

**Lemon Fair Insect Control District  
Cornwall, VT  
June 3, 2014**

**Minutes:**

**Call to order:** 5:00

Present: David Dodge, Rusty Sherman, Chuck Burkins, Lew Castle, Dinah Bain, Christine Chapline, Judd Markowski, Craig Zondag

**Approve May minutes:**

May minutes are approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Cash Forward: \$26,790.74

Cash Received: \$26,846.10

Total Cash for month: \$53,636.84

Disbursements: \$26,892.45

Cash on Hand: \$26,744.39

Accounts Payable: \$3,200.00

Net current assets: \$23,544.39

Update: Plane repairs are \$1851.17, not the \$1500 that was estimated under Accounts Payable, so current assets are less by \$351.17

Debts we still owe for the season:

We currently have \$3600 owed in accounts payable, not including \$5500 for the HVAC (we still don't know if the State will contribute) and the summer payroll.

**Dipping and treatment status (Judd Markowski)**

Since the plane is still out of commission and there has not been enough treatable acreage to use JBI, Craig and Judd have been treating areas where the larva are over threshold by hand using VectoBac (East of Payne, Prunier Rd and Lemon Fair Rd areas; all in Weybridge).

The Wetland Restoration Project has created ponds along the Lemon Fair, which didn't exist until the end of last year. Lots of frogs and tadpoles were seen in the new wetland area. There are now 4 ponds within the LFICD/Weybridge districts. The ponds and natural predators seem to be working to control larva in these areas.

Treating by hand was observed to be very effective. They used less than 5 lbs/ of Vectobac per total acreage covered, but the larvicide was concentrated at the edges of the wet areas. Clouds of dead larva were observed an hour after treatment. Areas other than East of Payne are drying down quickly.

Because of the following factors, Craig and Judd feel that it may sometimes be more efficient to treat "hot" areas by hand:

- 1) Low acreages that meet the larval threshold of 20 larva/cup make treating by air inefficient and don't meet the minimum acreages set by 2<sup>nd</sup> party applicators.
- 2) Treatment in any given area is only allowed once every 14 days.
- 3) The larvicide concentration conditions imposed by the State (5 lbs/acre) are lower than the label recommends, but treating by hand can concentrate the larvicide on the edges of the puddles to be more effective, while maintaining less than 5 lbs/total acreage.
- 4) Treatment can be done in wind or bad weather and over a period of days,
- 5) The field techs don't have to both survey and coordinate the plane on treatment days.
- 6) Treatment can happen at the same time as surveying if an area is found to be over threshold while being surveyed.

When there is a large amount of flooding, hiring a second party applicator would be more effective. Using 30-day Natular would also help. If we got rid of the plane and plane expenses, we could afford more man-hours to treat by hand. Practically, we need to figure out approximate hours needed to treat each area. We would need more people; Judd would need to get his pesticide license to treat without Craig. BLSG has asked us to keep the plane, though, because their areas are much larger (too difficult to treat by hand), but not up to the minimum for JBI. We need to be able to bill for surveying hours, but also for the man-hours needed to apply the larvicide by hand. Right now the State will only pay for (some) surveying.

**Plane Repairs, insurance refund potential:** (Lew Castle)

The plane has been grounded due to problems with loose studs on the cylinders. Those are now replaced.

Can we get insurance money back if we keep the plane grounded? Lew has asked the underwriter, but has not gotten a response. We would have to maintain most of the insurance anyway, in order to be able to move the plane, so we would not save much by grounding the plane. We should keep the insurance and use the plane for treatments this season.

**Updated To Do list:**

**Next grant:** The State needs to agree to pay the minimums for 2<sup>nd</sup> party applicators and they need to pay for hand treatment on an hourly basis.

Are we in compliance with the VAA by hand treating? Should we be asking for payment by the acre or by the hour if we treat by hand? The State should at least pay at 100% of Craig and Judd's salary rate for surveying. The consensus of the Board is that at the end of the season the plane should be sold. We need to find out if the State will agree to contribute to ground treatments.

Should we pursue selling the plane? Lew will ask Dave Whitcomb to appraise it.

Fixed cost with no plane = \$30,000

Fixed cost with plane= \$60,000 (20,000 plane insurance, \$5-10,000 for maintenance and repairs)

**Set plane calibration date:**

Dave Whitcomb will fly the plane on Saturday (June 7) to test out the AgNav before scheduling calibration with the State inspectors (Dominique G. and/or Tim S.). If all goes well, the calibration can be set for next week.

**Larvicide trailer update:**

Craig Z. has spray painted the Ben and Jerry's logo out.  
Pesticide stickers are on the trailer.

We now have power on at the pedestal at the plane area.

Rusty S. is trying to get Ellerin to postpone installing the HVAC until July in case we can get the VAA to help with capital expenditures (the State's new budget starts in July).

**Adjourn:** 7:00

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 1, Bridport Town Hall, 5:00.