

LFICD Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2026
5:30 PM via Zoom

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:34

Present: Bob Cluss, Christine Chapline, Gary Rodes, David Zarowin, Judd Markowski, Annie Murphy, Craig Zondag

2. Approve the January 6, 2026 draft minutes:

The January 6, 2025 minutes are approved.

3. Field coordinator's report: (Craig Zondag)

On January 16, I met with Charlie Bettigole, the new GIS-Lidar Instructor for Middlebury College who has replaced Bill Hegman. We met at the lab and Bob Cluss also joined us. This was both an opportunity to meet Charlie and show him some of the work previous interns had done through the college benefitting the LFICD. Charlie is willing to "pick up the ball" with regard to offering future internships in this field of GIS-Lidar technology. I had several questions for Charlie addressing the future needs of the LFICD. He expressed confidence in being able to meet those needs. We are extremely grateful for this relationship and also providing practical real-life experience for interns in this field.

It is with great gratitude that I wish to express my thanks to Bill Hegman, who started this program. It's been a privilege and pleasure working side by side with Bill and his interns. Though he will be missed, he has left yet another legacy of educational opportunity for students in the future. Thank you, Bill. And many blessings on your life and retirement.

On January 27, I met with the VAA-FM and OCW District via Microsoft Teams online. The objective of the meeting was to clarify and go over terms of the pesticide rules and regulations going forward. The largest task at hand is identifying and contacting all of the land owners within the potential treatment zones of the Lemon Fair River floodplain and then contacting them to possibly gain access to their properties for the purpose of both operating a drone and larviciding said property. I spoke with Charlie Bettigole about this and he felt he could help create maps delineating boundaries within the treatment zones along with respective ownership.

Coming up: February 6th, another Teams Meeting has been set up by Patti Casey to meet with Jim Eikenberry of the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services, US government), to discuss floodplain management plans to eradicate Reed Canary Grass. Reed Canary Grass inhibits larvicide treatment efforts. I'm looking forward to this meeting as this has been a concern of mine since I've been in this field.

4. 5-year larvicide permit update:

Patti Casey (Vermont Agency of Agriculture-Food and Markets) has sent a summary of the January 27 meeting with members from the LFICD and OCW mosquito districts concerning the new 5-year larviciding permit requirements, particularly the written public notification requirement.

As per her email, the following methods of notification will suffice:

- Existing print and radio notification (standard requirement)
- Publish the permit application on LFICD website with a request for people to provide their emails for ongoing communication, then publish the permit once it's issued.
- VAAFM posts the permit application on our website with similar language to reach out to the MCDs with concerns or questions about applying on private land (similar to ROW permitting)
- Publish a notice or post the permit application on the town websites for all the towns in your Districts
- VT Alert
- Front Porch Forum or Next Door Neighbor
- Fliers with MCD contact info and basic application info – can be posted on community bulletin boards (including Town Hall), handed out in the field, left on a doorstep or mailbox, etc.

Patti would like us to submit the 5-year permit this year to get us on the same permit schedule as OCWMCD.

At the meeting it was brought up that there is another drone operator in VT that plans to get their larvicide permit. Bob will contact the drone company.

Chris, Craig and Bob will form a working group to look at submitting the new 5-year larviciding application.

5. New business: None

6. Adjourn: 6:36

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 5:30 PM via Zoom

Video link to this meeting:

<https://middlebury.zoom.us/rec/share/MPVAoidzlvursrloDOcUv5p9Rd7YNI7OWTkqTKhKvtMEhGk-XQk4zwDGhE0mLdO9.f8NbO9cFo67rOwIL>

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