

LFICD Board Meeting  
June 7, 2022

**Draft minutes:**

**1. Call to order: 5:30**

Present: David Dodge, Christine Chapline, Judd Markowski, Craig Zondag, Alissa Shethar, Gary Rodes, Wendy Lynch

**2. Approve May minutes:**

The May minutes are approved.

**3. Treasurer's Report:**

Cash forward: \$107,384.96

Cash received: \$6,000.16

Total cash for month: \$113,385.12

Total Disbursements: \$14,028.90

Cash on hand: \$99,356.22

Total Accounts payable: \$0

Accounts receivable: \$12,000

Current assets: \$111,356.22

**4. Field Coordinator Report:**

**Field Conditions:** Rain events in May yielded between 4"-5.75" of rain between the three towns. One rain event created a medium to high flood event within the Lemon Fair Valley. Water levels receded fairly quickly and the Lemon Fair River was within its banks within three days. However, Rutland CO. received 4" of rain in one event and Salisbury 2"-3" from the same event. This promulgated a mosquito hatch within the Cornwall Swamp. On May 20, Judd Markowski assisted me in conducting a larvicide treatment on the eastern edge of the swamp adjacent to and North and South of the VT F&W Boat Access off of Swamp Rd. A total of 6.36 acres were treated in the vicinity. The larvicide treatment was conducted using our new Maruyama Backpack Sprayer. Post treatment surveying proved the application 99% effective. ~ Recent CDC Light Trapping have yielded two species of mosquitoes; *Oc. abserattus/punctor* and *Oc. stimulans*. Both of these species are univoltine (meaning the female only lays one batch of eggs) and are fairly short lived in the Spring. They are considered to be "snow melt" mosquitoes. They can have an abundance of presence in pockets and coming from habitats (woodland, vernal pools and adjacent wetlands) close to where they have become an annoyance. Their behavior is nearly lackadaisical, in that they will hover, land, walk around on your skin...before probing their proboscis in for a blood meal. They are easy to swat when they are on you.

Conditions at the writing of this report show the Lemon Fair River is well within its banks. The Cornwall Swamp is still draining.

**New Equipment:** Thanks again to *Dragon Mosquito Control* in Brentwood, N.H. for the training on the use and maintenance of the new Maruyama MD300 backpack sprayer. I've already put it to use. And though it is limited in treating really large acreages i.e.: 30+ acres at a time, it does empower us to spot treat smaller acreages which may suppress nuisance hatches coming from

the same areas, “stamping out fires.” This is also far more effective than hand application, which is what we’ve been limited to in the past.

**Surveillance:** In updating records, we are in the process of reaching out to property owners and requesting permission to both conduct surveillance and larvicide mitigation practices within the larger commons (Lemon Fair River flood plain and tributaries flowing into the river and within the Cornwall Swamp; this also includes the Potash in Bridport). If you are approached, we will ask for a signature on a mutually accepted consent form. Thank you all for your cooperation.

**5. Assisting the Field Coordinator Compensation:**

\$27.50/hr. will be the compensation rate for assisting the Field Coordinator in the field (not including the use of personal equipment)

**6. Intern Program:**

This summer’s interns, Arianna Morton and Nicholas Steinthal, both from UVM, were introduced. They started working with Craig in the field on June 1. Craig also met with Yide (Alex) Xu from Middlebury College and Middlebury GIS Specialist/Teaching Fellow Bill Hegman. They went over a time line and outlined the duties of the GIS- LIDAR mapping internship. This internship will be considered Phase II of the continued detailed mapping and drainage patterns of the Lemon Fair River.

**7. Treatment scope:**

North Fork Helicopter has not updated their insurance information with the State beyond this month. Craig will contact North Fork to find out if they are still interested in treating for us and ask them to submit the necessary information. Addendum: North Fork has responded to Craig that they will send their insurance certificate to the Agency of Agriculture when they receive it in mid-June. North Fork does plan to continue service in Vermont.

However, we need to be able to treat in a different way if aerial treatments are not available to us.

Backpack larvicide treatments are limited to a few acres a day. Hotspot areas needing treatment are hard to predict, but sites where high larval counts are found will have paths mown to them as required for treatment with the backpack sprayer. We may need the use of a pick-up truck or trailer to transport larvicide to hotspot areas safely.

Judd remarked that drones are the way to go for aerial treatment in the future, but the State will not allow treatment by drone at this time.

The Board held a discussion that addressed the role of the LFICD, given our changing circumstances and possible lack of treatment options. This includes the fact that we are finding few treatable larvae during surveys in the floodplains. When mosquitoes are coming from woodlands and not the floodplain areas, we can only field complaints from property owners and offer mitigation advice. The outreach program has been effective at helping landowners understand what we can do and can’t do and how they can address mosquitoes on

their properties and has reached many residents, but how can we provide effective treatment options for the Towns?

**8. Public Outreach:**

There were 3 complaint calls during May from Cornwall and Bridport (as well as 1 complaint in April). Craig has been able to meet with two of the three property owners and has set up CDC Light Traps respectively. Once again, being able to address these complaints in person has proven positive and has empowered property owners to take some control of mitigation through IMM (Integrated Mosquito Management).

The Cornwall newsletter is helpful in getting information out (quarterly LFICD updates and Field coordinator reports), but there is nothing similar in Weybridge or Bridport, so most of the property owners that contact us are from Cornwall. Alissa and Gary will ask their town clerks about how to get information to their townspeople (e.g., send information by email and/or postal mail.).

**9. New Board member update:** None

**10. New business:** None

**11. Next meeting:** July 5, 2022, 5:30 pm

Virtual meeting by Zoom