

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



9:45 am **Directors Business Meeting**

In attendance: George Foster, Eric Clifford, Rachel Orr, Kirsten Workman, Brian Kemp, Jeff Carter, Marie Audet

Call to order & President's Report

Brian Kemp

A LOT going on

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

Kirsten reviewed the September minutes

Motion to approve September Minutes: George Foster

Second: Marie Audet

Discussion: attach letters from Harvey from legislature regarding Wetlands (5/0/0)

Membership Applications

Kirsten Workman

None

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff reviewed the profit & loss and balance statements. Not a lot of expenses, as no payroll

No quorum to approve.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Eric Clifford

Second: George Foster

Discussion: none

Passed (5/0/0)

ejc Consulting Request – Legislative updates

Jeff Carter

table until November....need decision before the first of the year. Is the BOD going to discuss deliverables with her or just approve/not approve? \$5,500

Executive Director / Program Coordinator

Title?

Meeting with Nina to finalize the work plan and budget **Oct. 21, 24, 25**...need board members there to advocate Requested \$139,994 additional funds to augment existing funds

Job Description: needs to reflect the seriousness of the position. Need a shorter version for publicity.

Timing: start hiring now or wait until a new agreement is in place? Start now, be ready for January leg. Session.

Where to look?

10:00 am **Updates and Discussion**

Program Reports

Kirsten

CWIP Grant Update - Crop Patrols
October – Grassed Waterways & Buffers, Oct 16, Sudbury

Dairy Water Quality Collaborative Recap & Next Steps

Marie

There hasn't been a full meeting since the last CVFC meeting. Smaller groups may be working to do background work: funding, organizational participation, still even looking for an individual to facilitate.

NRCS CEAP Event – Oct 8, 2019 Dead Creek, Blue Spruce Farm, Echo Center

National Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP), paired watershed study.

Next **Monday** is a meeting to identify practices

Tuesday, tour the Dead Creek Wetland complex, Champlain Orchards, Blue Spruce Farm, press conference in Burlington, meet & greet @ Middlebury Inn

Wednesday visit Conant's farm

- We need to make sure that we can make sure that we maximize this national opportunity to talk about our leadership
- Get farmer members at BSF to be at lunch (11:30-1:00)
- Press Conference – Brian Kemp making remarks (need talking points)
 - Over the last 10 years, our farms have been focusing on how we can be the solution to some of the most complex water quality and land use challenges we face including climate change, extreme weather events, rapidly expanding population, water quality problems, and food security.
 - How we support this initiative - measure
- Meet & Greet...

Legislative Study Committee on Wetlands

Brian/Jeff

Panel...Chris Bray, Amy Sheldon, Bobbie Starr, Carolyn Partridge, Chris Pearson, Mark McDonald. 5 more meetings...Addison, Franklin, Orleans, others. Tasked with creating a report to legislature (January 15), recommendation

Michael O'Grady gave a good presentation...laws vs. rules (laws preclude rules). Multiple definitions of 'farm'. RAPs need re-opening to include new language.

Need to reach out to this committee to make sure Addison county farmers have an opportunity to have input.

Vermont Soil Health and Payment for Ecosystem Services Working Group

Brian/Jeff

Alyson Eastman spearheading

Presentations:

- VAAF presented VT Environment Stewardship Program as a way to implement PES...'they already have this setup'
- Ryan Patch reviewed RAPs and argued that they are the threshold (bottom)
- Taylor Ricketts (Gund) presented white paper

Lots of different opinions,

LandStream/VGFA – workshop

- Yes...interested in partnering, but need to make sure that our message about inclusiveness

NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting – Oct 16, 9:30 – 12:00 NRCS State Office

Farmer Grant Reminders

VAAF [Capital Equipment Assistance Program](#)

Opens Sept 1st, Due Nov. 1st

VHCB [Water Quality Grants for Farmers](#)

Open Now, Due Nov. 8th

Other Updates

- Marie...migrant justice October 3rd announcement about another company they will target for Milk with Dignity
- AgriMark Supply Management: Highest month in last three years, multiply by 12 and divided by 365....less than 2 million pounds is exempt. If you go over base, you will get deducted \$5/cwt for excess

11:25 ADJOURN Meeting

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – November 6, 2019