

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 05, 2013

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

UVM Extension - Middlebury

23 Pond Lane, Suite 300

Middlebury, VT 05753

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

10:05 Meeting called to order...quorum of directors

Review and Approve February Minutes

Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve February Minutes: Ted Foster

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

Business/Financial Update

Jeff Carter

Letters of Incorporation approved by state, but waiting for official paperwork from state. Mr. Foley will follow-up

Finances...grant money only, will pay lawyer from grant, 20% of Kirsten's time, still have management budget (\$20K)

Official report...when Jeff determines it is appropriate (D. Conant), share quarterly CIG progress report
Grant runs through March 2015.

Membership Categories/Fees

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

Only one representative per farm, define 'farmer'

Motion: Ted Foster

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: If a farmer asks what do I get for my \$100?; what's a farmer (acres, sales, own/rent/operate, nutrient management plan, add a couple more questions, call for more detail, should non-voting members pay the same amount??, call them 'supporting member'

Passed without abstention dissention

Membership Recruiting

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

Why?

United voice/group to promote, educate wise use of our watershed

FWA...access to technical assistance and cost-share funding...\$\$ incentive...not our primary mission

Public Outreach...show the public what farmers are doing

Go to Group for legislature...

Help each other out...when doing the right thing...proactive in telling our story

Come to group with problems...what is a good solution, how can you help?

Bring along the farmers that aren't there yet?

Knowing the available resources and sharing them...(who, what, where, when, how much?)
Winooski Meeting: D. Conant/Lorenzo Whitcomb
Loren Wood/Brian Kemp/John Roberts...how large is the net
(Coordinate with GM Dairy Discussion)
Ben Dykema, Eric Clifford (Lewis Creek)
Ted Foster/John Roberts...GM Discussion at Vorsteveld

Format: sign-in sheet
Agenda
Working on it, not perfect, here to help figure it out together

\$\$ for outreach...mailings, etc.

~~Advisory Member Recruitment~~ ~~Jeff Carter/Eric Clifford~~
tabled until April Meeting

Legislative Bills Jeff
How do we respond to requests for testimony, get consensus, and then pick someone to represent the perspective.
Motion to give John Roberts the authority to receive input from directors and give testimony on urgent issues at the legislature: Eric Clifford
Second: David Conant
Discussion: make sure everyone is on Jane's legislative newsletter and VACD, listserv?? Keep track of mileage for reimbursement
Passed without dissention, John Roberts abstained

NEXT MEETING: April 10, 2013 10:00 – 12:00

11:43 Motion to ADJOURN: Ted Foster
Second: Loren Wood
Passed

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

Vermont Dairy Producers Conference Recap (video clip) Eric, Jeff, Kirsten, Others

Group Updates All
CAFO Permit Public Comment at our office March 29th @ 9:30
If there is a discharge, the liability goes on the CAFO farm
Proactive
CIP-Corn Planters (No-Till) issue

Workgroup Updates All
LCBP-CAC – Eric Clifford
Provide input once a year, happened three weeks ago
Filter 40 ideas down to 5, not prioritized: tax on fertilizer and pesticides for CAFO regs, aligned with VAAFM, the only concession from ag community

Ag Working Group – Ben Dykema

Tomorrow will tell...New York coming to share info, NRCS working together too, Tom Eaton

New York permitting process

Going in the right direction, is the Governor with us?

What about the farm 'big picture'...not just 900 dairy farms...not enough \$\$

WLEB – Brian Kemp

\$1 million - \$14 million in requests

Leg is pushing for \$5million over next three years

Governor pledged \$1.5 million for next year

Extension Grant Projects

Jeff, Kirsten

LCBP Farmer of the Year Award Nomination

All

Decided to nominate Mountain Meadows Farm