

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

## Directors Business Meeting

In attendance: Marie Audet, Brian Kemp, George Foster, Jeff Carter, Louise Waterman, Nate Severy, Kirsten Workman

### **9:40 am Meeting called to order**

#### **President's Report**

*Brian*

No RAP development committee meetings yet...next conversation is about tile drainage.  
October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9-1, Williston Office  
MFO Permit Revision public hear

#### **Secretary's Report**

*Kirsten*

Review September Minutes and Approve

#### **Approve New Members**

*Kirsten*

*Membership applications approved via email on 9-19-2017:*

##### **Class 1:**

Kean Leach (Pawlet)

Doug & Casey Butler (Middlebury)

Approved via email vote (7 yea/0 nay/ 0 abstentions)

*Membership applications to consider today:*

##### **Class 3:**

Todd Reed, Reed's Equipment (West Addison)

Henry Strohmaier, Pine Hill Veiw Farm II, LLC (Bennington)

#### **Treasurer's Report**

*Jeff*

Jeff presented Financial Statements

Balance Sheet through October 4, 2017

Profit & Loss (July through September 2017)

Profit & Loss (January through October 4, 2017)

Grant funding forecast

*NO quorum...Jeff proposed sending membership applications, September minutes and treasurer's report for vote by email. Directors in attendance agreed.*

#### **Draft Letter to Members**

*All*

A draft letter to all members will be reviewed by Directors. A general letter emphasizing and reminding members of our mission and of resources available to help all members meet their water quality goals.

#### **November Meeting**

Reschedule to accommodate VAAFM Secretary Tebbetts. Date will be November 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of November 1<sup>st</sup>, this will also allow us to not have three meetings in a row (with Media Training

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on 10/31/17). We also need to select an alternate location, as the Extension conference room is booked on 11-2-17. Perhaps an opportunity to move the meeting north/south and reach members that can't usually make it to Middlebury?

## **CVFC Annual Meeting Date**

We need to select a date for the Annual Membership Meeting, and perhaps brainstorm some keynote speakers. Bring your calendars...

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**OVER →**

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**Wednesday, October 4, 2017**

**Meeting called to order @ 10:00**

**General Membership Meeting**

In attendance: Marie Audet, Chanin Hill, George Foster, Matthew SEvery, Dan Barnes, Tom Eaton, Matthew Biette, Jeff Carter, Nate Severy, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Louise Waterman, Renee Saenger

## **Welcome & President's Report**

*Brian*

No RAP development committee meetings yet...next conversation is about tile drainage. October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9-1, Williston Office. Brian and Jeff will attend. This in addition to the Tile Drainage Workgroup. How can we have input beyond these two groups?

MFO Permit Revision public hearing

## **Tile Drainage Meeting w/ Conservation Law Found. & Lake Champlain Comm.** *Brian/Jeff/Marie*

A brief recap from a meeting with representatives from environmental organization about approaches to tile drainage regulation in Vermont.

They would like to see input on what are the management practices we already know we should be using. Education of tile installers and farmers with tiles...tile drainage BMPs.

Identification strategies. Tom and Chaputs also met with them, showed them an outlet and Trimble GPS items.

UVM Extension and VACD both have agreements. Sampling will start soon, this will inform the BMP recommendations.

Can we come up with something right off? Agency needs a report in by mid-November.

## **NOTES FOR BRIAN/JEFF:**

Value...including example of this year and one farm in a challenging year, climate change, etc

Sampling will inform BMP recommendations

Recommendations/Guidance document for BMPs

Education for tile installers and landowners

No field by field mapping/identification until there is more information and protections

## **Program Update**

*Nate*

*Media Training on October 31<sup>st</sup>. "Conversations that Connect" learning how to handle tough questions in all settings. Focused on learning how to lead positive conversations about the tough issues surrounding our industry, with a specific focus on water quality and the environment. The workshop will train participants to get your point across in all types of settings including in person, in a town hall setting, online or when speaking to a reporter.*

- Front Porch Forum
- VT Digger
- VPR stories

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- GMO, other issues (Milk with Dignity)

RSVP: Brian Kemp, George Foster, Chanin, Tom Eaton, Renee Saenger

Ask...Eric Severy,

Can't come: Marie Audet

How do we preserve the info for members who can't come? TED Talk.. "Starts with Why"

Mock Inspections – See dates/times below.

Start at the dooryard and go through the whole checklist. Prepare farmers what to expect and what they should be asking.

Make extra copies of inspection worksheet to share

## **Extension Update**

*Jeff*

OCNRCD Conservation District Farm of the Year

New P-Index is here...in effect January 1st

Nutrient Recommendations updated

P-Index CIG Project

## **Governor's Climate Action Commission**

*Marie*

Attended St. Albans meeting. All the meetings have been well attended with lots of input. There is a faction "Put a Price On It".

Three charges from governor: Spur economic activity, create jobs, and support the most vulnerable

Ross Conrad, Middlebury Energy...

Challenged Richard Watts to have students dig deeper and come up with solutions.

Hydrogen fueled cars...\$11,000 available in Vermont

Could be a positive for dairy...practices that help combat erosion already available, new cropping opportunities. Can be a solution...carbon sequestration, etc.

Paul Hawkins...alternative solution that agriculture could be a better solution than reducing carbon emissions.

## **Funding Opportunities for Producers**

*Jeff/Nate/Others*

VHCB Dairy Improvement Grant & VHCB Water Quality Grants – which is which and who qualifies?

Two grants with different requirements

How does CVFC assist with producer applications?

VAAF – Farm Agronomic Practices, Best Management Practices, Capital Equipment Assistance Program, and Ag Clean Water Initiative

VAAF – WLEB, Tradeshow Assistance, Farm to School, Produce Safety

NRCS Deadlines for EQIP, etc.

Streamlined process/deadlines/pools

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and February 16, 2017

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4 deadlines for NMPs and forestry plans  
Backlog of LTP work  
SARE – Farmer Grants  
December 5, 2017

## Other Business

Nuisance Plans for LFOs....traffic, odor, flies

Jim Leland retiring in December, leadership is asking him to come up with guidance before he leaves

Also guidance for storm water plans

The new 'conditional' language includes a timeline that starts after guidance is received

VAAFM contacted Marie with an anonymous complaint about 'manure in the road in Addison County'.

## Upcoming Events, Etc.

- **MFO Permit revision Public Hearing and Comment Period**  
Public Comment Period is October 2, 2017-December 1, 2017  
Public Hearing on November 2, 2017 at the Auditorium Pavilion in Montpelier, Vt.
- **What to Expect at Your Inspection Workshops**  
October 10 – 1:00 – 3:00pm – Hall & Breen Farm (Orwell)  
October 18 – 10:00 – 12:00 – Chalker Farm (New Haven)  
October 27 – 10:00 – 12:00 – DeGraaf Dairy (Richmond)  
November 8 – 10:00 – 12:00 – Woodlawn Farm (Pawlet)
- **Senate Ag Committee Public Meeting**  
October 12th, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Salisbury Town Office, 25 Schoolhouse Road, Salisbury, Vt.  
Send a reminder with bullet points of what to present in a positive matter
  - tile drainage
  - more engagement and responsiveness
  - recognize the value of the industry
  - opportunities for farming to be a benefit
  - recognize practices being implemented
  - need numbers for how ag impacts the rural economy...Gaen Murphree article?
- **October 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm Kate Webb Water Quality Discussion**
- **OCNRCD Conservation Farm of the Year (Tour/Dinner).** October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00
- **Conversations that Connect Training** – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 – 1:00 (lunch provided)
- **Meeting w/ Sec. Anson Tebbetts (and monthly CVFC Meeting)** – November 2<sup>nd</sup>, location TBA (Brian is confirming)
- **Addison County Ag Forum** – November 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, Middlebury College, Twilight Hall

12:13 ADJOURN Meeting

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Nov. 2, 2017