

LFICD Board Meeting
December 3, 2024
via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:34

Present: David Zarowin, Dinah Bain, Bob Cluss, Christine Chapline, Annie Murphy, Gary Rodes, Craig Zondag, Judd Markowski, Bill Hegman (guest from Middlebury College)

2. Approve November 12, 2024 draft minutes:

The November minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$88,129.97

Cash received: \$39,373.43

Total cash for month: \$127,503.40

Total Disbursements: \$3,772.05

Cash on hand: \$123,731.35

Total Accounts payable: \$1,500.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$122,231.35

The Treasurer's report is approved.

The LFICD received a letter from the IRS stating that IRS form 941 (report for withholding employee Medicare, Soc. Sec., taxes) from 2021 was not filed, but there is money in our IRS account. Dinah will take care of it.

4. New Business:

A. Bill Hegman from Middlebury College (GIS instructor) is attending the board meeting with an idea for a joint drone feasibility study next season with himself and a Middlebury intern. Bill and his interns have worked with the LFICD on GIS mapping of priority areas for larvicide treatments within the Lemon Fair floodplain. Bill knows of an anonymous donor that the LFICD could apply to for a grant to do a feasibility study toward using an agricultural drone for applying larvicide, or to potentially buy a drone (around \$25,000 for a drone that could carry 100 lbs, liquid or granular). Bill and his intern could work with our drone contractor (CNY Drone Services) to explore the use of a drone for larvicide application. Phase 2 could be having the LFICD apply for a grant to purchase a drone to do our own larvicide application.

Pros:

Operating our own drone would give us the opportunity to treat more promptly, without having to wait for a contractor and without minimum acreages. Our drone service could potentially extend to the OCW district.

Cons:

Liability and the cost of liability insurance associated with being a drone operator.

The pilot needs to have a Part 107 commercial pilot license to fly the drone and also a pesticide license.

Bill has drone models in mind (DJI Agras, from China; Chinese models are ahead of US made drones, but they require “geo-fences” (areas where they are not allowed), whereas US models do not.

Bill doesn't know if funding is available or will be available in the next year. If we put a proposal together, Bill will take it to the anonymous donor.

A proposal could include: Background of the work we've done to date; Phase 1 could be an evaluation of the utility of using a drone to apply larvicide while working with the current contractor (CNY Services).

Bill Hegman, Craig Zondag and Bob Cluss will explore a grant proposal further. Bill will approach the prospective donor to inquire whether they would be open to a two-phase proposal as outlined.

B. Craig has noticed a fair amount of rust in the trailer; welding has been done before and it may need more work. Gary Rodes will look at the trailer with Craig to determine if getting an estimate for repairs is necessary.

C. Gary has removed Alissa's name from our internet accounts, which are now in his name. Our Text Now account will not let him change the ownership name.

Adjourn: 6:37

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 5:30 pm, by Zoom

Link to access the recording of this meeting of December 3, 2024:

https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/FXfKn8cuWZ6NxJL7KzZPL-xvrvWcicybiJSwVIPITtpEnQaZMnr_DgGwWPq9Nsf.MeL1VDzuCcHk2XqS

Passcode: TL0d!RKs