

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Monday, December 2nd, 2013

12:30 -2:30 PM

UVM Extension - Middlebury

23 Pond Lane, Suite 300

Middlebury, VT 05753



BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Review and Approve October Meeting Minutes

Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve October minutes: Eric Clifford

Second: Ted Foster

Discussion: none

Passed without dissent or abstention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff went over Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet Reports

Only pending payment is a \$35 bill to add UVM as a payee to our General Liability insurance policy

Balance sheet was printed incorrectly

Motion to put on file until Balance sheet is corrected: Ted Foster

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

President's Report

John Roberts/Eric Clifford

Membership Application Approvals

John Roberts/Kirsten Workman

None

Leadership Changes

Eric Clifford/Jeff Carter

With John Roberts' (President) resignation from the Board of Directors, we need to address who will fill this vacant seat. In the interim, Eric Clifford (Vice President) is filling in for all presidential duties so that the corporation can continue conducting business. The entire Board will discuss a long-term strategy for leadership of the organization. Kirsten Workman, Secretary, will go over the parameters of the process as outlined in the by-laws.

Eric Clifford would be happy to act as Interim President, but would like to have a strategy for leadership.

Do we need an Executive Director to help with membership recruitment, spokesperson. Eric doesn't feel like for the long-term, he doesn't feel he has time to represent the group at the level needed.

CVFC has a tremendous opportunity to stand up and articulate farmers' positions and be representative farmers on issues. The state is leaning to us to do some of that, and if we do it right we can have a big impact.

(JEFF) Some of what John R was doing was some ED- like roles...speaking at DEC events, etc. Outreach (field days, etc).

(BEN) Go back to where we started. Not a lot on the website. Need to start back to the basics and do what we said we would do. Not all the money should be pass through.

QUESTIONS:

- Would ED be paid, full time?? Probably start part-time, but work up to it. The funding will be there.
- Who is the person?? Experience, be able to talk to both farmers and the public
- In Montpelier/NRCS/state meetings....they will need to get people (farmers) to the state house in a timely manner
- Keep the line between Extension and CVFC very clear.
- Middlebury college students to help determine some direction.
- Formal recruitment process,
- Where will the revenue come to support this?? *VACD example*
- FAP grant had \$9000 for staff time....more projects would increase these opportunities
- Extension support framework is already in place....desk, computer, phone, etc.
- Part of ED job description can be to find funding
- How much CIG/FAP money is left to go towards this...

ACTION ITEMS:

- Job description
- Preliminary budget

Motion to prepare job description/budget for a Executive Director position: Ben Dykema

Second: Ernie Audet

Discussion: Pick up where John left off, part-time to grow to full-time. Committee to prepare these items, Jeff Carter Farm to Plate, Ellen Kehler (Marie/Brian)

Passed without dissent or abstention

Annual Membership Meeting

Jeff Carter/Eric Clifford

- January 8th (evening) in Vergennes (required by by-laws to be second Wednesday of January)
- DETAILS...need to make some decisions on details, so the event can get planned and advertised accordingly.
- Chuck Ross/David Mears confirmed...additional speakers??

(JEFF) Are we going to open this up to the public or keep it small? Could be a membership recruitment opportunity.

Can we use this to share our vision.

The focus should be what we want to share...not just to hear from them.

We'll help inform you....MFO/LFO mentoring the smaller farms

Our message....

- *Farmers working together*
- *Thriving agriculture and clean Lake Champlain*
- *Articulate their concerns/risk (for all farms) in Montpelier & beyond*

FREE??

Heavy h'ordourves, discussion, meeting

Social hour

Program

Business Meeting

6:30-8:30

Press Release, Flyer, Newsletter, AgriView, TMDL meetings, update website

MILK, CHEESE, BEEF??, SWEET, cash bar

Special announcement

Panel...Ben Dykema, Brian Kemp, Tim Kayhart, Dave Conant

What are we facing?

What can we do?

What is the state going to do (to protect farmers)...David Mears, Chuck Ross (Jeff Carter/facilitator)

Marie will help with messaging for panel

FAP Update**Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman**

Waiting for an ACH deposit into bank account for \$120,000 for winter cover crop payments

- Acres/\$\$ submitted for payment (vs. funding available)
- Contracts, payment process, etc.
- CVFC outreach included with payments

Advisory Group Members**Eric Clifford**

- Go back to our list of potential advisors
- Start moving forward on this

(ERIC) Still need to have some high profile 'think tank' group of advisors to lend credibility to CVFC. Science-based folks especially important. Non-farm people looking at our Advisors will take us seriously.

Send letter

Add to the Membership meeting agenda...

Project/Policy Updates**Jeff Carter/John Roberts**

- No-Till & Cover Crop Symposium...February 19 & 20,2014
- TMDL Meetings

Other Updates

(DAVE) Lots of progress!! People should know. All agencies are on the same page.

Green Mountain Newsletter go to all members...forward to membership list

NEXT MEETING: January 8th.

ADJOURN