

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, June 11th
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension - Middlebury
23 Pond Lane, Suite 300
Middlebury, VT 05753



BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes with correction: Brian Kemp

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion: Loren wood seconded on page 3

Passed without abstention or dissention

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

Treasurer Report

Motion to approve treasurer: Ben Dykema

Second: Marie Audet

Discussion

Passed without abstention or dissention

Jeff Carter

President's Report

Migrant Justice

Next farm...agrimark farm most likely next

Meeting with VAAFM, co-ops, about being proactive on June 18th

Eric Clifford

Julie Moore, Critical Source Areas

Expanding the work done in Rock River/Missisquoi

The model is being tweaked over the summer to make it more accurate

Bruce Lisman (Campaign for VT... <http://www.campaignforvermont.org>), Buzz Herr, pro ag & pro water quality...farming has a public perception issue. Haven't shown that we are taking on water quality issues on our own without being forced to do it.

Want to reach out to farmers to 'prove' their commitment to water quality. Finish Julie Moore's work on the VT side of lake. Map all fields and be able to show where we have reduced the 'red fields'. Show the public that we're making progress. Proposing that use \$300K to do this project, wq money from Leahy that isn't already designated/allocated to LCBP. If farmers are on board, they can make it happen. Giving the map 'to the farmers.'

(Brian) Technical Service providers to input 'real' info. Farmers shouldn't be inputting data. Let's make sure that is accurate.

(Rachel) Computer access and use is still limited in some areas

Lots of \$\$ spent...what's the impact? People don't like throwing money at a problem without results.

(Ben) Can we even do enough to meet TMDL and change the lake??

(Ed) This will take longer with land management practices than 2-3 years, even 5 years.

We have to demonstrate some progress.

We want to wrap our arms around it, but ensure it gets rolled out appropriately.

Supporters want the farmers to say they are on board and go for it.

Julie is working on a better budget.

Motion to move forward with CSA proposal with Julie Moore to acquire funding and show progress as farmers for water quality: Ben Dykema

Second Brian Kemp

Discussion

Passed without dissent or abstention

Membership Application Approvals

Kirsten Workman

None received since last meeting (5/7/14)

CVFC Swag

Ben Dykema

Ben brought an example t-shirt to look at. They would charge \$8/shirt = \$1/color

Move to order 100 shirts, one per membership additional available for purchase.: Kirsten Workman

Second: Eric C.

Discussion...green/blue, xl and xxl and xxxl

Passed without dissent or abstention

Soil Health Workshop...CVFC sponsor?

Jeff

Jeff shared an opportunity for CVFC to sponsor a soil health workshop looking cropping strategies and soil conditions. This could be a great opportunity for CVFC to reach out to local farmers about practices you are implementing on your own farm.

Watersheds United Vermont

Kirsten

Kirsten shared a recap of the WUV meeting she attended, share her thoughts, and some comments from a brainstorming session of attendees about agricultural runoff successes and challenges. Board agreed to participate as members of WUV and be part of the conversation. They asked that we offer our assistance training/educating other WUV members about interacting with agricultural producers during the course of their watershed work (ie. Accessing private farm property to collect water samples, education regarding farming practices, etc.).

Funding

Eric/Jeff/Kirsten

Eric, Jeff, and Kirsten have been identifying potential funding sources for our outreach efforts and for CVFC in general. We will discuss what we know so far.

- RCPP grant application(s)
 - NRCS Federal level will allocate \$1.2 billion over 4 years (split into pools)
 - EXT or CVFC tag on with state for the bigger application? Make sure we have a piece of the pie to match with other funding.
- High Meadows Foundation
- Phoenix Feed
- Commonwealth Yogurt

How do we come up with a bigger proposal.

Public Outreach Initiative – Update & Next Steps!

Jeff/Kirsten

Jeff and Kirsten shared the latest after their meeting with RetroMotion media and the forthcoming proposal.

- 10 minute video
- Day in the life of a farmer(s)

Project/Policy Updates

All

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 9th...tentative. Will host a BBQ at Clifford Camp on Lake Iroquois

ADJOURN