

Lemon Fair Insect Control District  
Tuesday, Feb 6, 2018  
Cornwall, VT

**Minutes**

**1. Call to order: 5:09**

**Present:** David Dodge, Wendy Lynch, Christine Chapline, Gary Rodes, Alissa Shethar, Melissa Lourie  
**guests:** Carl Eickenberg, Arlinda Wickland (from Weybridge Church)

**2. Approve January minutes**

The January minutes are approved.

**3. Treasurer's report:**

Dinah is on vacation; no changes since January.

**4. Conference update and Field Coordinator report:**

Craig updated the board on the highlights of the talks given at the Northeastern Mosquito Control Association conference and a Train the Trainers workshop at Rutgers Univ. EEE and WNV cases were both down in 2017 in the northeast. Talks on mosquito Biocontrol: introducing copepods that eat mosquito larva to pooled water; bladderwort is a native predatory plant that eats mosquito larva. Train the Trainers: The training used the AMCA best practices document.

Craig met with Jim Eichenberry, who is the head of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in VT. There are 3 NRCS properties in the LFICD. The NRCS will be doing a reed canary grass abatement program on their properties using herbicide and reintroducing native wetland plants, which will hopefully also decrease mosquito habitat.

Craig will be proactive in sitting down with the health officers in the 3 towns so that we get more information on where vector borne illnesses are popping up.

Our larva and adult mosquito data for the year is on the LIFCD website. Light trapping and larval surveys went from April through Sept. 2017. 2 new species were identified in the LFICD this year, for a total of 29 mosquito species identified by adult trapping. Craig feels that his was the first really good year for data collection, which will serve as a benchmark data going forward.

**5. Schwab study:**

A study in the journal, Epidemics, entitled "The importance of being urgent: The impact of surveillance target and scale on mosquito-borne disease control" sent to us by Ben Lawton, BLSGP. The gist of the study was that communities that ignore treating mosquito until people get sick aren't effective at controlling disease. The study is an argument for more aggressive surveillance and treatment that we can use to argue for lower larval count thresholds that warrant treatment.

## **6. LIDAR Project**

The final project report (prepared by William Hegman and Caroline Trowbridge at Middlebury College) was distributed to the board members. The Bridport property (off of Frosty Lane) that was examined in the project is defined by a clayplain forest. The original impetus was to discover if available LIDAR data could identify depressions in the topography smaller than vernal pools but large enough to support a container species life cycle, for example the large anthills surrounded by moat-like depressions that exist on the test site. The finding was that the available LiDAR data is not of high enough resolution to pick up the anthills or small tire collections. However, Caroline and Bill did test and find promising “roughness indices” tests to apply to the data that indicate hummocky areas of terrain. They also overlaid soils maps with the roughness maps to pull out areas of hummocky, clayplain soils that would indicate the likelihood of pooling. Within the LFICD district, high resolution LiDAR data is only available in a small area in Bridport (which does include the test property). Hopefully, more areas will be covered by high resolution LIDAR by the end of the year.

## **7. Weybridge Church lease:**

Carl Eickenberg and Arlinda Wickland attended the board meeting to discuss a proposal for a 5-year lease of our lab space at the Weybridge Church. They would like a rental commitment in order to cover the expense of getting rid of the mouse issue in the LFICD lab office. The space is a potential health hazard due to mouse odor. Their contractor’s bid (approx. \$8,000) would take approximately 4 years for our monthly rent to pay it off.

Discussion: Since our funding is dependant on a yearly grant from the VAA, we are uncomfortable with a 5-year lease. We are more comfortable with a 3-year lease (\$200/mo. x 36 months) since we don’t know about our future funding or future need.

A motion was made that we authorize David Dodge to sign a lease with the Weybridge Church for 3 years, \$7200; with these contingencies: losing VAA or town funding, continuing mouse issues, needing to expand the space. The motion passed unanimously.

## **8. New Season Punch list**

Not discussed due to time.

## **9. New business:**

Changes at the VAA: Tim Schmaltz is leaving as of 2/9/18; Jim Leland retired at the end of 2017. The structure of the VAA oversight of the LFICD is unknown at this time. David spoke with Tim S. prior to his departure, who said that he does not foresee any changes with the VAA grant (\$140,000/year + carryover for both the BLSG and LFICD). Our current contacts at the VAA are:

Vector Control: Eliza Doncaster and Judy Rosovsky (State Entomologist)

Permits: Linda Buccuzzo, Cary Giguere

Diane Bothfeld is deputy secretary of administration for the VAA and Tim’s boss.

At this point, we don't know to whom we should submit invoices, who will authorize treatment, or who will take over grant negotiation. David will contact Diane Bothfeld to discuss.

**10. Adjourn at 6:55.**

Next meeting: March 6, 2018, Bridport Town Offices, 5:00