

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting

Attendance: Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, George Foster, David Conant, Tim Kayhart, Peter James, Ernie Audet, Marie Audet, Loren Wood, Rachel Orr, Brad Lawes, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Merritt Gleason, Jonas Hastings Ray Brands, Dan Barnes, Marie Audet

10:00 am

Call to order & President's Report

Brian Kemp

Brian attended a meeting last month regarding the Wetland General Permit. ANR/DEC have not decided if it will go through legislature or through rulemaking within the Agency. VAAFM would prefer it go through legislature, while ANR seems to want to just go through rulemaking.

Handed out the Addison Allies Network document. A volunteer organization that helps migrant workers with transportation, interpretation, other assistance. Patrick Bary.

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

Approve November Minutes

Motion to accept November minutes: David Conant

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: Eric pointed out we should invite VFB to join our organization when we submit our membership application

Passed (11/0/1) Brian abstained

Review letter to Abe Collins, LandStream in response to November presentation

All agreed to go ahead and send.

Membership Applications

Kirsten Workman

None received this month

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Motion to approve treasurer's report as presented: Loren Wood

Second: George Foster

Discussion: Louise clarified that the payment from VAAFM was for the Leadership training specifically

Passed (12/0/0)

BMP Challenge RFP from ANR. It was released earlier, but they had no proposals submitted. 10 farms participate in a BMP challenge...no-till vs. conventional, less manure on a high P field, shorter day corn. If you lose crop yield you get paid. UVM and CVFC could apply together. \$250,000....\$75,000 for potential farmer payments. Could also build in farmer payments for participation. Could Jeff forward proposal to Directors?

Proposals to meet with CVFC

Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative, Matt Whitten (ED), would like to meet with CVFC. They would like to do more monitoring and communicate with farmers
Tim...would they even believe it when they hear it? We may need to educate them.
Marie...the conservation BMP inventory results should be shared with groups like this too.
There are reports: <http://acrpc.org/programs-services/natural-resources/acrwc/acrwc-library/>
Make sure they understand it is a dialogue. Need to build relationships.
Invite him, but figure out when (Feb/March), please have him send a proposal ahead of time.

Review proposal to meet from Senator Chris Bray to CVFC members/directors
Chris Bray emailed his proposal prior to this meeting. His main items are:
(1) profitability – are state programs enhancing farm viability and in what ways? In what ways could they be improved? And in what ways are state programs working against farm viability?

(2) water quality – in what ways are state programs supporting or making more difficult the progress of farms to meet the Vermont Clean Water Act?

**I continue to work on both farm viability and water quality issues—as will the legislature as a whole—so I would like to meet as soon as possible so that what I learn can be brought to the State House.
I am primarily interested in listening the board, so they can determine the length of the meeting, but I am guessing we would need 30–60 minutes. Either the first week in January (before the legislative session begins) or during town meeting week in March (as we are not in session that week)**

We also should be well-prepared, as if we were testifying to the legislature. Have a few key items to focus on.

Also invite Tim Ashe and Chuck Ross? January CVFC Meeting...January 2nd. \ Questions from leadership about what's important....

Wetlands

Communications, especially around SFO

What is state going to do when/if farms go out of business

Review proposal from Bruce Lisman to meet with CVFC/pitch project (Marie)
Retired wall street exec, lives on Lake Champlain, ran for Governor a while back.
Proposes to fund a 10-year not, has a start/finish/measureable results. He met with Marie for 2 hours last week. He could raise money in a different way than we've done in the past. Didn't particularly like his perspective that what we've done so far 'hasn't worked at all'. Putting together a working group...CLF, Crea Linthellac, Kent Hendersen, Diane Bothfeld, George Lee, Jane Clifford, legislators, many others. His emphasis is on 'hot spots' ...St. Albans.

Eric has spoken with him also. It is an interesting idea, especially as a new funding source.

Board of Directors

Beth Pearce, Treasurer
Sec. Tebbets
Leg. Brock
Jen Dugan
Chuck Ross
Tom Torti
Bill Rowell
Jane Clifford

Working Group

Bruce Lisman
Kent Hendersen
Diane Bothfeld
George Lee
?
Heather Darby
Eric Howe, LCBP
Marli Rupe
others

Should we listen to him...yes? When? Soon...can we wait? January 2nd

Manure Spreading

Since my discussion with Matthew and adding this item to the agenda, he received more communication from VAAF (WQD)...new language, "Manure spreading on snow is extremely risky, and the WQD is reminding farms that for all sized farms – except for LFOs – winter manure spreading exemptions are available. The WQDs experience with winter manure management leads us to believe that there will be better manure spreading conditions after the start of the December 15th ban. If you are not at risk of immediate overtopping but are concerned about your ability to store manure through the duration of the ban, please consider reaching out to the WQD to begin planning for a winter spreading variance for when snow is gone, and spreading conditions are less risky.

agree with their statement, but would like LFOs to be included...manure is manure, and it is risky right now for them too...specify floodplains also.

Policy Updates

MFO Permit Update – New NOIC due from all MFOs by December 15, 2018
Tile Drainage RAP (<https://agriculture.vermont.gov/rap-tile-rule>)
FSMA Produce Safety Rule Draft Guidance

Wetland General Permit Updates

Meeting a month ago mentioned more discussions, but then a notice was sent out saying general permit had already been approved. Apparently this is for the 'non-reporting' general permit. November 19th finalized, but they extended it December 31st because of lack of adequate notice.
VAAF is meeting with them again to clarify.

Write something...should mention, especially when it is a farmer trying to install a conservation project, or increased volume...VAAFMBMP projects, EQIP projects,

1. Traditional ag exemption
2. More flexibility for conservation practices and increase the square footage from 5,000 cf to 50,000 cf.; include that RAPs should be considered

Swanton Sector Border Patrol's Planned Immigration Checkpoints

CVFC Annual Meeting

Nate Severy

January 23rd, 2019 | VFW-Middlebury

Still struggling to find the 'entertainment'...Jim Douglas, Tony Bates.

Program Reports

CVF Semi-Annual Report Summary

Nate Severy

Report was distributed, grant is going well, meeting deliverables

Nate has a list of new "Crop Signals" workshop series topic ideas, asking for additional suggestions

CVFC Directors Conservation Practice Inventory

Nate Severy/Jeff Carter

Jeff distributed the preliminary East Creek/McKenzie Brook

We will do the same method for CVFC directors, distributed maps

Leadership Training Networking Event Attendance

Louise Waterman

5:00 network

6:00 dinner

Jeff, Loren, Ray, Steve, Eric, Kirsten, Dan Barnes,

Other Items

All

Article about Tom Vanacourt spreading St. George black, part of a larger project, stratified soil sampling, multiple sites (Jeff)

Upcoming Dates:

December 5th/6th – CVFC Strategic Planning Session (ALL Board Members)

December 13th – CVFC Member Leadership Training, followed by social hour with Board Members

January 23rd - CVFC Annual Membership Meeting, Middlebury Veteran's of Foreign Wars

12:25 ADJOURN Meeting

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Jan.2, 2019

Motion: Marie Audet

Second: Eric Clifford

Passed

1:00 – 4:00 PM Strategic Planning Session #1 – Board of Directors/Staff