

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, September 17th, 2014
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



BUSINESS MEETING –Minutes

Attendance:

Kirsten Workman, Secretary
Eric Clifford, President
Jeff Carter, Treasurer
Peter James, Director
Brian Kemp, Director
Nate Severy, staff
Tim Kayhart, Director

Review and Approve August Meeting Minutes

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

Motion: Peter James

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion: none

Passed without dissent or abstention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Motion: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

Welcome Nate Severy

Working from funding from original CIG grant and NIFA grant.

Excited to be here, hoping to fill a role of 'organization' to help member farmers share what they are doing with each other. Involve the public & legislature. Been talking to members, almost half of members so far. Members all agree that we need to work together and educate farmers, public, legislature. Also a priority to build membership

- set a calendar for events for members
- press releases about farm practices: satellite manure pits, cover crops

President's Report

Eric Clifford

- Lidar update...by next spring 70% of VT (all of Lake Champlain) will be complete, will also complete NY parts of Lake Champlain. Will enable CSA to expand
- St. Albans meeting (Friends of No. Lake Champlain)...no new information presented, no farmer organization represented, presenters had short slots of time, Mike Winslow (Champlain Basin Program) gave a good presentation about how we got here- talked about warmer water temperatures as an instigator/driver; got a little political, legislators were there but didn't necessarily learn anything new
- Its time for a legislative day (Addison/Chittenden), before/after election??, talk about CSA mapping, meet in Charlotte, invite Julie Moore/Mike Winslow, lots of shifts in personnel this legislative season, GMDC can pay for room, two hours in evening/late afternoon,
 - Before election might be better attendance
 - Old Lantern Inn, Charlotte
 - October 15thish, 4:30 – 6:30
 - Follow up with those who get elected to attend meetings
 - Buzz Hoerr, Introduction

- CVFC Directors
- Mike Winslow, what's going on in the lake
- Julie Moore, CSA initiative
- Question & Answer Session
- Take away with bullet points: mandatory practices don't make sense (flexibility is key)
- Snacks
- Looping slide show with pictures of farm practices

Membership Application Approvals

Kirsten Workman

Ben Gleason, DBA Gleason Grains (Bridport, VT) – applying to be a voting member

Yankee Farm Credit – applying to be a non-voting business member

Motion: Eric Clifford

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

Soil Health Field Day

Jeff

Rundown on how the field day went, areas for improvement, and future opportunities (follow-up field visit)

- 75 farmers, 15 others
- Well received, lots of activities
- PETER: how do we incorporate manure into our cover cropping, no-till fields
 - Transition
 - Lets go look at what folks are doing this year...
 -

Funding

Eric/Jeff/Kirsten

- High Meadows Foundation (Kirsten)
- RCPP grant proposal update (Jeff)
 - Large proposal \$20 million
 - Smaller proposals, VACD
- Commonwealth Dairy proposal for Video (Eric/Kirsten)
- LCBP (most likely due Nov 13) (bus tour, include farmers, public, and legislature in a coordinated way?)
- WLEB....letters of intent October 29th (RFP released on Oct. 1st)
- SARE grants now open
- ERP expected to open in October, due in November
- Sec. Vilsack...\$45 million to Vermont for farm water quality
 - September 25th EQIP meeting...send email to Directors to meeting

Education

Kirsten

- Watersheds United Vermont has requested that we partner with them on a workshop for member organizations to provide guidance on working with farmers and landowners on water quality projects and to request access for stream water quality monitoring.

Outreach

- Ad going into Phoenix's Perspectives magazine
- Newspaper articles- no-till on farm Rico was working with, soil health field day

Project/Policy Updates

All

- Aerial Cover Cropping update
- CLF Public Comment submitted
- Good CVFC representation at Sec. Vilsack event in Burlington
- Ideas for possible Legislature or Service Provider bus tour

- Biogas Roadmap/Food Resilience Initiative (Marie)
- Should we write a piece in a newspaper about manure management, fall harvest, etc.? Quarterly article to educate public on what is happening on farms during different seasons?
- Others

NEXT MEETING:

ADJOURN

Motion: Peter James

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Passed