

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

## Directors Business Meeting

**In attendance:** Brian Kemp, Louise Waterman, George Foster, Loren Wood, David Conant, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Eric Clifford, Peter James

**9:30am**

### **President's Report**

*Brian*

RAP Development Committee meeting with Lorenzo W. Lots of broad topics and agency shared a lot about what is going on.

### **Secretary's Report**

*Kirsten*

Motion to approve November Minutes as presented: Brian Kemp

Second: Eric

Discussion

Passed (7/0/0)

### **Approve New Members**

*Kirsten*

*Membership applications*

Class 1, Ross Conrad, Honey Producer (Middlebury, Vt.)

Class 1, Seth & Brian Leach, Woodlawn Holsteins (Pawlet, Vt.)

Motion to approve new member applications as proposed: Eric Clifford

Second: Loren

Discussion

Passed (7/0/0)

### **Treasurer's Report**

*Jeff*

Motion to approve November Financial Statements (Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet): George Foster

Second: David Conant

Discussion: moved to approve EJC Consulting last month, provided the contract language and had Brian sign contract

Passed (7/0/0)

Vermont Farm Show starts 1-30-17. Discounted \$100 booth fee (from \$300). Jeff got signature from Brian on contract (including liability policy). Let's dress up booth for future events.

### **Draft Letter to Members**

*All*

Go everybody, not just farmers. Send next week

### **Louise Role**

Now that membership growth has slowed, it may be a good time to expand her role.

- Membership relationships & recruitment
- Board Training and development

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- Business Member partnerships
- Collaboration with other organizations
- Help facilitate strategic planning
- Coordinate more consumer/community education

Keep Local Farms has been funding her position, would like to continue with funding.

Peter: go back to our mission statement, are we where we want to be, make sure job description is being fulfilled.

Clean Water Funds seem like the perfect fit. Longer term proposal. Significant \$\$, but not greedy  
Go back to High Meadows Fund.

Why are people joining...it gives producers a voice without a huge time commitment, consumer education

## **Strategic Planning** *all*

Is it time for CVFC to do some strategic planning? This would entail a comprehensive look at where we started, where we are now, and where we want to go in the future. It would be a structured look at funding, organizational structure, membership and partners. If so, what would the process entail, how would we fund it, and who would be involved? At this point, it is just a question to see if Directors are interested in the potential, not the nitty-gritty details.

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**OVER →**

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**Wednesday, December 6, 2017 | General Membership Meeting**

**10:00 Welcome & President's Report** *Brian*

CWF Proposal moving forward

RAP Development Committee...agency talked about privacy of NMPs, tile drainage, other issues including evaluating how to fund farms in tricky financial situations (voluntary),

Input for RAP committee on buyout vs. big infrastructure investments (ask Laura for language):

- Could be a big demand
- Pitfalls and immediate concerns
- Farm viability first, giving many options including this one
- What are the criteria?
- Could be very tricky and may not look good Vermont agriculture

**Brainstorm Annual Meeting Agenda/Topics/Speakers** *all*

*Proposed date for Annual Membership Meeting:*

Thursday, January 25th

5:30 – 9:00 PM

American Legion, Vergennes, Vt.

Agenda: TBD

Motion to approve January 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Vergennes American Legion: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo

Discussion: doesn't conflict with Dairy Producers, Farm Show, NTCC

Passed (7/0/0)

Louise will reach out to business members for booths

Brainstorm:

Pollinators

Tile drainage – Kevin King, Eric Young, Julie Moore (ANR) – Policy, Data, Real Life

Stress Management, managing change (Mary Peabody)

Entertainment...comedy

Invite: Ag Secretary, Governor

**Recap of Meeting with VAAFAM Leadership** *Brian, Marie, all*

We will review the meeting last month with agency leadership and key staff.

Ernie was disappointed that Laura/Ryan were there. Can't have a candid conversation with Sec.

Tebbetts with staff there. Our next meeting we can request to just have he and Alyson next time.

***Request for February meeting with him***

**Recap of recent interactions with local legislators** *Marie, Jeff, Nate, others*

There have been a few opportunities where CVFC members have had discussions with local legislators about ag and water quality issues. Those who have been a part of those discussions will share.

More and more interactions with legislators outside of Montpelier

Harvey planning a Miner tour again in December

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It will be hard to get to them once they're in session...tile drainage will be on the top of the docket.

## Water Quality Monitoring in Lewis Creek Lemon Fair

Matt Whitten requesting to present to CVFC in February/March.

Include McKenzie Brook data too.

(Eric) Can he send report ahead of time to review ahead of time, and then decide.

## Other Business

- David: Replacing Jim Leland is there a plan? Harvey: Water quality will be a separate area from pesticides and other topics. Put out a request for applications and will be interviewing.
- Dan B. Act 250 issue...need to give input?

## 11:00 SPECIAL DISCUSSION: Required BMPs for farming with TILE DRAINAGE

Please join us for this important and timely discussion. We want to provide input to VAAFM as they draft a report to the legislature about what best management practices (BMPs) should be **required** when farming with tile drainage in Vermont. They are under a deadline to present this report and we want to have the opportunity to have our input shared with them as they develop a list of potential **mandatory tile drainage BMPs**.

- Jeff will give a brief recap of the Tile Drainage Working Group and history of discussion to date as well as highlight the most recent monitoring and work going on in Vermont and nearby.
  - Tile drainage group has been around for a while, but they were not included in input for the latest report. Next meeting is December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Marie, Jeff & Brian will share what other environmental groups are proposing
  - Met with CLF and LCC in October
  - Don't want to wait, sent email to us and others, plan to put forth a similar bill to David Deen's bill last year
- Harvey: There is another bill being proposed in the house to put off making rules until....hanging on to it until he needs to be introduced, but he feels like If the agency proceeds with rulemaking, then the legislature shouldn't be proposing new bills about tile drainage.
  - A committee bill can be brought to the table outside of time requirements
  - Confidentiality conversation, surveys would have to remain in aggregate
- Brian & Lorenzo will give a recap of the most recent RAP Development Committee and the discussion
  - P-Index answer yes/no
  - Laura wants to know what proper mapping would entail.
  - MFO/LFO required reporting
  - Potential sunset
  - Ernie: if they already have a P-index and shape files then that's all they need
  -
- Jeff will present a draft list of BMPs and get input from the group
- Other discussion will be encouraged and welcome

***If you farm with tile drainage, you should be part of this discussion. Please attend and have your voice and experience with farming with tile drainage captured.***

12:35 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Peter

Second: Lorenzo W.

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – January 3, 2018

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## Upcoming Events, Etc.

- **Grazing Planning Class begins 12-7-2017** (*see Cheryl Cesario, UVM Extension for more info*)
- **Manure Spreading Certification Class & EXAM (required for all certified manure applicators)**
  - 12-19-2017 St. Albans
  - 12-20-2017 St. Johnsbury
  - 01-05-2018 Middlebury
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