

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

***** Meeting Minutes *****

December 19, 2012 9:30am to 12:00pm
UVM Extension Office Conference Room, Middlebury

Welcome

Meeting called to order at 9:35am by Jeff Carter, UVM Extension
Review agenda (no additions) and Background for new participants

Meeting Minutes

Motion : *Jeff Carter* Accept Minutes from November 14, 2012 meeting as printed.

Second: *Eric Clifford*

Discussion: none

Vote: Passed by aye vote, no nay votes

Financial Report

Jeff Carter. Review expenses from CIG Grant and balance of funds.

Motion: Accept Financial Report...no formal motion, first report

Second: n/a

Discussion: 17.63% administrative rate negotiated between UVM/NRCS

Administrative Update

Discussion on Incorporation...background non 5019(c)(5) vs. 501(c)(3), will meet with Jim Foley and incorporate after the new year, so as not to require a 2012 tax return. We need legal advice and accounting firm to advise on formal structure. Meeting set for 9am January 4th.

Motion: *Jeff Carter* The Original List of Charter Members for CIG Grant be listed as Directors for Articles of Incorporation of Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition Incorporated

Second: *Brian Kemp*

Discussion and Vote: Passed by aye vote, no nay votes

The following names will be listed as Directors (9):

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm, Starksboro, VT – Lewis Creek Watershed

John Roberts, Butterwick Farm, Cornwall, VT – Lemon Fair Watershed

David Conant, Conant Riverside Farm, Richmond, VT – Winooski River

Brian Kemp, Mountain Meadows Farm, Sudbury/Orwell, VT – Lemon Fair

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm, Ferrisburgh, VT – Lewis Creek Watershed

Peter James, Monument Farms, Weybridge, VT – Otter Creek Watershed

Ted Foster, Foster Brothers Farm, Middlebury, VT – Otter Creek Watershed

Marie Audet, Blue Spruce Farm, Bridport, VT – Dead Creek Watershed

Lorenzo Whitcomb, North Williston Cattle Company, Williston, VT – Winooski River Watershed

Discussion:

CHARTER MEMBERS: Use grant funding to pay Membership Dues for Charter Members to start the CVFC Inc. checking account

- Different levels of membership (with different dues): farmers, non-voting, supporting organization
- Signatories on checking account...from board of directors
- Incorporate, procure EIN, open checking account, pay charter membership dues



Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition is a project sponsored by:
UVM Extension, 23 Pond Lane, Suite 300, Middlebury, VT 05753-1189
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Jeff asked that if you have comments regarding the DRAFT CVFC by-laws, please give comments to Jeff before January 4th meeting with lawyer

Noted concerns about draft bylaws:

- Dues are mentioned twice - in Section 2 and Section 10 (fees/dues)
- Do FWA by-laws have term-limits??

Water Quality Discussion

9:50 Jeff discussed VT ANR Act 138 Draft Report

10:00 - 11:45 **Water Quality Remediation, Implementation, and Funding Report**
Julie Moore - Water Resources Group Leader, Stone Environmental Inc.
Critical Source Areas (CSA) in Mississquoi Watershed (and Otter Creek)
NRCS 'Monitoring and Evaluation' practice - AGO Program

11:45 Next Meeting, Topics and Schedule - **January 9th, 2013**
Topics: Tributary to target for demonstration, data gathering
Ethan Swift (DEC)...what's going on in Otter Creek, Poultney Mettowee, TMDL

Other Discussion: NEIWPIC....coordinates DEC for new England. Discussion about Non Point Conference in May in Burlington. Julie discussed: Want to do an ag tour...edge of field monitoring. Go to a farm where we could demonstrate conservation practices on the ground. Sen. Leahy's WQ conference in May. Members agreed this is a good idea.

Motion: *Eric Clifford* Invite Julie to act as advisor (2-3x /year).

Second: *Dave Conant, Loren Wood*

Discussion: Julie can provide some time w/o pay. Better information will allow for better results. Beneficial to have more back and forth discussions. Who else to invite to a formal advisory board for CVFC - Diane Bothfelt, President of UVM, Dean of CALS?

Vote: Passed by aye vote, no nay votes

Other Discussion: Web page is in progress....Ben's son-in-law is web developer: Brain Campbell. Marie suggested they use Jeff Garrow. Could it become a UVM student project? Professional site may be better and faster if we can control content. Extension can start a site for internal communication.

Eric suggested building a logo. Mailing list. Fact sheet to be able to hand to farmers about CVFC and what is talked about in meetings.

Other Discussion:

Brain Kemp: What are suggestions for approaching neighbors who may have bad practices. Invite some of those farmers to CV farmers' meetings, CVFC allows you this opening. Farmers liked WQ focus groups meeting at Legion with large group breaking into smaller groups for discussion, by watershed seems appropriate. Do meetings in other places besides Middlebury.

Julie asks who wants to participate in future field monitoring studies: Brain Kemp, Eric, Ben, Foster's, Audet, Ray.

Next Meeting set for January 9, 9am to 12pm at UVM Extension Office in Middlebury

Agenda items: Finalize incorporation of non-profit, Expanding membership

Motion to Adjourn: *Eric Clifford*. Second: *Peter James*. All in favor

Adjourn Meeting - 12pm



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