

# Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

UVM Extension Office

23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**9:30 am**      **Directors Business Meeting**

**Attendance:** Eric Clifford, Louise Waterman, George Foster, Tim Kayhart, Loren Wood, Ross Conrad, Ray Brands, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Rachel Orr, Nate Severy, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Peter James

## **Call to order & President's Report**

*Brian Kemp*

Thanked Tim for going to Montpelier and doing such a great job at the Legislative hearing. Laura DiPietro requesting a farmer to participate on the Nutrient Management Commission, technical workgroup, 9 meetings + materials review, two reports, starts February 11<sup>th</sup> goes through June...Lorenzo would be willing to take a shot at it. Brian, Jeff and Marie testified at House AG...lots of new players. Harvey was moved to House Natural. Followed by a conference call with Senate Natural.

## **Election of Officers for 2019**

*Kirsten Workman*

Motion to nominate Brian Kemp as President: Loren Wood

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Passed (7/0/0)

Motion to nominate Marie Audet as Vice President: Ray Brands

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: Eric Clifford wanted to go around the room to see if anyone else interested. Can we wait until the end of the meeting in case Marie arrives? Decided to wait. In the meantime Brian sent a text message to Marie to confirm she would accept the nomination. She did confirm. After the rest of BOD meeting (before motion to adjourn), we held vote:

Passed (9/0/0)

Nomination to appoint the Secretary as Kirsten Workman and the Treasurer as Jeff Carter: Loren Wood

Second: Eric Clifford

Passed (8/0/0)

## **Secretary Report**

*Kirsten Workman*

*Motion to approve January Minutes: George Foster*

Second: Loren Wood

(8/0/0)

## **Membership Applications**

*Kirsten Workman*

Casella Organics – Jeff Brinck (*Supporting Business*)

William Livingston (*Individual*)

Meeting Place Pastures – Marc & Cheryl Cesario (*Vermont Farmer*)

Motion to approve applications as received: Brian Kemp

Second: Tim Kayhart

Discussion: none

(8/0/0)

**Treasurer Report**

*Kirsten Workman (for Jeff Carter)*

Kirsten presented the Treasurer's Report as prepared by Jeff Carter who could not be in attendance.

*Motion to approve: Ray Brands*

*Second: Briand Kemp*

*Discussion: None*

**2+2 Support**

*Motion to support: Eric Clifford*

*Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb*

*Discussion: none*

*(8/0/0)*

**Legislative Breakfasts**

*Need to get schedule out to members and encourage participation*

**ADDISON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST SCHEDULE FOR 2019**

**SPONSORED BY BRIDPORT GRANGE # 303  
AND ADDISON COUNTY FARM BUREAU**

1/28/19- GRANGE HALL BRIDPORT  
2/4/19-PARISH HALL VERGENNES  
2/11/19-AMERICAN LEGION BRISTOL  
2/19/19-PRESIDENT'S DAY NO BREAKFAST  
2/25/19-FIRE HOUSE ORWELL  
3/4/19-TOWN MEETING NO BREAKFAST  
3/11/19-PLATT MEMORIAL LIB SHOREHAM  
3/18/19-AMERICAN LEGION MIDDLEBURY  
GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST  
3/25/19-CONG. CHURCH, MAPLE ST. SALISBURY  
4/1/19-AG LUNCH, Grange Hall BRIDPORT  
4/8/19-CONG. CHURCH WEYBRIDGE  
4/15/19-CONG. CHURCH NEWHAVEN  
4/22/19-TOWN HALL WHITING  
4/29/19-Grange Hall 82 Post Office Hill Rd. GRANVILLE

**BREAKFASTS START AT 7:00 AM PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30 AM AND ENDS AT 8:45 AM  
LUNCHEONS BEGIN AT 12:00PM AND END AT 1:45 PM**

**PURCHASE OF BREAKFAST NOT REQUIRED TO ATTEND BUT HELPS OUR HOSTS TO DEFRAY  
THE COST OF OPENING THEIR HALL**

Supported by: Addison County Chamber of Commerce  
Addison County Regional Planning  
Addison County Economic Development  
Corporation

*Lorenzo asked if Jeff has a written version of the acres of conservation practices implemented. Impact on TMDL with pounds of phosphorus.*

*Motion to adjourn Director's meeting: George Foster*

**10:00 am      Updates and Discussion**

**Jed Davis, AGriMark/Cabot – Update on Farmer Meeting @ Farm Show**

One more opportunity to continue good collaborative work between farmer groups. In addition to farmer watershed groups, NEDP and Farm Bureau. All the groups are having conversations about the appropriate administrative support. FWA has a part-time person, made whole with UVM Extension funding. The topic of ecosystem services has a lot of energy behind it. Agency shared that they don't expect any new regulations in 2019, getting RAPs implemented. He will send notes out.

**Executive Director Sub-committee – Jan. 16 discussion      *Eric Clifford, Louise Waterman***

Encouraged that there may be some potential candidates who might be interested. Finances are the linchpin. Tweak the current 'Louise' job description and reflect some more 'general' job duties and make clear the expectation to find more funding to make it a full-time position.

- Send out draft job description with newer language
- Being careful about overextending ourselves...where's the money coming from next?
- Being careful not to over promise. What if no more money comes....
- **Kirsten can send out updated 'draft' job description to directors and get input from directors before March meeting**
- \$20,000/year, 20 hours a week

*Motion to approve moving forward with a \$20,000 budget for a position and recruiting: Loren Wood*

*Seconed: Tim Kayhart*

*Disucssion: make sure the person who gets recruited is clear on the uncertainty.*

*(8/0/0)*

**Ecosystem Services (ES) hearing at State House      *Kirsten Workman, Marie Audet***

*Kirsten gave a recap of the work leading up to the Legislative hearing and what happened during the hearing.*

*Will it be hard to convince taxpayers to pay farmers to do things that are better for them and they should be doing anyway.*

- **UVM Proposal submitted to Senator Leahy for Ecosystem Services Pilot Project - \$3.2M**  
**Co-PI – H.Darby/J.Carter**
- **Meeting with Farmer Groups to discuss proposal to Vermont Legislature – 4pm**  
**CVFC/FWA/CRWFA**

**Program Reports**

Crop Signals schedule/topics      Nate Severy  
February 20<sup>th</sup> – Organic Crop & Fertility Management (Heather Darby)  
March 20<sup>th</sup> – Custom Manure Applicator Training (Middlebury)  
March 21<sup>st</sup> – Custom Manure Applicator Training (Northeast Kingdom)

April 17<sup>th</sup> (tentative) – Cover Crop Workshop @ Barnes Farm

**Other Items**

***All***

**11:00 Strategic Planning**

- Need strategies for Goals 4, 5 and 6....review those already submitted
- SMART goals for all 6 Goals. Goal #1 is complete. **12:00 Break for lunch – provided**

**12:30 Strategic Planning**

- Finish SMART goals for all 6 Goals.
- Action Plan for all the Strategies/Goals Taking threats/weaknesses (from SWOT) and tie them to goals/strategies
- Operating Budget

**2:00 ADJOURN Meeting**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

**Upcoming Dates:**

February 6 – CVFC/FWA/CRWFA Meeting regarding ESP proposal (4, S.Bur. EXT)

February 20 – Crop Signals: Organic Crop & Fertility Management (Middlebury EXT, 10:00 AM)

February 28 – No-Till & Cover Crop Symposium (Double Tree Inn & Conference Center, Burlington)