

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition - Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2012

UVM Extension Office – Middlebury

In attendance:

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

Rico Balzano, UVM Extension

Ted Foster, Foster Brothers Farm – Otter/New Haven

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm

David Conant, Conant Riverside Farm

Brian Kemp, Mountain Meadow Farms – Lemon /Otter

Marie Audet, Blue Spruce Farm

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm

John Roberts, Butterwick Farm – Lemon Fair

Review Agenda

- Accepted

Review Notes from WQ Focus Group

- Jeff gave a brief over view of the October 25th meeting...Notes generated by EMC were distributed
- T. Foster...attended focus group at Farm Bureau meeting. Liked idea exchange
- E. Clifford...February 26th Dairy Producers conference, might have some of the plan finished to present
- December 7th (Middlebury); December 19th (St. Albans)...future meetings for larger ag audience
- Does CVFC want to have a unified response? Utilize Dec. 7th meeting to let other farmers know
- Dec. 21st...Louise Waterman, GMDDG meeting with farmers, Chuck Ross, David Mears
- Rico attended Rutland & Poultney...smaller farms represented, slightly different thoughts. Self-certification/reporting was fairly well-received.
- Does it give more leverage to point fingers??? Will signing something protect a farm from undue attack from uneducated neighbors, organizations?
- CSA data very convincing to get on board for farmers of all sizes to participate. Otter Creek next watershed. Input on crop rotations, cropping practices
- Flexibility...to address unintended consequences after implementation.
- State sent out survey to farmers...results were surprising. Mostly small farmers requesting financial/business planning resources, as opposed to sustainability issues.
- State technical committee for NRCS to give input.

Extension Updates

- CIG Grant in place...money can be spent
- Submitted SARE Grant
- Helicopter project on Across the Fence tomorrow
- LCBP Grant...maps, on-farm quick tests
- Winter Meetings in February...Richmond, Vergennes, Pawlet, one more; March...Greg Roth forage meeting, cover crops...how does CVFC want to interface. Winooski meeting (D. Conant)

CVFC Structure, Timeline, etc.

- CIG Grant \$30K...outreach deliverables.

CVFC By-Laws

- 501 c(3)
- Jim Foley...attorney?
- Registered agent...UVM Extension
- Liability Insurance...does Extension's follow CVFC

- Tax implications

Preliminary Outreach

- June is Dairy Month...host events at local farms focused on sustainability
- Farmer outreach vs. public outreach
- Organize farm tours for farmers...highlight what specific farms/farmers are doing to reach the end goal of water quality (CREP, Injection, river bottom, pasture, etc).
- Letters of support for funding...extension, outreach, awareness of programs, people coming to us.
- Targeted outreach to planning commissions, legislators, watershed associations...sponsored by CVFC.

Next Meeting

- December 19,2012 at UVM Extension office, Middlebury

NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS:

- forward EMC email to CVFC list