

LFICD Board Meeting
February 7, 2023

Draft minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:30

Present: David Dodge, Christine Chapline, Dinah Bain, Wendy Lynch, Craig Zondag
Guests: Patti Casey, Steve Dwinell from Vermont Agency of Agriculture

2. Approve January minutes: The January minutes are approved with a correction to the January Treasurer's report.

3. Approve February Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$118,486.06

Cash received: \$6.78

Total cash for month: \$118,492.84

Total Disbursements: \$2,686.85

Cash on hand: \$115,805.99

Total Accounts payable: \$1,200.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$114,605.99

The February Treasurer's report is approved.

4. Meeting with Vermont Agency of Agriculture:

Patti Casey (our Grant Administrator) introduced the board to Steve Dwinell (Director, Public Health & Agricultural Resource Management Division)

5. Discuss new Vermont Rules for Control of Pesticides:

Steve D. discussed the role of the VAA in mosquito control districts:

- to provide the regulatory framework for pest (mosquito) management on private property
- to provide technical support for mosquito districts
- to enforce pesticide rules by performing inspections of pesticide applications
- to manage grant funding for mosquito district activities

The VT pesticide rules have not changed since 1991; the VAA has been working to update them for years and the new rules were approved in January, 2023.

The bulk of the revised rules deal with pesticide training and certifications.

Patti C. and Steve D. answered our questions concerning how the revised rules will affect the LFICD:

-The 5-year permit application has changed, but the LFICD's current permit won't expire until 2026. The most substantive change is the requirement to send written notification to all abutting landowners of treatment areas. We have until the current permit expires to figure out how to do this. The 1-year aerial permit is largely the same.

- Our current treatment maps required by the 5-year permit are OK. The VAA will work with us to incorporate private wells and public water sources (from the Agency of Natural Resources maps) into our treatment maps.
- The required NOI (notice of intent to apply larvicide) will be good for the full season, not just 60 days. A notice for landowners to refuse treatment can be announced in the NOI and on our website, as we have been doing.
- The new Vermont Rules requirements for buffer distances from water sources do not apply to aerial applications. For aerial larvicide treatments, the buffer around wells and public water sources will be whatever the product label requires.
- The one-year Aerial Permit will not have a waiting period for public comment but the 5-year larvicide permit has a 30-day public comment period prior to issuance.
- Aerial applicator companies must meet federal and state certificate requirements and testing. The annual aerial permit application will remain largely the same.
- The new rules include mechanical drones as an aerial option in the aerial applicator rules. Steve would like to get the State to approve the use of drones for larvicide applications and to help connect the mosquito districts with pesticide applicator companies or individual operators using drones for pesticide application elsewhere in the State.

6. New business:

The State VAA will soon be acquiring a tire slicer to reduce mosquito habitat on farm tire piles. They plan to widely publicize its availability for use on farms. The LFICD towns will be the pilot area for that operation.

7. Adjourn: 7:00

Next Zoom Virtual Meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:30 PM