

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Thursday, November 2, 2017**

## Directors Business Meeting

**In attendance:** Loren Wood, Lorenzo Whitcomb, George Foster, Eric Clifford, Louise Waterman, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, David Conant, Peter James, Ben Dykema, Ray Brands

**9:30am** Meeting called to order

### **President's Report**

*Jeff for Brian*

General Comments

### **Secretary's Report**

*Jeff (for Kirsten)*

Review September/October Minutes and Approve

*Motion to approve September and October minutes as presented: George Foster*

*Second: Peter James*

*Discussion: none*

*Passed (8 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

### **Approve New Members**

*Jeff (for Kirsten)*

*Membership applications still needing approval from October*

*Class 1, Henry Strohmaier, Pine Hill View Farm II, LLC (Bennington, Vt.)*

*Class 3, Todd Reed, Reed's Equipment (Addison, Vt.)*

*Class 3, Brian Van DeWeert, Van DeWeert Ag Services*

*Motion to approve new members as presented: Eric Clifford*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Discussion: need to look at letter for new and all members*

*Passed (8 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

### **Treasurer's Report**

*Jeff*

Approve September/October Financial Statements

*Motion to approve September and October minutes as presented: George Foster*

*Second: Eric Clifford*

*Discussion: None*

*Passed (8 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

*Louise - Would be good to have a strategic planning session for goals for finances and grant writing. Most grants go toward farmer education, less public outreach. Eric - relationships with agencies.*

*Jeff - Jane Clifford offer to provide legislative updates for this session.*

*Motion: Dave Conant*

*Second: Loren Wood*

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*Discussion: Good information and support for continuing the weekly update. One-third of dues to pay for this at \$100 so discussion about membership cost and value getting from membership fee. Need to utilize the information and leverage it for more action. Jane could meet with us more often. Concerns about removal of ag exemption from Act 250, tile drain legislation, independent contractors, etc.*

*Passed (8 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

## **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.

All agreed that letter was worded good. Louise will look at text and suggest an ending sentence for consequences.

## **CVFC Annual Meeting Date**

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

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**OVER →**

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**Thursday, November 2, 2017**  
**General Membership Meeting**

## In attendance:

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

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

*Brian*

### **UVM Policy Study**

*Dr. Meredith Niles, UVM*

Dr. Niles will describe her project that seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of the variety of regulations, their impacts in the agricultural community, and seeks opportunities to streamline regulatory processes. She is looking for farmers & state-level policymakers to participate in her survey.

*Dr. Niles explained program and asked for farmer interest to be interviewed for research paper and presentation to legislature. Looking for 20 to 30 farms to participate. Working with Vern Grubinger and veg growers, dairy promotion board, Heather Darby dairy farmers, others to get participants. 10 questions are available to preview and She will email to me.*

Do we send a copy to our membership and encourage them to participate?

Motion by Loren Wood,

Second by Ray Brands

*Passed (9 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

### **Lemon Fair Insect Control District**

*Craig Zondag*

Craig will share a project he is working on putting together to get a tire slicer locally to assist with mosquito prevention on bunker silos on farms.

*Described mosquito control district and artificial breeding habitat in tires used on bunker silos. A machine to cut off tire sidewall of tires to eliminate water in tires. Diseases include West Nile Virus and EEC. Asian Tiger Mosquito is new type moving north and only breeds in containers. Flies one to two miles. From container breeder mosquitos in tires. Water in tires has organic material to feed larvae plus a nice warm container makes ten-thousands of mosquitos.*

*Concern about wind blew plastic and tires all off bunker. Some tires have holes drilled but they are bigger tires. Weight is a problem with just the sidewalls. Concern about belted tires with metal sticking out.*

*Some trials going on with short paper fiber spread on top of plastic. Concerns about frozen material on top of plastic. Hard to get larvicide into tire. Could use adulticide but not as desirable.*

*Eagle International \$26,400. 100 tires per hour. Hoosick Tire charges \$2/tire to dispose and get two sidewalls in exchange. Is there opportunity for a CVFC owned machine? Farm in Berlin NY uses this method. 500,000 tires in state of Vermont, all tires. Concern about the process creates hazardous materials.*

*Agreement that this is a good idea, concern about weight issue. Need to double up or use truck beads only. Suggestion that someone get a grant and buy a machine and try it as a business.*

*No motion by CVFC.*

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## Program Update

Nate

### Small Farm Mock Inspections

*Three events done already, one to go. 0/10/8 attendees. Good to walk around and discuss what really is a water quality problem vs what does not look good. Used actual inspection sheets from VAAFM, George was inspector, Nate and Tom at other site.*

### Media Training

*Polly Sullivan came and presented, Dairy Promotion Board support. A good meeting on communication in different situations. George liked this, Why we do something first, then how we farm. Suggestion this is an on-going program. A list of contacts for media questions.*

### On-farm Workshops CWF grant

*Semi-annual report due to VAAFM, meeting deliverables with 7 events completed. Looking for ideas for meetings this winter. One suggestion is tour of bedding separation. Corn Planter Clinics improvement.*

*No-till system customized for Vermont - planting vs a system*

*No-till on flooded soils - want to hear from producers who maintain production*

*Manure Trainings - guest speakers, tile drainage and manure*

Manure record-keeping program described about books sent out.

## Extension Update

Jeff

### Tile Drainage

Brian/Jeff/Marie

#### RAP Development Committee

*SSB (Site Specific Buffers) or smart buffers. Concern about how inspector or coordinator determines top of bank.*

*Still wide open to interpretation. Needs to be more authority with inspectors to say yes or no. Can't interject any reasoning in decisions made in Williston at Agency review after they left farm.*

*Agency using tape measure during inspection.*

*Flooded fields - still waiting for determinations on waiver application that had incorrect labeled maps from state - this is delaying decisions on farm. Only verbal approval, AAFM waiting until next year after Lidar done to check topography.*

### Local Work Group and BMP Recommendations

*Asked for help with practice list for tile drainage and manure.*

### Sampling Project(s)

*Told about tile drain sampling project with CVFC farmers, Nate Severy*

### Legislative Outlook

*Harvey Smith introducing a bill proposing a delay of RAP re-write for 2022 to include tile drain recommendations.*

## Governor's Climate Action Commission Marie

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## Topics for discussion with Sec. Tebbetts and staff All

Brainstorm topic ideas for our upcoming discussion with Sec. Tebbetts on November 17<sup>th</sup>. This will help him prepare for our meeting and ensure he brings any appropriate staff members who may be able to address concerns.

*Farm inspections - small farms invited to talk about experiences.*

*Turn-around time from inspections is way too long.*

*There are other issues that VAAFAM needs to address,*

## Other Business

Time to address additional agenda items brought by members.

*P recovery with P Cake - Newtrient (Tom Bushey) has project for separated manure, looking for more input about products and economics desired by farmers as a fertilizer product. Need for an aggregated project with several farms. There is interest with state ag agency.*

## 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 3-6 PM at the Auditorium Pavilion in Montpelier, Vt.
- **American Dairy Coalition and CVFC - Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00**, UVM Extension office
- **Addison County Ag Forum – November 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM**, Middlebury College, Twilight Hall
- **Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance – MFO/LFO Information and Lunch (\$25 for VDPA non-members), November 14<sup>th</sup> 11 AM – 1 PM** at Bridport Community Center
- **Meeting w/ Sec. Anson Tebbetts, VAAFAM Staff & CVFC - November 17<sup>th</sup> 1:00 PM** at Middlebury Extension Office
- **CEAP Applications Due – December 1, 2017**
- **VHCB Dairy Improv't Grants Due – November 15, 2017 (Round 1); February 21, 2018 (Round 2)**
- **VHCB Water Quality Grants Due – November 15, 2017 (Round 1); February 21, 2018 (Round 2)**

**12:00 ADJOURN Meeting**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Dec. 6, 2017**

**Adjourn 12:15**