

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

COMMITTEE FOR TICK/DEER/LYME DISEASE

CHRONOLOGY OF WORK TO DATE

- 1997 On the initiative of the Health Center, the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory (V-BDL) conducts a tick survey. Found 0.5 ticks per hour, 0 were infected.
- 2006 Second tick survey by V-BDL. 3.5 ticks per hour, 24.0 % infected. Dr. Peter Rand gives “Tick Talk” for Islesboro community.
- October 23, 2008 Health Center Advisory Board (HCAB) meeting. Edie Konesni reports that to date in 2008, there were 18 new cases of Lyme disease on Islesboro, as opposed to 7 new cases in 2007. She says that Lyme disease prevention should be an urgent priority for the HCAB and recommends that a sub-committee be formed to gather information on the subject. The following join the committee: Jack Coffin, George Evans, Linda Gillies, Laura Houle and Jennifer Whyte.
- October 29, 2008 First meeting of the “Tick Committee” (the Committee). Committee members each volunteer to look into various aspects of Lyme disease prevention.
- November 4, 2008 Second meeting of the committee. Members pool their preliminary findings, agree to incorporate the information into a written report.
- November 7, 2008 Response from Pete Rand at the V-BDL saying that Islesboro “has a lot to offer as a site for a research project which would track both tick abundance and infection rate in response to island-wide interventions” (*Email correspondence with Pete Rand November – January – Attachment A*).
- November 13, 2008 HCAB meeting. The completed report is circulated to HCAB staff and Advisory Board members (*Attachment B*). Principal recommendations were:
- The health threat posed to residents of Islesboro by the presence of the deer tick appears to be serious and should become a top priority for the Health Center, the Health Center Advisory Board and the Town of Islesboro.

- To determine the course of action to address this potential problem, the Health Center Advisory Board should initiate a medical and scientific inquiry into the incidence of Lyme disease on Islesboro, its causes and what steps, if any, should be taken to address the problem.
- Staff of the V-BDL and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, recognized authorities on issues related to Lyme disease, should be enlisted at the outset in order to assist in the design and implementation of the Health Center’s inquiry.
- The Health Center should inform the Board of Selectmen of this initiative and should keep the Selectmen briefed on an ongoing basis.
- While the inquiry is being carried out, the Health Center should make every effort to inform islanders of the risk of tick bites, how to avoid the and how to control ticks on their properties.

There is agreement that the issue of Lyme disease should be presented to the Selectmen.

- November 27, 2008 Third Committee meeting. Committee’s findings indicate that the first steps in a Lyme disease prevention program are surveys of both tick and deer density. Because of staff shortages, IF&W is unable to conduct the deer survey; V-BDL will be able to conduct the tick survey. The committee agrees to secure a proposal from V-BDL and to enlist assistance from IF&W in finding an organization that that could assist with the deer surveys. Pete Rand of V-BDL emails his on November 28 (*see Attachment A*); Lee Kantar recommended Woodlot Alternatives (which has been acquired by Stantec) and sent information about deer surveys on December 3 (*Attachment C*).
- December 3, 2008 Fourth Committee meeting. Agree to secure proposals from Woodlot Alternatives and to investigate “fly-by” alternatives. (*Meeting summary, Attachment D*).
- January 2009 Linda Gillies has conversations with Susan Bernatas of Vision Air and Steven Pelletier of Stantec ; both submitted proposals (*Attachments E and F*).
- January 15, 2009 HCAB meeting, Marnie Diffin present. Board reviews Vision Air and Stantec proposals and decides that in all probability, the Stantec proposal was more appropriate to Islesboro’s heavily wooded topography. Board discusses presentation to Board of Selectmen. Marnie Diffin agrees to add an item for \$20,000 under the Public Safety category in the Town budget to cover the cost of both the Stantec and V-BDL surveys. If funding is available, the surveys to be taken in the spring and fall of 2010 (*Meeting summary, Attachment G*).

May 3, 2009	Town Meeting approves allocation of \$15,000
Spring/Summer 2009	In cooperation with local veterinarians, V-BDL conducts Islesboro/Midcoast Canine Lyme Disease/Anaplasmosis Serosurvey. Of the 65 Islesboro dogs tested, 13.8% carried antibodies for Lyme disease.
Summer 2009	Health Center disseminates information about Lyme disease through providing information to various groups with outdoor activities, articles in the IIN and displays at the post office, ferry landing and Health Center. Health Center diagnoses 9 new cases of Lyme disease May – September Health Center negotiates with Canadian Helicopter in New Brunswick to do deer count via helicopter.
Oct/Nov 2009	Vector Borne Disease Laboratory conducts survey of deer ticks at 20 locations on Islesboro (<i>Attachment H</i>). 5.0 ticks per hour, 48.4 % infected, a 50% increase over 2006. Canadian Helicopter declines to do survey because of international security restrictions and on the grounds that the deer will not be visible from the air because of Islesboro’s heavy soft wood cover.
January 2010	Health Center negotiates with Stantec to conduct deer survey in March; use of island volunteers reduces price.
March 15-18, 2010	Michael Johnson and Tom Tetreau, biologists from Stantec, organize deer count. Under the direction of Vicki Conover and Heather Sinclair, the 9 th grade biology class participated, as did 17 Islesboro volunteers coordinated by Laura Houle.
April 7, 2010	9 th grade biology class makes presentation about deer survey at Science Night. They conclude that Islesboro has 75 deer per square mile.
April 10, 2010	9 th grade biology class makes presentation at the Maine State Geographical Information Systems competition in Augusta.
April 14, 2010	Selectmen decide to establish a 7-member “Tick” committee.
May 20, 2010	Stantec submits its deer count report, which concludes that Islesboro has 62 deer per square mile.
May 24, 2010	First meeting of the “Tick” committee. Reviewed background information, elected Laura Houle as chair and Linda Gillies as secretary. Agreed on a mission and that the committee should be called the Lyme

Disease Prevention Committee (LDPC), established a tentative timetable and meeting schedule.

- July 12, 2010 Second meeting of the LDPC. Agreed that the committee's primary tasks were 1) information gathering 2) reporting to and involving the Islesboro community.
- October 4, 2010 Linda Gillies meets with Lee Kantar at the IF&W office in Bangor.
- October 25, 2010 Third meeting of LDPC. It was agreed that: 1) a second deer count should be taken in March 2011 2) Laura Houle should submit an article for the November/December IIN 3) Laura Houle should report to the Selectmen at the November 10th meeting 4) Forum/s for the Islesboro community should be held after the committee has completed its recommendation and report.
- November 12, 2010 Pete Rand, Eleanor Lacombe and Chuck Lubeczyk of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory conduct tick count. 93 ticks were collected during a total of 11.25 hours of flagging, equaling 8.3 ticks per hour, up from 5 ticks per hour in 2009. Percentage of infected ticks TBD.
- November 16, 2010 Laura Houle and Linda Gillies meet with Jim Connolly, Wildlife Biologist, Region B, by telephone conference call. They agree that forums for the community should happen after the committee has made its recommendation.
- Nov/Dec. 2010 Islesboro Island News has article by Laura Houle.
- December 6, 2010 Fourth meeting of LDPC. It was reported that Stantec, Inc. has been contacted about a March 2011 deer count and that further information about state regulations and procedures relating to hunting on Islesboro has been obtained. It was agreed that the committee should aim to complete its recommendation/report by April.
- January 20, 2011 IF&W takes aerial survey of Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. Because of snow condition, the ability to detect deer was low and the survey did not provide a reliable estimate.

LG 1/26/11