

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Business Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Peter James, Eric Clifford, Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman, Nate Severy, Brian Kemp, Ben Dykema, Rachel Orr, Ted Foster
Cheryl Cesario, Kristin Williams,
Laura Hardie, David Dunn, Diane Lanpher

10:00 Welcome and introductions

Introduce Guests:

Laura Hardie, NEDP

Secretary Report

Membership Application Approvals

Motion to accept Howard VanderWey, Nea-Tocht Farm (Ferrisburgh) as a Class 1 Vermont Farmer: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Passed without abstention or dissention

Approve September Minutes

Motion: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Passed without abstention or dissention

Treasurer Report

Jeff went over Balance Sheets and Profit & Loss Statements through October 7, 2015.

Not sure how to account for HMF grant. Promotion and travel dollars to spend.

Keep Local Farms...through VCF, can only go to 501c3, UVM fiscal sponsor. CVFC will be mentioned in press release this week.

Motion to approve: Peter James

Second: Ben Dykema

Discussion: none

Passed without abstention or dissention

Promotion Ideas:

- Slide show, photos
- Farm Signs...field signs...double-sided, metal, Creative Labels, truck decals
- Advertising, member recruitment,
- Public outreach, rest stops, etc...
- Document no-till corn on clay, as a way to bring more members,

Kirsten Workman

Jeff Carter

Presidents Report

Brian Kemp

- CLF Hearing on Friday
 - Ag in Clean Water Meeting (10/8/2015), put on by Echo and others. Consultant to strategize. What will happen when money goes away?
 - Education: manure spreading in ditches...we need to do better education and outreach with each other.
 - Workshop for members on nutrient management basics, for those with existing plans, how to make your own recommendations. Also go over RAP basics.
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CVFC Outreach activities

Nate Severy

WLEB: Crop Management Implementation Plans Update

Nate Severy

High Meadows Fund Update

Nate Severy

CVFC Promotional Opportunities

RAP revisions meeting

David Dunn & Diane Lanpher:

- Multi-farm community digester
- State owned land in Vergennes for digester in Vergennes
- Diane: spending time this summer looking into sewer issues and manure pits. State property in Vergennes on McDonough Drive (476 acres). How can this property be used to its best value? \$30K spent on feasibility study. Sections used for energy production? Solar already happening, could we use it for a bio-digester? State has land, farmers have manure, GMP has the 'power'.
- David: Identify what utility does and how it benefits the customers? Want input from the people it affects. St. Albans project is blending the pieces together - \$8million. Community digester been in the works in a few areas for a while. Three dairy farms with 2000 cows. 'Baseload' energy supply, more reliable than solar. A partnership that has benefits for all: power, bedding, nutrients, equipment. GMP has the ability to be creative to build projects (B-corp), add technology (dragline). NMP, air quality, etc. Work their way down Lake Champlain. Universal recycling bill, food waste. Grow algae for fuel.
- Questions:
 - cost/cow,
 - how far can you haul
 - who needs P
 - how does cost compare to commercial P fertilizer
 - Organic matter not going on fields? What's the long term impact (20-30 years)? Can it be overcome it with cover crops and reduced erosion?
 - How many acres needed or facility? 3-4 acres.
 - What about Digested Organics?
 - Is there a top end? Not really, more cows would be better.
 - Does food waste improve success? More energy in food waste. Work with Cassella Organics. Need a 'recipe maker'.

- How is customer demand for Cow Power? This would be part of the baseload power, not a premium. Could be 'micro-grid' circuit.

Roundup Discussion: Cropping Season 2015...the good, the bad, the ugly!!

Come hear about how this cropping season went for farmers who tried innovative practices like no-till and cover cropping. UVM Extension will provide preliminary results from No-Till plantings and other research projects. *Come listen to and talk about the good, the bad, and the ugly for this cropping season, and discuss potential opportunities for next year!*

UPCOMING Meetings, Workshops & Field Days

- ***October 8th: Aerator Field Day @ Mack Farm (VT Teddy Bear fields)***
- ***October 9th: CLF Petition Hearing***
- ***October 21st: NRCS State Technical Committee***
- ***October 28th: Soil Health Field Day***

12:50 Move to ADJOURN: Ben Dykema
Second: Eric Clifford

Next CVFC Board of Director Meeting – November 4th, 2015 (no Brian)