

LFICD Board Meeting
April 2, 2024
Virtual Zoom meeting

Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: Christine Chapline, David Zarowin, Dinah Bain, Gary Rodes, Craig Zondag, Annie Murphy, Judd Markowski

2. Introduce Annie Murphy, new Board member from Weybridge.

Annie is expected to be confirmed by the Weybridge Select Board at their meeting tonight. Welcome, Annie!

3. Approve March 5, 2024 minutes:

The minutes from March 5 were approved.

4. Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$112,594.25

Cash received: \$0.70

Total cash for month: \$112,594.95

Total Disbursements: \$3,210.64

Cash on hand: \$109,384.31

Total Accounts payable: \$0.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$109,384.31

The Treasurer's report was approved.

5. Field Coordinator Report: submitted by Craig Zondag

March has been fraught with weather extremes and our first real taste of winter with a storm event on March 23 yielding 12"-14" of snow. Temperatures fluctuated from the 50's down into the teens and back up again. I observed adult mosquitoes throughout March with a notable lack of presence after temps dropped below 20 degrees F at night and then back up to the 30's and 40's during the day.

Meeting with the VAA F&M: On March 20th, an online meeting with Steve Dwinell and Patti Casey from the VAA F&M along with OCW Board member Jeff Schumann and myself discussed ongoing challenges of mosquito abatement with regard to larviciding practices. It is agreed by all, that a mechanical drone would up the game and move toward Best Management Practices, (BMP's). As a result, new language has been written into the AERIAL APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND INSECT CONTROL DISTRICTS allowing for such technology to be utilized. Currently, there has been no success in finding a mechanical drone in all of New England, much less a FAA licensed pilot that is also pesticide certified for the State of VT. There is the potential for our small district to be a leader in New England utilizing this technology. Steve Dwinell is making arrangements for a company in Florida to come up to demonstrate the use and operation of a mechanical drone and will notify both MCD's and Board members as to when that will take place.

Addison County Independent: On March 7th John Flowers of the "Addy Indy" interviewed me at length about the work of the LFICD and the issue centered around some people in Bridport desiring to withdraw from the LFICD. An article was printed in the paper the week of the 21st. Ongoing education and outreach are necessary with regard to this issue.

Outreach: On March 13, I had the privilege of being in the Classroom of Amy Clapp at Salisbury Elementary School addressing mosquitoes. Amy has challenged her 3rd and 4th graders to come up with inventions to combat mosquitoes. The impetus for this rose out of last years' mosquito season. The students were fully engaged and had lots of good questions. The students will be making posters about their inventions and some of them may be on display at our LFICD Open House on July 20.

On March 14th I presented a power point presentation at Ilsley Library titled "Mosquitoes Suck." The presentation was at the invitation of The Otter Creek Audubon Society and was open to the public. Thirty-three people attended and great questions and interactions followed the presentation. MCTV recorded the program and we're hoping to offer it as a resource on our website.

Coming up: On April 4th, OCW Board member Jeff Schumann is planning to meet with me at the lab to learn more about what we do and in particular how we run our internship program.

Interns: I currently have 9 applicants. Two of them are very strong candidates which I'll be reaching out to for interviews. HandShake has informed me that 1,142 views of the internship opportunity has been reported.

Additions to the Field Coordinator's report:

The VAA is organizing a drone demonstration and has invited members of the LFICD and OCW. The tentative date is May 23.

Craig anticipates the interns will start June 3 and work through August 30.

6. Discussion on instituting a mosquito dunk distribution program:

The board and Craig discussed the idea of having the LFICD supply Summit mosquito dunks for Craig to distribute to home owners when he initially identifies mosquito breeding habitats on their properties during outreach site visits, as part of educating home owners on how to reduce their mosquito problems. We will need a retail pesticide distribution permit (\$25 from the State). Craig will see if we can get a bulk price on dunks from Summit. A determination of the number of dunks to purchase will be made at an upcoming Warned Board meeting, based on pricing and other implications of initiating this program, such as field coordinator's time.

7. Aerial permit update:

We have submitted Part 1 of the 1-year Aerial Permit application, but North Fork Helicopter has new contact people, who have been contacted to fill out the applicator's Part 2 section of the permit, but they have not yet submitted Part 2 to the State. There is a 30-day comment period after the application is in before a permit can be issued. Craig will contact North Fork again and urge them to get Part 2 completed.

8. Insurance update:

Our Workers Comp insurance premium has been paid to Gaines Insurance (through Lew Castle), but we have not received confirmation (our current policy ends April 14) or for a new liability insurance policy (our current policy runs out in May). Dinah will contact Lew to find out where our insurance policy applications stand.

9. Larvicide Public Announcement needs to go out.

Chris will update the Notice of Intent to Apply Larvicide announcement; Dinah and Chris will submit it to our respective Front Porch Forums and Annie will send it out to the newspaper and radio contacts.

10. Field Coordinator Contract:

Craig needs a new contract; we need to change the effective dates to April 1 through March 31. No other changes were suggested to the current contract.

11. Adjourn: 7:00

Next regular meeting: May 7, 2024, 5:30 pm by Zoom.