

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, August 13th, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



BUSINESS MEETING - MINUTES

Review and Approve July Meeting Minutes

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

Meeting at Clifford's Camp was a success. Thank you's for hosting

Motion: Ernie Audet

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff presented treasurer's report

Motion: Ernie Audet

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

President's Report

Eric Clifford

RCPD didn't go, but continue to work with Sen. Leahy's office

Press Event scheduled for end of month, possibly at No. Williston Cattle Co...talking about the good things we have done.

Announcement about potential funding??

Tom Berry working out details of funding.

In roads in Montpelier. Lots of turnover in the legislature, Jane talking about CVFC

Membership packets from Kirsten...throw them in your truck and hand them out.

Membership Application Approvals

Kirsten Workman

Harvey Smith, Smith Family Farm (New Haven, VT) – applying to be a voting member

Motion: Ted Foster

Second: Ben Dykema

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

Follow up on other membership recruitment...mailing to all current members and Addison Field Days

CVFC Swag Update

Kirsten Workman

Make sure you pick up your T-Shirt!!

Soil Health Field Day

Jeff

Jeff will share 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. Could we cover part of lunch if we need be??

Can we also be there to represent CVFC. Hang the banner and have a booth

Motion to approve sponsor lunch if needed and have a booth: Brian Kemp

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: cap at \$250

Passed without dissent or abstention

Another educational opportunity is a Ben & Jerry's Caring Dairy IPM workshop at Dykstra Farm on August 20th
Vermont AgriBility Field Day on August 20th
Bourdeau's Open House on Sept. 4th.

Funding

Eric/Jeff/Kirsten

- CSA and RCPP grant proposal Update and next steps (Jeff)
 - Did not get forwarded from VT NRCS to federal level for consideration. Only two from each state were allowed to move forward. NRCS sent VACD and Franklin Watershed/Lake Carmine
 - VACD proposal will focus on Land Treatment Plans, and NMPs for small farms. Listed Extension as a partner (continued from AOI).
 - NRCC & VT ANR...State Proposal for small farm certification and 'Certainty Program'. Based on Ag Working Group suggestions for meeting TMDL concerns
 - Can CVFC help with outreach to small farms
 - Heather & Jeff looking at another option for pushing the proposal forward...NIFA.
- High Meadows Foundation (Kirsten)
- Commonwealth Dairy proposal for Video (Eric/Kirsten)
 - Proposal to Roger Albee to move forward to Commonwealth
 - Ask for the \$50K bill
- WLEP...we need to be ready for RFP for Technical Assistance from CVFC (not Extension)
 - Up to \$100K
- When we take money...are we beholden? Shouldn't we be able to

Outreach

- *Need to get other farmers*
- *Need to get the word out to the public...farm tours, etc.*
- *Comments on James Maroney latest article a bit alarming...public thinking farming is bad for VT*
- *7Days...*
- *Tour for media/policy people*
- *Invite politicians/policymakers to each meeting.*
- *Pictures to show the impact of improvements...start with State Senators? Invite to September meeting*

Project/Policy Updates

All

- Should we submit comments to Secretary Ross regarding the CLF petition in Missisquoi Basin? (Kirsten)
 - Short submission with our letterhead...
 - Support CSA as a decision tool, farmers being proactive, support enforcement of AAPs, we support VAAFM water quality initiatives, other farmers, outreach to all.
- Senator Leahy event at CVFC Farm later in August (Eric...see above)
- Cover Cropping (EQIP/FAP Clarifications, etc) (Jeff/Kirsten)
 - Producers who were rejected from NRCS, ARE eligible for VT FAP\$\$
- Biogas Roadmap/Food Resilience Initiative (Marie)
- Others

NEXT MEETING: September 10th.

ADJOURN