

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Business Meeting Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors: Loren Wood, Ernie Audet, Brian Kemp, Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman, David Conant, Eric Clifford, Peter James

Members: Matt Biette, Matthew Severy, Eric Severy, Ryan Carabeau, Rachel Orr, Brad Thomas, Ray Brands

Staff: Nate Severy

Public: Tom Eaton, Cheryl Cesario, Rico Balzano, George Tucker, Tom Vanacor, Randall Munger, Jake Jacobs

10:00 Welcome and introductions

▪ Secretary Report

- Membership Application Approvals

Motion to approve membership applications from Rene Saenger as a Vermont Farmer Member: Brian Kemp

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion: Passed without dissent or abstention

Motion to invite ACORN to describe their organization before accepting their application a non-profit organization: David Conant

Second: Brian Kemp

*Discussion: not worried about the \$100, just want to know more about ACORN
Passed without dissent or abstention*

- Approve November Minutes

Motion to approve minutes with corrections: Loren Wood

Second: Eric Clifford

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

▪ Treasurer Report

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report as presented: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: David Conant question about KLF \$\$, should it be \$41,000 or as \$45,000 less the UVM F&A Expense

Passed without dissent or abstention

- Grant Income

- KLF Status: committed (verbally and in writing)

- \$35,000 for personnel, the rest for outreach (minus UVM F&A)

- Dairy Vision also got \$\$ to do similar work. They don't want to hire the education and outreach person, but give us another \$10,000 to augment education/outreach efforts. Invoice situation.
- No Time restraints on funding, flexible
- Do we need to wait for money to be released or start now hiring? Need a structure to put new employee in place.
 - Job Description (Brian, Eric, David, Rachel, Peter)
 - Build Membership!
 - Enthusiasm, involvement
 - Media Relations, PR
 - Grants
 - Hand holding, resources
 - Montpelier
 - Executive Director....
 - Advertise? Where?
 - Newspapers
 - Colleges
 - Hiring Committee
 - Interviews
- Class Report
- Gift from Dairy Farmers Working Together (DFWT)
- Payroll (PayData) / Unemployment Insurance
 - Through Bank of Middlebury
 - \$1000/yr to process
- **Presidents Report - Brian Kemp**
 - Clean Water Culture
 - Regular characters, parks and rec,
 - Mapping system: resources, groups, agencies, tactical plan (ag, stormwater, roads, etc)
 - CVFC came up multiple times, we are starting to have a big impact
 - Grants Available:
 - DFA/St. Albans....\$\$ for water quality projects (VHCB). ~\$10,000 projects
 - RAP Meetings: Interviewed by Gaen Murphree, she's looking for more stories, highlight a small farm
 - Employee Trainings: Manure,
 - Signs: farm signs, field signs
 - Connecticut River Farmer Watershed Alliance: Launch Event on December 18th
 - Funding Gaps...story ideas for newspaper (Gaen Murphree)

- **RAP Response letter** to Agency of Agriculture about draft Required Agricultural Practices
- **January 5, 2016** - Draft #2 review with Agency of Agriculture
 - Can we get a copy ahead of meeting?
- **CVFC Activities** - Press Release Cover Crops, Membership database
 - Develop a better database, more comprehensive
 - Acres of land, practices, animal numbers?, membership gains, awards and recognition, \$\$ value of farm products, reach of products, \$\$ brought into state, jobs/employees, impact of organization, quantify our impact on water quality (practices).

- **Annual Meeting - January 13, 2016**
 - Election of New Directors (3) (terms expire for Kemp, Dykema, Foster)
 - Need an election warning to all members
 - Program Agenda
 - 5:30 Member and Guest Social
 - 6:00 Seating for Dinner - Open Annual Meeting and Election of Directors
 - 6:15 Meal is served
 - 7:00 Keynote Speaker - _____
 - Jim Douglas? (Backup?)
 - Media People...
 - 7:30 CVFC 2015 Slideshow
 - 8:00 Farmer Panel - Cool Stuff I Did _____, _____, _____
 - Ben Dykema
 - Howard VanderWey
 - Eric Severy, new injector
 - Pictures (@ Blissful Dairy, Cream Hill, Vorst. Audet)
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- **Other Business**
 - **No-Till Conference (IN)**
 - **No-Till / Cover Crop Symposium (VT)**
 - **Tom Vanacor – Rock Dust Local (Bridport)**
 - Materials used to mitigate water quality (and crop production)
 - Minerals suitable for local use, proven that char/humates can help by tying up nutrients, yields, decreased fertilizer/pesticide rates
 - Charcoal in economic supply
 - Implementing innovative farming practices...proactive
 - Different methods...through water, feed, on field,
 - Most everything is NOP compliant, but work with OG and Conventional producers
 - Happy to be in touch.

12:13 **Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Ray Brands**
Second: David Conant
Passed

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Director Meeting – January 5, 2016