

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, November 5, 2014

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

UVM Extension Office

23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

### **Welcome and introductions**

*Jeff Carter*

Called to order @ 10:02

Kristi Wood, Yankee Farm Credit

Loren Wood, Woodnotch Farm

Rachel Orr, Orr Family Farm

Ted Fopster, Foster Bros Farm

Nate Severy, UVM Extension

Jeff Carter, UVM Extension

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm

Peter James, Monument Farms

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm

Ed Schilliwaski, SeedWay

### **Meeting Minutes - September 17, 2014**

*Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman*

*Motion: Peter James*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Discussion:*

*Passed without dissent or abstention*

### **Treasurer Report**

*Jeff Carter*

*Motion: Ben Dykema*

*Second: Loren Wood*

*Discussion:*

*Passed without dissent or abstention*

### **President's Report**

*Eric Clifford*

- Field Days are turning out well. Not just attendees, but also public driving by are noticing. Feeling good about it
- Legislative function in Charlotte was successful. Good discussion afterwards and follow-ups with Jane. People requested that CVFC do it again. Putting a face to a name.
  - Ted...should we do it again part way through the legislative session.
  - Brian...discussion with folks afterwards was good. Should follow-up by inviting legislators to meetings regularly...starting soon.
- Membership...recruiting

### **Membership Application Approvals**

*None*

### **Education**

- No-Till corn field day - Orwell, VT
  - At Brad Thomas' farm. Good partnerships between UVM Extension, CVFC and Caring Dairy sponsors
  - No-till corn on clay, interseeded cover crops did not do so well
- Water Quality meeting with legislative candidates - Oct. 15, 2014, Old Lantern, Charlotte VT

- 50 people, 23 were candidates
- Chuck Ross spoke, very supportive...spreading the word around the state to other groups as an example
- Watersheds United Vermont - Nov. 3, 2014, Conant Farm, Richmond, VT
  - 35 attendees, CVFC, Farmers Watershed Alliance, CD staff, Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative
  - Another example of putting a face to name
  - Ethan Swift and Matt W (ACRWC) would like to present water quality data to CVFC...how do we get that data to be useful
  - Utilizing platforms like Front Porch Forum
  - Chuck...press release about cover crop acres this year.
- Wilcon Farm...Neighborhood Meeting regarding Manure Storage
  - Started conversation three years ago, but when ground was broken people were still freaking out
  - If you have questions, please contact me
  - When they came to the farm, most people were friendly and receptive
  - Make sure you have your plan written down so it can be clearly communicated
  - Need to educate realtors about land use, etc
- Cover Crop Field Days
  - Oct 31, 2014, Tony Pouliot, Westford, VT
    - Interseeded Annual Ryegrass, Clover, Tillage Radish
  - Nov 6, 2014, Vorsteveld Farm, Panton, VT
    - Nov 7, Clifford Farm, Starksboro, VT
    - FUTURE...Soybean interseeded cover crop in Panton and Charlotte; shorter season corn (weigh yield loss with management flexibility)*

## Outreach

- Phoenix's Perspectives magazine feature story on CVFC
  - Call Craig with topic ideas, get on mailing list
- Nate Severy farmer outreach
  - Been working on farmer outreach
  - Folks should know about CVFC and our work, so that when Nate approaches them its not explaining what it is, but 'Why aren't you a member yet?'
  - Is it worth me joining?
  - Putting numbers to it...can I get yield and environmental benefit.
  - Real Time data on larger scale...whole field stuff with real data. Benchmark program (YFC). Put \$\$ to these practices
  - How to meet the TMDL and be profitable?? Come to CVFC...that's what we're doing.
  - Survey...why are you not a member? What do you need to know more about?
- Farm to Table...Blue Ribbon Story
  - Jackie Folsom delivered with good reviews
- Topic ideas:
  - Richard Hall (all no-till), David Conant (transition to no-till), ?? (No-till Skeptic)
  - Workshop: Neighbor relations, etc
    - Use success stories, tip sheets, strategies

## Funding Proposals

- High Meadows Foundation - organization support and video project
  - Support for CVFC staff
- Keep Local Farms proposal
  - Support for video project
- VT Working Lands Enterprise Board - Service Provider Grant
  - Is it a two-part project? Technical service vs. on-farm trials. How does that benefit farm \$\$

## Project/Policy Updates

- Discussion

## CVFC Annual Meeting - January 14, 2015

- Location....Vergennes AL
- Heavy h'ors derves, open bar
- Agency Update, Farmer presentation, AGO Monitoring Results/Lidar stuff – Julie Moore,

## Other Business

- **No-Till Cover Crop Conference**
  - Panel: Modifications to corn planters...how they worked in soil types, conditions, timing, etc.
  - Numbers on no-till impact on soil loss in flood plain and energy/\$\$ savings
  - Tile drainage and dissolved P
- How do we address the issue of a farmer seeing another farmer being in violation? Is it our role to be interveners? Spread the message that we're here to help...then when we show up they may believe us. What about showing up with money vs. just education. (Loren)...lead by example, not enforcer.

## NEXT MEETING: December 3, 2014

*Invite: Ethan/Matt*

*Invite: Dan Conner + Fred Baser + Alyson Eastman (989-1088)*

*Invite: Tile Drainage impacts – February Board Meeting...invite tile drainage installers (and/or go to St. Albans workshop in January)*

*ADJOURNED @ 11:59*

*Motion: Ben Dykema*

*Second: Peter James*

*Discussion*

*Passed without dissent or abstention*