

# Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, October 3, 2018

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Attendance:** Marie Audet, Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, George Foster, Loren Wood, Rachel Orr, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Ben Dykema, Chase Goodrich, Ray Brands, Peter James

## Directors Business Meeting - Directors only please

9:30 am

### **Call to order & President's Report**

*Brian Kemp*

### **Secretary Report**

*Kirsten Workman*

*Motion to approve September minutes: Eric Clifford*

*Second: George Foster*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

*Discussion: none*

### **Membership Applications**

*Kirsten Workman*

Class 1 – Vermont Farmer Member  
Briggs Farm (Addison, VT)

*Motion to approve application as submitted: Rachel Orr*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

*Discussion: none*

### **Treasurer Report**

*Jeff Carter*

Jeff reviewed the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet for the time period of January 1, 2018 through October 3, 2018

*Motion to approve Treasurer's Report as presented: George Foster*

*Second: Marie Audet*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

*Discussion: If you ever want to look at finances, feel free to contact Jeff*

### **Leadership Programming & Strategic Planning**      *Louise Waterman/Jeff Carter*

Jeff was concerned about not knowing details, so Kirsten and Lousie pulled budget together and more details for the board as well as for a Vermont Community Foundation organizational capacity grant application to support strategic planning section for \$2,500. The attachment goes over the budget and the proposed funding sources. After all proposed funding sources, CVFC contribution would be around \$1,390.

Jeff's concern was the timeline and cash flow. Talked to VAAFM (Jeff Cook) and negotiated multiple invoicing and change in payment timeline so that he can invoice and get reimbursed quickly. He ran a 2-week cash flow and we can swing it without draining the checkbook

Louise addressed concern about not getting enough people to the training to the general leadership training. She is willing to work with Directors to due heavier recruiting. The contractor is also willing to cancel with enough notice (December 1<sup>st</sup>).

All board, except Chase Goodrich and David Conant, can attend the Board DiSC Leadership training. Chase also cannot make strategic planning. 11 committed to first leadership training, She will start recruiting for the general training ASAP.

**Additional Attendance:** Brad Lawes, Ed Schilliwaski, Bill Kipp, Cheryl Cesario, Ernie Audet, Susan Smiley

### **CVFC Annual Meeting**

*Nate Severy*

We have had good turnout the last few years, to capacity at Vergennes American Legion. Perhaps time for a new location?

Dates: January 16<sup>th</sup> or January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Vergennes American Legion (100-120 cap)

Vergennes Eagles (200 cap)

Middlebury VFW (200 cap)

Motion to move it to Middlebury VFW on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ben Dykema

Second: Marie Audet

Passed (10/0/0)

Turkey & Roast Beef (can we have both?)

Topic/Speakers:

- Secretary Tebbetts and Secretary Moore
- Entertainment
- McKenzie Brook/East Creek survey of practices

### **McKenzie/East Creek Practice tracking**

- Documenting no-till, cover cropping, other conservation practices
- Story being told is not accurate...200 acres vs 2000 acres of conservation tillage
- Do you want your information included in database? Firewall between non-regulatory and regulatory parts of VAAF. Should we be nervous??
  - Seeking farmer consent?
- There are a lot of reasons to have this information (Marie)
- Otter Creek Basin plan about to be updated, could probably extend into that watershed too.
- CVFC should take this on as project, opt in, and collect the data from members.
- Critical date....before Christmas?
- Get from Board of Directors ahead of annual meeting to recruit from all members.

### **Strategy for replacing Louise Waterman's position All**

Louise is leaving CVFC at the end of the year. Board decided that we will take this up during strategic planning process. Should the position stay the same, morph into an Exec. Director, how will it be funded?

## **Recap of Vermont Feed Dealers Presentation by CVFC Directors** *Louise*

Thank you to farmers who presented. It went well. She was a little disappointed in attendance overall.

### **Events, Updates, Etc.**

*All*

Tom Eaton appointed to Chittenden Regional Planning Commission  
Colchester Community Education Workshop feedback.

Teacher sent a response following up. She is excited to include in her science curriculum and make connections with farmers and her classroom

Fall/Winter Field Day & Workshop Schedule

10-9-18: Growing Topsoil for Livestock and Clean Watersheds at Lucas Cattle Co.

10-10-18: Individual consultations to help apply for grant assistance

10-10-18: Elmer Farm Vegetable Conservation Cropping Field Day

10-19-18: Livestock Drought Emergency assistance and EQIP

10-23-18: On Farm Research Workshop/Field Day @ Rob Hunts

NEDP/Vermont Dairy Impact Report

Cover Crop Demos being planted...oats, cereal grains, radish

Farmer Grazing Management Planning Course (Cheryl)

NMP Courses

Vermont Farm Show...send in samples

NTCC...Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

Addison County Riverwatch – Brian Presenting on 10-30-18 at annual meeting

Dairy WQ Collaborative – final meeting tomorrow (visioning)

RAP Development Comm. – haven't met again

Winter Meeting ideas....tell Nate.

- Small Grain production management
- Other ideas

Tile Drain sampling looks like it will continue for another two years.

**11:00 am**

### **Katie Michaels, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board**

Katie will give an overview of the grant programs and technical service available to farmers

VHCB has been around for 30 years working on land conservation and housing

Katie works for Farm & Forest Viability Program.

- Business Planning is a core service available to farms.
  - Work with 100 farms and 10 forestry businesses per year and they fund partner organizations
  - 2-year process, \$75 fee for farm, results in written business plan
  - Also do succession planning, trying to meet farmer needs, can bring in other specialists, enterprise analysis
- Grant Program (Katie runs that program)
  - Thank you for your support by getting the word out, two specific applicants referred to CVFC as how they found out about it
  - \$5,000 - \$40,000 grants, 1:1 in-kind match

- Must be commercial - \$15,000 gross income
- Dairy Improvement Grants
  - Commonwealth Dairy funds it, so only St. Albans and DFA members are eligible
  - Any capital investment is eligible
- Water Quality Improvement Grant
  - State of Vermont funds, open to any Vermont farmer
  - Help farms comply with RAPs
  - Can match EQIP, BMP, FAP or can be stand alone
  - Lots of manure management, equipment
- **One deadline for both grants: November 7<sup>th</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>**
  - Can help reassign to the right pool
  - This year's funding is secure, not sure after that
  - \$640,000 funded out of \$1,000,000 submitted for WQ
  - ~\$300,000 for DIG
  - If it is close between projects, priorities go to watershed, previous funding
- Questions:
  - Do producers usually fill them out on their own or do they get help?
    - Application is written to be able to have producer do it on their own. Roughly 1/3 probably are getting help.
    - Letters of support are helpful (NRCS, UVM, CDs)
    - DIG requires business plan, they do look at how that projects fits in with overall business. Business planners can help, but call soon.
  - Is this the last time the DIG will be offered?
    - Yes, funding is going away after the February round
- Are there gaps in business planning services?
  - Seems like a lot of the business planners might be beyond capacity. Farms sometimes feel a little forgotten about, not getting a lot of follow-up.
  - Farm requested help with succession planning, but was told the planner was busy 'putting out fires'
  - Where is the funding come from for bus. Planning
    - Half from general allocation, the other half comes from federal grant programs and other fundraising. Ex. Beginning farmer/rancher grant.
  - Can the WQ grants be the 10% match for BMP projects? Yes...but the case would need to be made financially through the application narrative and financial statements. We also want to fund viable farms.
  - You should have gone to NRCS, CEAP, etc first.
  - Can you apply for multiple projects in one application? Yes.
  - Would you potentially be funded for both? Potentially, but it has not happened yet.

11:30 am

**Abe Collins, Land Stream**

Abe will present *"Hiring Vermont Farmers to grow watershed ecosystem services: a proposal for CVFC Leadership in a VT pilot"*

How to grow topsoil, how to measure it,  
Hire farmers to grow topsoil and ecosystem-services that result  
Could we double farmers income if they are building soil and a getting paid for it.

Measuring

6 pilot farms in Vermont

\$ for adaptive management, consulting, infrastructure, supplies, services

Prototype watershed services fund to pay farmers for production of watershed services

\$12 million to pull of

**12:00 ADJOURN Meeting**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Nov.7, 2018**