

Lemon Fair Insect Control District

July 2020 Newsletter

Field Conditions

The Lemon Fair Insect Control District (“LFICD”) field conditions continue to remain dry. The few spring and summer rain events have not produced sufficient standing water in the Lemon Fair for mosquito eggs to hatch.

Adult mosquito trapping from June 9 to July 17 has yielded 5,180 mosquitoes (87% *Coquillettidia perturbans*) compared to 20,885 (37% *Coquillettidia perturbans*) for a similar period in 2019. The *Coquillettidia perturbans* is known as the “Cattail Mosquito”. Of note, the need for aerial treatment is generated by the *Aedes vexans*, aka “Floodplain Mosquito”, and they have been in little evidence.

Funding

The LFICD recently received its new Grant Agreement from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture (“VAA”). Previously, the Grant Agreement has been for one year (July 1 to June 30) and totaled \$70,000. In June, Vermont passed a one quarter budget (July 1 to September 30) reflecting a desire to better understand the impact of Covid-19 on the state’s finances before passing a longer-term budget. Accordingly, the LFICD’s Grant Agreement was renewed for July 1 to September 30 at 25% of our annual \$70,000 or \$17,500. The VAA advised that our Grant Agreement may continue on a quarterly basis and may be limited to \$17,500 each quarter. This will be a challenge for us given that our reimbursable costs are generated primarily from April to September.

In mid-July, we contacted our Legislators to determine if there was funding flexibility. Senator Chris Bray (Addison) approached the Senate Appropriations Committee Chair and the Vermont Finance Commissioner, and it appears that there is additional flexibility. As of the date of this newsletter, we are awaiting details from our VAA Grant Administrator.

We are very much aware of the financial challenges facing Vermont and the VAA and are very appreciative of their support and guidance. We are also fortunate to have the support of our legislators and thank Senator Bray for his quick and helpful response.

Additional Information on the LFICD can be found at:

<https://lficd.org/index.html>

David Dodge

Chair LFICD

July 20, 2020