

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition

March 29, 2012

UVM Extension Office – Middlebury

In attendance:

Jeffrey Carter, UVM Extension

Kirsten Workman, UVM Extension

Eric Clifford, Clifford Farm LLC

Ted Foster, Foster Brothers Farm

Peter James, Monument Farms

Brian Kemp, Mountain Meadow Farms

David Conant, Riverside Farms

John Roberts, Butterwick Farm

Tim Kayhart, Kayhart Brothers

Ben Dykema, Wilcon Farm

VIEWING - *Bloom: The Emergence of Ecological Design, Part 2: Agriculture*

Conversation followed

Formal Organization

What is it?

Funding: NRCS CIG, RMA,

Why are we here....

- We need to walk the walk, talk the talk
- Tell our story: we are doing the right thing
- Need good representation from Winooski watershed farmers
- Agree to practices?
- Lobbying...unified voice...positive information to Montpelier
- Help neighbors implement practices (those who are unwilling to work with NRCS)
- Share ideas with each other
- Be proactive and avoid further regulation
- Take control back farms benefit to the environment
- Encourage practices: cover cropping, manure management (incorporation),
- Disseminating positive information to the public

Motion: Ben Dykema, to form the Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Board Members are those present at today's meeting

Second: David Conant

consensus

Next Steps:

- Apply for CIG Grant (Jeff/Kirsten)
- Letter of Support (Board of Directors)
- Invite more members
- Next Meeting: April 11th 10:00 – 12:00 @ Middlebury

Potential Members

Lorenzo Whitcomb (Williston Cattle)

Allison? (Shelburne Farms)

Technical advisor...Tom Eaton (ACS)