

LFICD Board Meeting

Aug 3, 2021

Cornwall, VT

Draft minutes

1. Call to order: 5:37

Present: David Dodge, Wendy Lynch, Dinah Bain, Gary Rodes, Alissa Shethar, Christine Chapline, Craig Zondag

2. Approve July minutes:

The July minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$96,460.29

Cash received: \$0.15

Total cash for month: \$96,460.44

Total disbursements: \$13,624.57

Cash on hand: \$82,835.87

Total accounts payable: \$1200.00

Total accounts receivable: \$25,040.51

Net current assets: \$106,676.38

The Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Field and lab report (Craig Zondag):

Field Conditions: July saw record precipitation this year. (146% above average) The results of small rain events leading to one large rain event brought the Lemon Fair River out of its banks. Mia and I surveyed key areas of the Lemon Fair River valley and Cornwall Swamp, July 19 & 20. The flooding triggered hatches but thresholds were far below treatment levels. We kept an eye on an area of the floodplain in Weybridge that would sustain water levels not only triggering a hatch but also promulgating an emergence. As a result, a 7 acre stretch of the flood plain was both surveyed and a larvicidal treatment was applied, particularly over a two-acre swath where larvae concentrated. Saturated soils have allowed for upland puddles to bring about the presence of an aggressive day/night time biter (mosquito) to become a nuisance on private properties. These are primarily *Ochlerotattus trivittatus* and *Aedes cinereus*. They shelter in grasses waiting for a mammal to walk through and obtain a bloodmeal. They're

relentless. So do your best to protect yourself. Wear long sleeves, pants, a hat, mosquito netting if you have it, and of course FDA approved insect repellent. We continue to set up CDC Light Traps weekly 8 sites from Weybridge to the Cornwall Swamp.

LFICD Open House & Interns: On July 24th, the LFICD hosted its annual Open House, (although cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19). We had a beautiful day and the folks that came had the opportunity to meet our two interns and the work they have been doing. Sam Chester, Middlebury '22, GIS-Mapping Intern, presented maps that he created. Sam's last day will be August 14th. Applied new technologies help us to read the landscape of the floodplain in interpreting foci on surveillance and treatment sites.

Below is a description and synopsis of one of the last drone missions for the season:

July 29, 2021: The drone mission was partially successful. Bill applied a new program to his Mavic II Drone whereby he plotted a prescribed polygon (rectangle) and the drone flew the prescribed route, much of the way "Ag-NAV" works. Upon replacing the first battery, the drone was supposed to pick up where it left off. Instead, it started at the beginning, retracing what it had already recorded. At the expiration of that battery, the drone came back and the third and last battery was replaced. This time the drone returned to where it had left off and continued the mission. About two thirds of the mission was able to be flown. Bill will download the data and stitch the imagery together and forward it to me.

At lunch we discussed and evaluated the Mapping Internship and received feedback from Sam. This Internship opportunity was new territory for all of us. Both Sam and Bill felt the Mapping Internship to be valuable, providing Sam both "boots on the ground" and computer lab experience, testing the waters of what computer technology offers us. Some of the imagery proved obvious from the start of newly identified wetland components. Other aspects of the imagery allowed us to tease out potentially significant features in the landscape that warrant attention for future surveillance and focal points for potential treatment. I asked Bill, "Would you have interest in moving forward with a "Phase II" Mapping Internship opportunity for next year?" His reply was positive and sees the value it offers students. I believe we have established some significant benchmark data that can be built upon. And as new technologies become available, we can provide a proving ground for interns to apply this information to our better understanding of floodplain ecosystems.

Sam's mapping has found scroll bar areas (eddy currents) that have the potential to breed lots of mosquitoes (primarily *Aedes vexans*) that could be treated once early in the season with a 150-day Altosid bti briquet product (220 briquets cost \$900).

Mia Handte-Reinecker is our field tech intern and has become very astute both in the lab and the field. Her project entails creating a podcast or two for the web site promoting Integrated Pest Management. She is also revising spreadsheet data into physical graphs that will soon be available on our website. It's great having Mia in the lab and she has been a great asset to the district. Mia's last day will be August 28th.

Craig will contact contractors to service the heat pump in the storage trailer.

5. Public Outreach:

No calls on the hotline, although there have been anecdotal mosquito complaints expressed to the board members. Craig and Alissa will work on a public service message to post on front porch forum concerning the increased mosquito issues of late and posting the hotline information, with re-posting every 2-3 weeks during the remainder of the season.

6. Drone update:

The State drone pilot will be doing a drone demonstration for the LFICD later in August.

UVM has an Unmanned Aircraft Systems/drone technology workshop coming up in Sept. The cost is \$900 for a 15-day session and Craig is interested in attending.

8. New business:

A motion was made to pay half of the cost of the UVM drone course for Craig if Craig pays the other half. The motion was passed unanimously.

9. Executive session to discuss personnel matters:

Entered executive session at 6:45; out of executive session at 7:00.

A motion was made and approved for a contract for Craig covering Jan 1-Dec. 31, 2021 with a raise in Craig's salary as of July 1, 2021.

10. Next meeting: Sept. 7, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Bridport Town Offices