

LFICD Board Meeting
February 6, 2024
Virtual Zoom meeting

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: Christine Chapline, Bob Cluss, David Zarowin, Judd Markowski, Craig Zondag

2. Approve January 2, 2024 minutes:

The minutes from the January 2, 2024 meeting were approved.

3. Treasurer's report: no Treasurer's report; Dinah is away

4. VAA Meeting Discussion:

Chris Chapline, David Zarowin, Bob Cluss and Craig Zondag met with Patti Casey (Vermont Agency of Agriculture) earlier in the day to review the past season and discuss LFICD concerns.

Notes from the meeting:

Craig went over 2023 season data with Patti:

Aedes trivittatus (upland species) made up approximately 41% of mosquitoes caught in the light traps. and predominated in the second half of the season when complaint levels were high.

Aedes vexans (floodplain species) made up 28% of mosquitoes caught in the light traps.

Ground treatments were conducted in small areas when larva were discovered.

Discussion of IPM: We are a small district with very limited funds to conduct IPM in order to meet the conditions set in our Grant Agreement with the VAA. What is our best use of the resources we have and where should our energies be put? Getting more funding needs to go through the legislature. Meeting with our legislators is the first step; it is up to them to bring our concerns/requests to the appropriate committees.

Can the LFICD use State supplied larvicide on private properties? Can we treat private properties not identified on our permit map? (yes, with owner permission and a distribution permit).

Tire slicer: the VAA has used their tire slicer (purchased to reduce mosquito habitat from farm tire piles) at several events and the LFICD would like to have it as a demonstration at our open house and Addison County Field Days, as well as having district farms have access to it.

Discussion on the future of the LFICD:

The VAA does not have plans to purchase a drone, but there is an interest in using a drone for mosquito control. However, the VAA does not itself conduct mosquito control unless requested to by the Health Department, so the LFICD would have to pursue drone utilization on our own. Applications of larvicide by drone is covered under our aerial permit, assuming we can find a commercial operator that is certified in VT. A question to be answered is whether or not the drone operator needs a pesticide license or just needs to be accompanied on site by a licensed pesticide applicator.

Concerns about climate change and its potential effects on mosquito numbers and their effects on health, agriculture, leisure and tourism were discussed.

5. Vote to remove Chuck Burkins from LFICD bank accounts:

Former board member, Chuck Burkins, is still on the LFICD bank accounts at National Bank of Middlebury. To remove his name from the accounts, NBM requires a copy of minutes that reflect a vote to remove him.

With a quorum present, a motion was made and seconded to remove Chuck Burkins' name from LFICD bank accounts and the motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business:

Craig has scheduled the 2024 LFICD open house for July 20, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Craig has been invited by the Addison County Regional Planning Commission to give a presentation on mosquito control in our district on February 14. The Regional Planning Commission may be a potential source for a grant.

2024 Internships: Craig has met with Bill Hegman from Middlebury College and he is planning a Middlebury College GIS-LIDAR mapping internship position for Phase III of our mapping project, which will focus on the Cornwall Swamp. Craig will be advertising for LFICD interns for our Field Biology Experience in Mosquito Abatement positions.

7. Adjourn: 6:20

Next meeting: March 5, 2024, 5:30 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting.