

LFICD Board Meeting
May 8, 2024
Virtual Zoom meeting

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: Christine Chapline, David Zarowin, Dinah Bain, Gary Rodes, Judd Markowski, Bob Cluss, Craig Zondag,

2. Approve April 2, 2024 minutes:

The April Treasurer's report needs to be amended due to a mistake in the Cash Forward and Net Current Assets columns; otherwise, but there were no changes in the transactions for April. The April minutes are approved.

3. Treasurer's report:

The amended April 2024 report is approved.

May 2024 report:

Cash forward: \$109,695.07

Cash received: \$0.78

Total cash for month: \$109,695.85

Total Disbursements: \$8,320.80

Cash on hand: \$101,375.05

Total Accounts payable: \$0.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$101,375.05

The May Treasurer's report is approved.

Financial review: 2023 annual review materials will be sent this month.

4. Field coordinator report:

On April 4th Craig hosted a meeting with Jeff Schumann from the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District to share information about what we do and how we conduct our internship program.

On April 17th Craig met with Lindsay Baxter of NEVBD (Northeast Regional Center for Excellence in Vector-Borne Diseases ~ Cornell Univ.) over Zoom to discuss this years' approach to collecting mosquito egg rafts, rearing and submitting larvae for pesticide resistance. Lindsay is very interested in establishing a colony from our local stock of mosquitoes, which involves a new level of collecting and shipping specimens. An NEVBD webinar is scheduled for May 2nd to go over these details. Lindsay had also expressed interest in coming out here in person to assist with set ups and collections. Craig received the report from the egg rafts he collected in 2023 as part of the NEVBD Pesticide Resistance Monitoring Program on April 30th.

Internships:

Craig has hired one intern from UVM and is interviewing other candidates this week for the second intern position.

Potential future drone aerial treatment service:

On April 29th, Craig met with Rick Jordon of CNY Drone Services, an agricultural drone service located in Clinton, NY (cnydroneservices.com). CNY Drone Service does not currently have a mosquito treatment program, so it was a privilege for Craig to be the first person to speak with them with regard to what is entailed in putting together a drone program for mosquito abatement. Craig took Rick into the field to survey the landscape of the Lemon Fair floodplain. Rick felt it would be doable to treat the entire floodplain, 300-400 acres, in one day. The Cornwall Swamp area, however, would require a “cherry picker/boom” equipment in order to keep the drone in line of sight and would possibly require permission to close Swamp Road during the treatment. Rick will put a package proposal together for costs and services. Jeff Schumann of the Otter Creek Watershed Insect Control District also plans to meet with Rick in regard to treating their district by drone.

On April 30th, Craig met via Zoom with the VAA and NEPMA (New England Pest Management Association) on a webinar and asked for clarification for the need for a retail license to distribute mosquito dunks that are already available over the counter. Answer: it’s best to get the permit to be sure we are in compliance. Craig also contacted David Huber (Deputy Director of the Public Health and Agricultural Resource Management Division at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Foods & Markets, VAAFM) for clarification on whether a drone pilot needs Pesticide Licensing with 7-B certification to apply larvicide, or could that person just be accompanied by a licensed pesticide applicator with the 7-B certification? Answer: A drone pilot and company are required to have their own 7-B certification.

5. Mosquito dunk program:

The LFICD has received a VAAFM Retail License, which enables us to provide over the counter bti mosquito dunks to private properties and show appropriate placement of them. We will initially supply the first treatment of Dunks to interested property owners and thereafter it will be up to the property owner to purchase their own dunks. Middlebury Farm and Garden quoted the LFICD 20% off the purchase of 25 packages of 20 units of Summit Mosquito Dunks, which comes to \$641.79 for 500 dunks (tax exempt).

The board unanimously authorized spending up to \$650 for up to 500 mosquito dunks to be used in the program.

6. Aerial permit update:

North Fork Helicopter Service has submitted their information for Part 2 of the aerial permit. Patti is ready to issue our aerial permit, but is waiting to see if CNY Drone Services will qualify to be added to it (they will need to have 7-B pesticide applicator certification first).

7. Insurance update:

Both our liability insurance and workman’s comp insurance have been paid for and are in effect.

8. 2024 Field Coordinator contract executive session:

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:50 to discuss personnel matters.
Out of executive session at 6:57.

9. Adjourn 6:59

Next meeting: June 4, 2024, 5:30 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting