

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Friday, February 16, 2018

UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, Ben Dykema, Ray Brands, George Foster, Loren Wood, Chase Goodrich, Rachel Orr, Marie Audet, Jeff Carter, Nate Severy, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman

Marybeth Whitten (NRCS), Pamela Stefanek (OCNRCD), Ed Schilliwaski

9:35am Meeting Called to order

Install Directors *Jeff*

Motion to install new directors as elected at 2018 Annual Meeting to include (Tim Kayhart, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Loren Wood, Chase Goodrich): Brian Kemp

Second: Marie

Discussion: none

Passed(8/0/0)

Election of Officers for 2018

Nomination for Brian Kemp: Loren Wood

Second: Marie

Motion to accept nomination as proposed: Ray Brands

Passed (8/0/0)

Nomination for Marie Audet as VP: Loren Wood

Second: Brian Kemp

Motion to accept nomination as proposed: Ray Brands

Discussion

passed (8/0/0)

Nomination for Secretary/Treasurer to stay the same as Kirsten Workman (Secretary), Jeff Carter (Treasurer): Brian Kemp

Second: Marie Audet

Motion to approve

Eric Clifford for the record: Directors thank the officers for the work they have done.

Brian: It is appreciate, it is an honor to go to meetings and represent the CVFC. People do pay attention and listen.

Secretary Report

Motion to accept minutes from January business meeting and Annual Meeting: Brian Kemp

Second: Ben Dykema

Passed (8/0/0)

Membership Applications

Motion to accept the following new member applications: Marie Audet

Type 1: Vermont Farmer

Cameron Clark, Riverhill Farms Inc. (Williston)

Justin Rich, Burnt Rock Farm LLC (Huntington)

Mike & Pat Fitzgerald, Fitzgerald Farm (Colchester)

Jon Satz, Woods Market Garden (Brandon)

Second: George Foster

Passed (9/0/0)

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter presented the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheets through Feb. 16, 2018.

Lots of dues coming in from the renewal notices. Annual dues ~\$11,000-\$12,000 every year.

Group consensus that if they are overdue by two years, reach out.

Looking forward. High Meadows is ending, final report needs to be completed, then maybe we go back with another proposal

Are we going to exhibit at NTCC? Yes.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report as submitted: Ben Dykema

Second: Eric Clifford

Passed (9/0/0)

Marybeth Whitten (NRCS)...deadline for applying for EQIP no-till practices is today! Next deadline is April 20th for other field-based practices (cover crop, forage & biomass planting etc). East Creek project is getting underway and there is a meeting to pull together the watershed plan, the meeting will be held at Orwell Fire Department on March 5th. We can send a reminder to members in the watershed. Marybeth will check that she can share the list of producers she sent the invite to. There is a second meeting to audit the East Creek & McKenzie Brook project(s) on April 5th.

Eric – can we use the work done in McKenzie Brook to frame the plan for East Creek...yes.

Did we meet our goals for McKenzie? No, 2017 was a difficult cropping season. Keegan Griffith can now count acres outside of EQIP contracts. How do we do a better job of communicating the practices on the ground that are not counted through NRCS.

Need to put some public outreach there. Letters to the editor, etc,
Survey members...practices

Act 260S –

Tile Drainage Project is underway. Sampling

Chase Goodrich...responding to letter from James Maroney, will probably end up in legislature testifying with Middlebury college

- **Other Business**
 - **No-Till Cover Crop Symposium 3-1-18**

Annual Meeting Recap:

Was good overall.

Suggestion

Marie Audet...Climate Action Commission. Ag is getting blame, but is getting overlooked. Marie is the only 'rural' person on committee, the rest are Chittenden county and urban. Paul Costello is helping keep part of the conversation. If all the farmland in VT increased organic matter by 1%, it would offset vehicle emissions. People did not respond much and were not engaged. Nitrous oxide is much more potent than CO2.

VPR sent an investigative reporter to Laggis farm to investigate nitrate contamination of well and wetlands. Forum in Burlington on March 29th about myth-busting around whether good environmental practices and ag can exist together. She is going to get more information. (<http://digital.vpr.net/post/when-nitrate-threatens-well-water-states-response-inconsistent-often-undocumented>)

Current Use:

A lot of people have not filled out their paperwork to certify compliance with current use. Letter will go out in February reminding, but is **DUE March 1st**.

Upcoming Legislative Breakfast Schedule:

2-26-18	Vergennes	Parish Hall	(Elizabeth Hill, Ray Brands, Alan Brisson)
3-12-18	Orwell	Fire House	(Rachel Orr, Brian)
3-19-18	Shoreham	Platt Memorial Library	(Loren Wood
3-26-18	Middlebury	American Legion (Governor's Breakfast)	(Chanin Hill, George Foster)
4-2-18	Salisbury	Congregational Church	(Chase Goodrich
4-9-18	Bridport	Grange Hall (LUNCH)	(Pamela Stefanek, Marie Audet
4-16-18	Weybridge	Congregational Church	(Peter James
4-23-18	New Haven	Congregational Church	(Elizabeth Hill, Phil Livingston)
4-30-18	Whiting	Town Hall (Kylie Quesnel	
6-4-18	Bridport	Grange Hall	

*Breakfasts start at 7:00 AM, Program at 7:30, ends at 8:45

*Luncheons start 12:00, and end at 1:45 PM

Also call your local rep to make sure you attend.

Talking Points:

- Kirsten & Marie put some together
- Keep it simple
- We don't farm the way we did 50 years ago, 10 years ago, 5 years ago
- We are regulated, there is

Dairy and 2+2 Legislative Reception

\$350 to sponsor

Do we support it and want to sponsor it?

April 10th, Cedar Creek Room,
We need to get producers there
Motion to sponsor the reception: George Foster
Second: Loren Wood
Passed (9/0/0)
Invoice Jeff
Other sponsors: Cabot, Monument, St. Albans

Programs for the year *Nate*
Alternative manure systems (end of March)
Grassland Manure Injector Field Day (June)
Cover Crops at Loren's (April/May)

Public Meetings & Community Events –

- July Festival on the Green (Middlebury)...re-use some station ideas from Breakfast on the Farm
- Lions Club & Rotary, other organizations
- Town of Colchester and School District – June 5th
- Breakfast on the Farm (sign up)
- Other school districts?
- Other events?

Equipment for small farms

- Provide support for accessing equipment, funding sources

Communication Training

Loren Wood, Ben Dykema, Brian Kemp

Crisis Training (next step)

Brian Kemp

Structure of Meetings Jeff

Director's Meetings seemed rushed.

Try switching it...have general meeting first, then adjourn to executive session

Keep it the same, just be more efficient with business part and make sure we start open meeting at 10:00.

12:25 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Brian Kemp
Second: Marie Audet

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – March 9, 2018