

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, December 7, 2016  
UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



## **In attendance:**

Eric Clifford, Rachel Orr, Brian Kemp, Nate SEvery, George Foster, Peter James, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Marie Audet, Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman

## **Directors Business Meeting Minutes**

**9:39 am Meeting called to order**

### **Opening Comments**

### **Secretary Report - Review and Approve Minutes last meeting**

*Motion: Eric Clifford*

*Second: George Foster*

*Discussion: good comments from Rebekah Weber*

*Passed: (6/0/0)*

### **Membership Applications and Approvals**

None received since last meeting.

### **Treasurer Report - Financial Report to the Board**

Jeff Carter gave the Treasurer's Report including Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement through December 7, 2017

Retained PayData payroll services...on hold

*Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented: Peter James*

*Second: Rachel Orr*

*Discussion:*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

### **Annual Meeting Date**

*Motion to move Annual Meeting to January 5, 2017 due to conflict: Eric Clifford*

*Second: Rachel Orr*

*Discussion:*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

### **Dairy Outreach Coordinator Position – Update**

Brian: been meeting with candidates, two interviews plus discussion with Jane Clifford. Will be meeting to discuss and make a decision.

References, follow up with hiring committee next week.

Other Business \_\_\_\_\_

- Follow up from VT Farm Bureau...invite to Annual Meeting, keep relationship positive
  - VT Farm Show at the end of January. We have a booth. Need bodies and crop exhibits
  - VT Digger Article...Albee and others.
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## Open Meeting Minutes

### **In attendance:**

Jed Davis, Marie Audet, George Foster, Peter James, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Susan Smiley, John Corcoran, Will Stevens, Eric Clifford, Ray Brands, Ed Schilliwaski, Matthew Severy, Rachel Orr, Matt Biette, Chanin Hill, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Laura Hardie, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Mark Cannella, Stefano ?, Rico Balzano, Kristin Williams, Eric Severy

### **10:00 Welcome and CVFC President Comments**

#### **Legal aspects of the RAPs- Mark Cannella**

Farm Viability Program Director.

Dec. 15 in Vergennes, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> in Randolph, following week in Enosburg

10-3...Annette Higby will present in morning, farmer discussion in afternoon

RAPs and legal issues...why is Farm Viability doing it?

They have a year of funding to address these issues

Provide education to farmers to help farmers manage, but also create a firewall and have trust without regulation, to deal with potential issues....can provide feedback to agencies (anonymously)

Lawyer...what are RAPs, what are definitions, what is statutory process,

Workshops will be a place to share what we've learned, create a dialogue,

Ease the transition, educate during a dynamic transition

If you get asked...share the information and importance, that the goal is about good decision management, not supposed to be contentious, RSVP

<http://blog.uvm.edu/farmvia/>

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/water-quality-regulations-and-legal-education-for-farmers-tickets-29757524557>

<http://blog.uvm.edu/farmvia/?p=1181>

#### **Review of meeting with CLF's Lakekeeper, Rebekah Weber**

Kirsten reviewed notes from the meeting. It was a good, positive meeting. She was receptive. Would like to go out and see things on farms. Eric Clifford mentioned that she has stated in other meetings that she enjoyed the meeting and has made comments. Will follow up on the invitation to come on farm.

Their role is to make sure the EPA TMDL Implementation plan is followed

#### **Membership Survey**

Expanded survey this fall about cover crops and reduced tillage. Please fill out and return. Hoping to tabulate before annual meeting. Will follow up with a press release.

What other questions:

- Manure incorporation
- animal numbers

### **Annual Meeting - January 5, 2017**

Keynote speaker:

- Phil Scott
- New Secretary of Ag?
- Perspectives of the future
- RAP stuff?

Farmer Panel??

- Maybe not?
- Value of Nutrients... "Newtrient folks"
- Questions & answers
- Laura's videos
- Water quality groups? Update from monitoring results, a quick update on trends this year (**Kristin Underwood**, Matt Whitten), what about state... otter creek biomonitoring, etc. (Ethan)

Another time for Miriam Horn... a separate event for the public... moderated discussion?

### **Water Quality Video Project- Laura Hardie**

Laura Hardie, New England Dairy Promotion Board gave some background on the project.

- Worked with all three farmer watershed groups to do a series of videos focused on water quality
- Cover Crops and responsible manure management
- Shared "More than Manure" video draft
  - She will email draft link, would like input by next week
  - Promotion plan... funds will come from watershed groups, agency of ag,
    - Social media, along with other folks
    - Paid spots on local TV
    - Blogging
    - Website for campaign
    - Posted on other websites: farms, extension,
  - Should be complete by end of the year
- Cover Crop video being worked on right now... by end of January... show at Annual Meeting
- She will forward the promotion plan.

### **Water Quality Survey Project- Middlebury college students**

Kristin Williams, UVM Extension, introduced the project and the group

Christian Johanson, Tarrick, Thomas, Robin... Kate (couldn't come).

Questions:

- What about cows/acre?
- Just ask cow numbers, vs. LFO/MFO/SFO
- Vegetable grower...wasn't sure it applied to me
- Infiltration is an important part of P management....could compaction/infiltration be a variable
- Weather info
- During GIS work...did you look at average distance to water body as well as slope/land use
  - Distance of farmstead to surface water had a correlation with Phosphorus

**Other Business:**

- NE CCA Conference: in NY, winter spreading will be limited. No spreading on snow or 'concrete frost'. Recommending 7 months of storage. Custom Manure Applicators will have to fill out a 'Manure Spreading Event' Form. So far still for larger farms...300 cows+
- Nate working on Custom Manure Applicator training, solidifying dates very soon (this week?)
- VT Farm Show, we have a booth, we need more coalition members in the booth. We will send around a sign-up sheet, name tags (Maple Landmark)
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**12:00 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Ray Brands, Second Eric Clifford.**

**Reminder: Annual Meeting - January 5, 2017 (Thursday)**

**Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – February, 2017**