

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



## Business Meeting Minutes

**10:00 Meeting called to order**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### ▪ **Secretary Report**

- Membership Application Approvals
  - Jonathan Corcoran of ACORN
    - 2005 began as an organization promoting growth of food and farm
    - Market development, technical assistance
    - Learned from Harvey Smith about soil health workshop,
    - Find opportunities to work together...especially on soil and water issues
    - Share CVFC work with ACORN's grower community...a lot of potential for learning.
    - Farm Guide, Tour de Farms, Food Education in Schools, Online Newsletter (Cultivating Connections – 2700 recipients),
    - Caring about the place where we live, environment come into more focus, water quality becoming a priority, new direction, important work

*Motion to approve application: Brian Kemp*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Passed without abstention or dissent*

#### ▪ Randall Munger

Motion: David Conant

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Passed without abstention or dissent

- Approve December Minutes

*Motion to approve December minutes: Peter James*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion...post them on the website in addition to mailing out*

*Passed without abstention or dissent*

#### ▪ **Treasurer Report**

- Annual Report
- Profit & Loss Detail available...Jeff is reviewing to make sure it is accurate. If you would like a copy to review, please let Jeff know and he will make it

*Motion to accept treasurer report: Ernie Audet*

*Second: Peter James*

*Passed without abstention or dissent*

Jeff will generate membership invoices for renewals

- **Presidents Report - Brian Kemp**

- Annual Meeting: Jim Douglas, Keynote; Farmer Panel: Howard VanderWey, Ben Dykema, Eric Severy
  - Manure Training for Spring
  - Working on Job Description for outreach position
  - Keep reaching out to neighbors for membership
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- **Annual Meeting - January 13, 2016 American Legion, Vergennes**

- Need RSVPs

- **Job Description for new KLF position**

- Subcommittee working on Job Description draft
  - Will send out Job Description, Announcement to Board of Directors before advertising
  - Timetable...30-60 days
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**10:30 RAP Draft Proposal – Laura DiPietro and Ryan Patch, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets**

The Agency of Agriculture has received comments and is making revisions to its Draft RAPs. Come and be one of the first to hear their revisions and HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD on what you think the future of Agriculture in Vermont should look like.

**Laura DiPietro**

- Middlebury had best attendance at RAP Public Hearings
- A LOT of comments, have read through all of them once and trying to categorize
- No new draft yet...so many comments. February new target
- Filing in March (through Secretary of State)...making sure it doesn't conflict with other of laws, make sure it meets the requirements of Act 64

**Ryan Patch, summary of comments received**

- Over 500 people at meetings, at least half farms, half of those small farms
- Generated significant comments
- Highlighted areas that need greater clarity
- 167 written comments, 350 pages
- High volume, very specific
- Section 5.5...manure and waste application standards. Section E...20 ppm, 10% slope. Suggestions for achieving the same intent of soil health and reduced P loss. Section C...manure spreading, winter spreading ban
- Section 5.2...nutrient ag inputs and waste storage. Manure stacking, 180 days, not using same spot more than 1x/4 years, use NRCS 'approved' stacking sites.
- Soil Health Management, cover cropping. Variability across state, specific dates, residue vs. cover cropping,
- Definitions: small farm definition, subject to flooding, ag waste/ag fertilizer/compost,
- Small Farm Size threshold, horse industry (compared to beef), using AUE instead of head, clarifying manure threshold/acreage

**Questions, Comments, CVFC:**

- Are there areas CVFC can help you with?

- You have been good about getting people to the table and being educated about the issue that we don't see in other places
- Not all spots in the state were as well versed, hadn't seen it before
- Morally support other farmers and educate them
- What are leaning towards on 5.5 E
  - Goal is to look at end product
  - Data in other areas indicates larger concentrations of manure. How do we manage to 'turn back the P clock'? Came from 590 standard, need to identify strategies for reducing soil P levels, but is it really helping. How do we help that happen.
  - There are fields/farms that have very high P levels and runoff losses...correlated. We have to show improvement, we have to take action.
- AUE/acre vs. head #
  - Federal gov't got rid of AUE a while ago.
  - Moving targets
- Stacking Manure conversation. Identifying different types of stacks...farmstead vs. field stacked
  - Not from a setback situation
  - 180 days...heard that won't work. What is the alternative? Increase to a year, but it has to be spread
    - Would a year be better?
  - NRCS: already have a hard time finding one approved site, let alone multiple
  - Clarification...CVFC asking that if you have an NRCS approved site, that could be treated separately.
  - Dryer, bedded pack is different than field stacked.
    - How do you define the difference?
    - Raw manure, pack manure, spoiled feed....what about combinations
    - If (unfrozen) it can be stacked 4' or higher
  - Buffer strips, ditches, etc...what can we do in the buffers?
    - no manure, but fertilizer
    - harvestable
    - losing yields...reduced tonnage...no manure...organic
    - What's a ditch? Who do we call? Is it in the NMP?
    - Intention for swale...connected, conveyance
    - Confusing...what's the bar. Cubic feet/second, area above/contributing to the concentrated flow
    - Having a 'sacrifice area' for bedded field as a filter strip instead of buffered ditches.
    - Planners & Farmers make those decisions, should planners be certified by state, individualized farm plans (CLF), how is that possible with staffing? Planners make the plans...then approved by state.
  - Training, education, technical assistance
    - Farm operator training...more training hours, available regionally
    - No fees for training opportunities
  - If rules go into effect July 1, when would NMP need to be completed?
    - Will have time to put in place, won't be immediate. May need to
  - Cover crops in flood plains
    - Different flooding types have different impacts to cover cropping
    - In flooding definitions...new definitions from DEC as they relate to agronomic activities (as opposed to FEMA requirements).

- What are the improved management practices that will enable farming to continue in those areas? Soluble P losses
    - Flood plain vs. frequently flooded....big difference
    - Consider risk...4000 gallons manure vs. flooding deposition
    - No cover = no fall manure?
  - Floodplains definition was left vague intentionally; the farmer knows where it is. The agency could require additional BMPs
  - Planner certification program...
    - What about small farms that self-certify...won't have a planner
    - Complaint-driven process still applies (anonymous)
  - Public Outreach of compliance...synopsis of inspections (without names)
  - Small Farm clarification
    - Law says 10 or more acres AND some number of livestock & mechanical application
    - Split definitions...livestock vs. other uses. What's the line for acreage without animals.
  - Incentives for upper level management (cover crop = less buffers),
  - Don't go backwards, got to have repercussions, there's no loss in having the lower limit be smaller
  - Separate education requirement?
  - What if everyone had to 'report' and then agency could prioritize.
  - 10% slopes:
  - Incorporate manure in floodplains
  - Solid manure does not runoff as fast.
  - Engineering issues
- **Other Business**
    - George Tucker
      - Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> ranking Nov. EQIP applications
      - Round 2 due: February 19<sup>th</sup> (ranked April, contracted June)
      - Round 3: April 15<sup>th</sup> (ranked May, contracted July)
      - No caps on acreage this year
      - Pools: McKenzie Brook, Lake Champlain, Vermont
    - Connecticut River Farmer Watershed Alliance Kickoff Event:
      - 50 People there, 35 farms
      - Looking to CVFC's experience, working with NRCS, Dan Hudson,
      - Stressed getting everyone involved
      - Beth Kennett is a good force
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**1:15** *Motion to ADJOURN Meeting:* Ben Dykema  
 Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb  
 Passed without abstention or dissention

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – February 9, 2016**  
**CVFC Annual Meeting on January 13, 2016**