

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Thursday, April 17th  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
UVM Extension - Middlebury  
23 Pond Lane, Suite 300  
Middlebury, VT 05753



## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

### **Attendance:**

*Kirsten Workman, Secretary*  
*Loren Wood, Director*  
*Brian Kemp, Director*  
*Ernie & Marie Audet, Director*  
*Johnathan Chamberlin, Member*  
*Jeff Carter, Treasurer*  
*Rico Balzano, guest (UVM Extension)*  
*Eric Clifford, President*  
*Peter James, Director*  
*David Conant, Director*  
*Lorenzo Whitcomb, Director*  
*Ben Dykema, Vice President*  
*Ted Foster, Director*  
*Tim Kayhart, Director*  
*Ben Gleason, guest (farmer)*

*Called to order at 10:06*

### **Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes**

Kirsten reviewed March minutes.

*Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman*

*Motion to accept March minutes: Ernie Audet*

*Second: Peter James*

*Discussion: none*

*Passed without abstention or dissention*

### **Treasurer Report**

Report encompasses from last meeting (3/26/14) until today  
Should deposits show up until they are approved applications? We should hold them.

*Jeff Carter*

*Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Ernie Audet*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion: from here on we will hold checks that come with new membership applications until approved by board*

*Passed without abstention or dissention*

### **President's Report**

Comments after last month's minutes

- Agree with Ernie's comments about increasing membership to have more 'clout'. I agree and my goal is to really grow membership
- Excited to work with ECHO on outreach
- Executive Director

*Eric Clifford*

## Membership Application Approvals

**Kirsten Workman**

Bill J. Kipp, Independent Dairy Consultants Inc. (Middlebury) – Business Member

Harold DeGraaf, DeGraaf Dairy (Richmond) – Vermont Farm

Hans, Rudy & Gerard Vorsteveld, Vorsteveld Farm LLP (Vergennes) – Vermont Farm

Invite Yankee Farm Credit (Ken Button)

Track #acres, farm type, # animals with membership

Motion to accept applications as submitted: Dave Conant

Second: Ted Foster

Discussion: none

*Passed without abstention or dissent*

## Watersheds United Vermont

**Kirsten**

Ann Ingerson, Program Coordinator, will join us by Skype to give us a brief overview of the newly formed group, Watersheds United Vermont ([www.watershedsunitedvt.org](http://www.watershedsunitedvt.org)). She has invited CVFC to join this group and will be sharing their vision and goals and how CVFC might fit in to this newly formed initiative.

*Watersheds United Vermont is a state-wide collaborative made up of local groups dedicated to the health of their home watershed. Our mission is to connect community-based watershed groups in Vermont with the knowledge, tools and networks needed to more effectively enhance and protect the health of Vermont water resources. Our members include informal neighbor groups who join together for water quality monitoring, river cleanups and public education, as well as staffed organizations that carry out major restoration projects.*

We should attend May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting and see how we are received/heard before joining...test the waters  
Watershed groups have not always been 'friendly'.

Is our mission aligned with a group focusing on wq monitoring??

Farmer input is wanted...could we help facilitate trainings related to the interaction between water samplers and farm landowners?

Lots of opportunity for networking and communication

## The Future of CVFC...Executive Director discussion continued

**Eric Clifford/Jeff Carter**

Jane Clifford will not be able to join us for the meeting. She has agreed to share her current job description to give the board of an idea of her current duties and responsibilities. This will be a larger discussion to continue the one started last month (and before) about the future of the organization, strategies for taking it to the next level and solidify an approach to creating an Executive Director position for the organization.

- Fresh energy, new face
- Jane is willing to do some work in Montpelier for free. When we get an ED full-time she could work with them.
- We have two other missions...
- Any conflicts with Jane's work with GMDF. Jane will talk to her board to ensure there wouldn't be any conflicts. When it comes to policy...none foreseen. She is being paid through milk co-op \$\$
- Important for her to be eye's/ears for water quality issues that come up in Montpelier, to be proactive and give us a head's up so we can go up. Being prepared. Our group to be looked to. Legislative breakfasts, etc. Divide
- Attend all Legislative Breakfasts next season
- Marie...let's focus on ECHO and get that message, and utilize Jane for legislative liason.
- Put funding together first...Jane has a list
- Brian...WLEB. Service Provider Grants. We could apply as a group for up to \$100K
- VCF, Ben & Jerry's, Linthillac, Castanzia, Commonwealth Yogurt, Ag Feed Alliance, AllTech, Milk Co-Ops
- Can we pay her?
- Develop what we want to do NOW, then tailor it as applications come up.
- Three pieces...POST IT, get the word out, see what comes in.

- \$\$ now,
- THREE Distinct mission areas: public policy, outreach/education to farmers, education/outreach public – sustainable farms and sustainable water quality

Motion to advertise or hire grant writing/fundraising summer position paid for by CIG for WLEB and others: Ben Dykema  
 Second: Brian Kemp  
 Discussion...seven days, craigslist, press releases,  
 Passed without dissent or abstention

**Public outreach – Brainstorm Session!**

**Jeff/Kirsten**

Please bring YOUR 'messaging themes and ideas' with you for a short brainstorming session. Think about things you would like the public to know about farming and water quality that they might not know....or a common misconception you have heard your neighbors share. Jeff and Kirsten will capture the ideas and themes to frame the meeting with Gerianne from ECHO following the board meeting.

**Project/Policy Updates**

**Jeff Carter/Eric Clifford**

GMO (Marie Audet)....brought a copy of Bill Rowell's interview as an idea to have messaging  
 HB 586...disheartening that the bill is stagnant and won't move forward. Should we have input

**Next meeting, Jane will give us a recap of the session**

**Other Updates**

**All**

(Dave) Aaron Alexander (Syngenta) pesticide labeling issues with cover crops. He has some concerns.  
 Know what you're going to do ahead of time before you spray and communicate to your applicator  
 Normal practice is 'weed control' and subsequent crops  
 Interseeding and haversted cover crop is the biggest issue

Media requests:

Take their number, ask and callback

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>...tentative.**

*ADJOURN 12:05*

Motion: Ernie

Second: Brian

*Passed without dissent or abstention*

**Meet with Gerianne Smart (ECHO) from 12:00 – 2:00 about outreach partnerships and video production.**