

**Lemon Fair Insect Control District
Bridport, VT
November 4, 2014**

Minutes

1. Call to order: 5:25

Present: David Dodge, Lew Castle, Dinah Bain, Chris Chapline, Chuck Burkins, Rusty Sherman, Craig Zondag, Alissa Shethar

2. Approval of October minutes:

The October minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report and projected cash flow update:

Cash forward: \$19,672.94

Cash received: \$0.27

Disbursements: \$1502.67

Cash on hand: \$18,170.54

Accounts payable: \$0.00

Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net current assets: \$18,170,54

Projected cash flow:

Estimated additional expenses (to end 2014): \$135.00

Estimated carryover \$18,035.54

Estimated additional expenses through April 2015 (expenses before town payments are received): \$6,061

Estimated available: \$11,974.54

Dinah Bain also presented a (draft) projected budget report for FY2015. The final projected budget will be adopted by the LFICD board at the December 2, 2014 meeting and subsequently submitted to the Towns.

While we expect to sell the plane, the budget includes aircraft maintenance, hangar and other aircraft costs (until May, 2015) since LFICD still owns the plane.

At the present time, the State will not reimburse LFICD for unused minimum acreages (per treatment and annual) required by 3rd party applicators. Accordingly, we will include a line item for unreimbursed minimum payments of between \$3,000 and \$5,000. However, this is only an estimate...actuals will be determined by the frequency of treatment and the acreage of each treatment. Of note, this will be the first year we will rely on 3rd party applicators.

We will include footnotes to the budget regarding the minimum payments required by the potential 3rd party applicators and also the projected sale of the plane in 2015. We also need to negotiate with the State to be paid for the cost of transporting and loading larvicide onto 3rd party aircraft. This cost is not considered in our 2014

agreement with the VAA, since in the past LFICD loading charges were included in our per acre application charges.

4. Update on plane sale and storage:

So far, no hangar or storage option has been found for the plane and, given the unheated cockpit, it may be too late in the season to fly it to any other location, so the plane may stay on the tarmac at the Middlebury Airport for the winter. We continue to look for winter hanger space.

Plane sale update:

Rebecca Air has made an offer on the plane. Mid Continent Aircraft (an aircraft wholesaler in Missouri) has also made an offer. Lew C. has also met with (local) Mike Bordeleau who is interested in buying a plane for crop dusting. Mike B. is interested in the plane and will get back to Lew. Lew has found 2 similar Cessna's (but with more engine power) listed for sale to use as comps. Both are being offered for approximately \$100,000.

5. LFICD strategic direction:

Background: Since the LFICD has voted to no longer use our own aircraft to apply larvicide when conditions in the Lemon Fair warrants aerial larvicide treatment, the LFICD has concerns with providing said aerial services, which would require LFICD to sign a contract with a 3rd party aerial applicator company (JBI or Rebecca Air). An alternative would be for the LFICD to ask the VAA arrange for aerial larviciding when needed:

The 2 potential 3rd party application companies (JBI and Rebecca Air) will require either a minimum # of acres treated/day (which LFICD may not be able to meet by itself, even if all of our treatment areas met larval thresholds) or a minimum cash retainer for the season. The State will not reimburse the LFICD for any acreage charges over what is actually treated, i.e. unused minimum. They will also not reimburse the LFICD for any seasonal retainer charges. We cannot count on coordinating with BLSG to meet minimum acreages; the BLSG might not continue its larviciding program and even if they do, they might not meet larval thresholds on the same days that the Lemon Fair does.

The State has also set up requirements to be met by 3rd party applicators before the State will reimburse the LFICD for treatments. We feel that the LFICD should not be in the middle of the State's regulations for 3rd party applicators and the applicator companies abiding by the State requirements in order for LFICD (as the contracting party) to be reimbursed.

The BLSG has not been reimbursed by the State for hiring JBI for a controversial larviciding treatment in 2014 and we would not like to find ourselves in the position of contracting for a treatment that the State disagrees with.

So, should the LFICD be the contracting party for 3rd party applicators, or should LFICD ask the State VAA to be the contracting party?

The LFICD board is in agreement that the State VAA should be the party to contract for aerial larvicide application services and not the LFICD. We feel that there is nothing in the State Statutes that prevents the State from providing the larvicide service to the district.

Should LFICD continue to do the larval surveys? The Board agrees that LFICD should continue to do the larval surveys and make recommendations for treatment. We would like to arrange an in person meeting with relevant members of the VAA no later than the end of January (Alan Graham and Tim Schmalz) for the purpose of discussing our Grant Agreement and treatment strategies going forward without the use of the LFICD aircraft.

6. Finalize 3rd party applicator requirements.

David D. has written a document to submit to Rebecca Air and/or JBI outlining the VAA requirements that 3rd party aerial application companies must comply with in order for LFICD to obtain reimbursement for aerial larvicide application services. The document has been reviewed by members of the VAA and their comments have been incorporated. The terms contained in the document would be included in any contract the LFICD might sign with a 3rd party applicator. The board agrees that the document is ready to submit to JBI and Rebecca Air for their feedback.

7. 2014 lessons learned:

(Also a review of the season for the benefit of potential new member, Alissa S.)
Craig Zondag had a phone conversation and email dialog with Alan Graham to review our survey and treatment season. Alan has received the larval samples collected by Craig and Judd during the 2014 larval surveys. Some of the samples reached treatable thresholds, but those areas were small and were treated with larvicide by hand. The aircraft was not used at all during the 2014 season.

The VAA had more mosquito traps set up around the state and collected more data than they have in the past and they found EEE in different species (including a cattail species) and in areas where they had not found EEE in mosquitoes before (e.g. North Hero).

Mosquito eggs can lay dormant for up to 6 years until a high rain and flood causes a hatch. 2005 and 06, which were very bad mosquito years, may have been perfect storm years and anomalies; the last 2 seasons have had relatively low larval counts. However, we would like the VAA to be more liberal in how they allow us to treat the Lemon Fair Valley, should we have a high larval count year. This year we treated small areas by hand since there were only small pockets of threshold level larval counts. But, if we have larger areas requiring treatment, it will not be possible to treat by hand. If we have less than 1000 treatable acres to treat by aircraft, we may

lose money on minimum acreage requirements or seasonal retainers from the aerial application companies.

We have the Lemon Fair district divided into approximately 200-acre polygons, but there are a lot of small pockets in the valley that cannot be precisely targeted by air. Other problems include 6-foot tall canary grass later in the summer that inhibits the larvicide product from getting to the ground. Also, WRP (“Wetland Restoration Project”) has created several retaining pools that did not exist before in the Lemon Fair that are now breeding grounds for mosquitoes. For these reasons, we would like to be allowed to paint the valley with larvicide when larval counts warrant, especially in early spring.

8. New Bridport member: Alissa Shethar

Alissa S. attended this meeting and is interested in joining the Board to replace Rusty Sherman from Bridport. The Bridport Select Board needs to be notified and approve her appointment. Rusty Sherman (Bridport) is leaving the board and we thank him for his service.

9. Adjourn: 7:15

Next meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2014, Cornwall Town Offices, 5:00.