.

5.Managing Public Expectations, mosquito abatement education:

Craig's article in Front Porch Forum addressed the reason why we have not called for a treatment even though nuisance mosquito levels are high. Thus far, there haven't been sufficient larva in the floodplain and the adult species largely come from private property and woodlands. He also addressed what can be done for mosquito abatement privately. There have been no more calls to the complaint line since Craig's article came out. We should continue to publish regular mosquito updates in FPF to help with citizen expectations.

Homeowners can use barrier sprays on private property.

Craig and the interns will have a booth at Addison County Field Days to directly interact with the public.

We can put out regular newsletters, such as LFICD articles in Cornwall's newsletter.

6.Status of website, email, and phone account:

Phone: Craig has the new phone which can now utilize the upgraded Visible network. The outgoing message still needs to be changed.

Emails to info@lficd.org will now come to all Board members for their information, but Craig will be responsible for answering any email messages.
Gary will add any LFICD newsletters to the website.

Gary pointed out issues with the field data posted on the website, such as:
Some larval dipping links are not functional, the larval data for one year is missing, species data is not standardized (spreadsheets, bar graphs and pie charts are variously used); the larval spreadsheets should be converted to pdf instead of linking to spreadsheets, the data presentation should show trends from year to year.

Audrey and Ramsey already have species pie charts for epi weeks for this year; stick with top 7 species of each week and explain that “epi weeks” are the numbered weeks starting Jan. 1
We should include a blurb about each species on the charts and where they originate (woodland vs. floodplain)

Dipping data on spreadsheets: Gary, Bob and Craig will reorganize the spreadsheet data to present the data that is most relevant to the public. Our larval data should aim to justify to the public the reasons we are or are not treating the floodplain.

Hotline protocol: Craig is the primary point person.

7. Software update: none

8. New business: none

9. Adjourn 7:03

Next virtual Zoom meeting: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, 5:30 PM