

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, October 5, 2016
UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting - Directors only please

Attendance

Brian Kemp, Peter James, Eric Clifford, David Conant, Marie Audet, Jeff Carter, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Loren Wood, Rachel Orr, Nate Severy, Kirsten Workman, Jane Clifford

9:00 am

Opening Comments,

Jeff introduced Jane Clifford and started discussion regarding how to keep up with legislative issues

Jane Clifford

- Jane gave history of her position with Green Mountain Dairy Farmers, that she has left that position and her hopes moving forward making sure the industry has good information about legislative issues, committee actions, etc.
- Would like to continue with newsletter, but would require time and energy. May not register as lobbyist, but could continue coordinating issues that need testimony...likely with other organizations (Vermont Cheese Association, Vermont Woodland Association, etc). Need a head's up on issues that affect ag.
- Would organizations and industry support her newsletter? It was minimalist before...just got the information out.
- A lot of new folks in Montpelier...Gov, Lt. Gov, Sec. Ag, ANR Sec, Committee chairs, Speaker of House. Not necessarily a change in seats in leg, but leadership will be different. Senate ag committee will be different (same chair, many new members). Senate/House Nat. Res committees may also change some.
- Cost per session, divided over time. Depending on number of organizations who participate. Will know more as she puts it out to more organizations. Two major sponsors, with supplemental organizations. Beyond just legislative piece, but other important meetings across the state that affect agriculture.
- Would like to know if it's a go by beginning of December. Elections over, committees being formed, etc.

David C...Is there other information coming from the legislature? He has appreciated her unbiased approach, but if we were to support her work we would want to know when an issue is really important to us. Not in newsletter, but in briefings/conference calls. I don't want to lose the newsletter. All three watershed groups could benefit from good information.

Brian K...always appreciated the newsletter and keeping abreast of issues. It is worth something. Keep us LCAR...10/20/2016...three other items on agenda. RAPs will likely be about 20 minutes of agenda.

Secretary Report - Review and Approve Minutes last meeting

Motion to approve September minutes: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: none

Approved (8/0/0)

Membership Applications and Approvals

none

Treasurer Report - Financial Report to the Board

Jeff presented a Balance Sheet through October 5th and Profit & Loss from September 7th through October 5th.

Motion to approve September minutes: Marie Audet

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: none

Approved (8/0/0)

Dairy Outreach Coordinator Position – Update

Two interested folks, conversations, but nothing yet. Will push forward on

WLEB Grant wrap-up and final report - next steps?

Final report done at the end of the month, will present at the November meeting.

Input to LCAR for RAP review on Oct 20th

David...we have been supportive of the Agency and tried to be supportive and unified of their attempts to improve water quality. I sense that we don't want to send a letter of support for RAPs because there are a lot of viewpoints. Thank them for the hard work and allowing for input, but scared that it will be difficult to be a sustainable/viable operation if we give our okay now after things have changed. Afraid of what will come down the pike for the next generation....some of the rules don't even mesh with NRCS specifications and contracts.

VT DPA...has 3 minutes with LCAR, Cargill has attributed costs associated RAPs (\$1.09/hundred weight milk),

Loren W...recently visited by DEC, EPA, VAAFM. Three areas of concern. I wonder how my sons are going to farm there.

Do we want to have three minutes on the agenda? Or just attend

Motion to send the letter as edited: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion:

Passed (8/0/0)

Other Business _____

- Legislative meeting on hold until after elections, ACORN is holding a meeting with several CVFC meeting members on 10-19-2016
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Open Membership Meeting

Attendance: *(in addition to above)* Channin Hill, Ernie Audet, George Tucker (NRCS),

10:00 Welcome and CVFC President Comments

Addison County Conservation Highlights Bus Tour - OCNRCD, UVM EXT, CVFC

Marie...send that booklet to other folks
Front page coverage of the event
Rachel...needed more time for conversation and questions
Will do it again
Could it be grown into other counties?
CVFC will be a part of it

Manure Applicator Certification Program – update

Whitney's and Severys participated in a listening session
UVM has a grant to put the program together
Training, test,
Follow up in the spring
Who needs to take it?

UVM Newsletter...updated, upgraded

400 mailed, 1200 emailed

NRCS Conservation Practice Funding Update- CSP, EQIP, focused watersheds (McKenzie, East Creek)

- East Creek is the next focus area
- Pushing out 10-12 million dollars/year, 2.9 million in Addison County
- Practices are changing to field based practices (as opposed to facilities)
- CSP is next
- George...on track for 10,000 acres of cover crop in 2016 (2013=110, 2014=2900, 2015=7000)...

From George's email follow up:

Kirsten and Marie, below are the numbers that I had yesterday. This does not include any farmstead or pastureland practices and does not capture the many thousands of acres under nutrient management plans.

Cover cropping

2013 – 110 acres

2014 – 2900 acres

2015 – close to 7000 acres. This includes NRCS funded as well cover cropping done by farmers without any funding that NRCS or UVM extension new about

2016- currently on track for approx. 10,000 although I am sure it will be more because of what farms are doing on their own. We will have better numbers later in the fall.

Reduced tillage

2013, 2014, 2015 – 0 acres

2016-970 acres. I know there is a lot of reduced tillage already occurring out there as some soils have historically been under reduced tillage. This about the soils in Bristol and Starksboro and floodplain sandy loams. They historically have been under a reduced tillage system. The 970 acres would be new acres under reduced tillage that would include clays and heavy silt loams that were historically tilled in the fall and then 2-3 times in the spring.

No till

2013 -0 acres

2014 -500 acres

2015- 1000 acres

2016 – 1700 acres and I am sure there is more at there that we don't necessarily know about

Other

Diversions 1550 feet

Grassed waterways -3

Lined waterways 2 completed with at least 5 more in progress

160 acres of land seeded down that had been in continuous row crops for many years or had severe annual erosion issues where the farmer decided that seeding it down to long term/permanent hay made the most sense.

- Deadline will be set for next round of EQIP applications

UVM Programs update - Fall Field Day, NMP Classes, VT Farm Show, VT Dairy Producers Conference, No-Till Symposium,

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Alison Kosakowski-Conant, Alana Reddin

- Responsible for dairy promotion program for Vermont (not NEDP)
- Milk Matters report,
- Working on a project to bring Milk Matters to life through video, series of videos that can be watched individually or viewed together, will screen in Montpelier during legislative session.
- 5 videos (3 mins ea): sustainability/renewable energy, conservation, landscape of VT (preservation), Processing (milk, cheese, ice cream, etc), intergenerational aspects of vt family farms
- Alana...excited to be the vehicle between farmers and consumers, survey
- Timeline: on farms before the snow flies,
- Follow up with existing footage (Allison Gillette, NEDP-Laura Hardie)
- If you have ideas, let us know.
- www.vermontdairy.com looking for 2017 plan....(802)j 272-4547, alison.kosakowski@vermont.com

RAP proposed rule estimated enactment - January 15, 2017

Other Business: _____

- Cabot Open Houses this weekend
- Whitcomb's did Open Farm Week...350 people
- November...going to annual meeting at NRCS in Nebraska
- Invite Joe Tisbert, Bill Scott to November meeting.

11:40 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Eric Clifford
Second: Peter James
Passed...(8/0/0)

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – November 2, 2016