

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Friday, March 9, 2018
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting - Directors only please

9:30am

Attendance: Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, David Conant, Chase Goodrich, Rachel Orr, Loren Wood, George Foster, Jeff Carter, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Nate Severy, Ray Brands

Call to order Brian Kemp

Secretary Report Kirsten Workman

Motion to accept February minutes as presented Loren Wood
Second: Rachel Orr
Discussion: none
Approved (7/0/0)

Membership Applications Kirsten Workman

No new membership applications

Treasurer Report Jeff Carter

Jeff reviewed the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet through March 9, 2018. He reviewed recent expenses since last meeting

Louise has requested to transition from a paid employee to an Independent Contractor. Jeff would like the board like to make that decision. Make a decision next meeting. Kirsten will send out resources from State of Vermont/IRS.

Last High Meadows payment received.

Clean Water Fund (CWIP) funding is still unknown. Our proposal has made it through the first round, still waiting to hear about full funding. Louise asked if her and Nate's employment is dependend on this new funding? Yes and no...some grants are ending, but there is also funding from membership dues, etc.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: David Conant
Second: Eric Clifford
Discussion: None
Passed (8/0/0)

ACoRN would like to continue their 'free' or in-kind membership. They reciprocate with a reduced-fee advertisement in the local food guide. Should the advertisement be a 'joint' ad with Extension or just CVFC? Perhaps we do a joint ad with a supporting business member. Keep the same level...\$225.

Need an invoice for the 2+2 Reception

Grants Update

Jeff Carter/Nate Severy

- Keep Local Farms I – complete
- Keep Local Farms II – ongoing
- High Meadows – ended January 31st, tying up paperwork with UVM, all \$ spent
- Clean Water Fund I – ends the end of April
- Clean Water Fund II – submitted, pending, requested 4 years of funding, but not sure what or how much we will get (full, partial, less time???)
- Extension Funds that provide in-kind support (staff, etc) is ongoing. Multiple grants, multiple people, things are always changing.

David Conant asked about the strategy for if/when Jeff Carter will need to pass the Treasurer duties. Eric asked if CVFC should be trying to reimburse Extension. Jeff feels strongly that Extension can and should support local farmer organizations. Louise reminded us that if CWF funding comes through, there would be financial support for just this type of strategic planning and leadership development. Five years in...a good time to look back and look forward.

General Membership Meeting

Additional Attendance: Ed Schilliowski, Terry Norris, Jed Davis, Eric Severy, Matthew Severy,

10:15 am Meeting called to order

Presidents Report

Brian Kemp

Events Recap

All

Manure Meeting in NY

No-Till Cover Crop Symposium

East Creek Watershed Planning Meeting

Media

Who could be a good contact at Addison Independent now that Gaen Murphree is gone?
Renee (NEDP) is willing to help with an op ed piece highlighting good work.

It's My Turn...BFP would reach the 'big public'.

Try and get the basic media training with Laura before April 9th? Next level (crisis readiness)

Talking points from Jeff/Kirsten

No-Till Workshop

April 9 or 11 with Jeff Sanders

More comprehensive look at 'they system'...not just the planter.

Peter James, Bill Barnes, George Foster, **Tim Kayhart**, Livingstons

Spring/Summer Bus Tour

Nate/All

9am-12:30pm, need to Select Date, Define Theme, Starting Location, then we can make Save the Dates, outreach plan to get Legislators/ Policymakers on the Bus?

Legislative Update Jeff Carter

Jane will come and talk to our April meeting. Once things settle down after crossover, she can figure out how to connect folks over lunch. After March 16th but not a Monday, Tuesday or Friday. March 21st and 22nd? Chase, Rachel, others?

- Citizen lawsuits
- NMPs being public/private
- Terry: Harvey Smith presenting Regenerative Ag bill on Tuesday/Wednesday. Tying in with VESP and RAPs. Letting public know that farmers are doing the right thing.
- 2+2 Reception – April 10th Cedar Creek Room

How to engage legislative folks

Nate is wondering how we make better relationships between individual members and their representatives. We want them to feel comfortable to call when there are issues in front of them. Jeff is working with Marie to focus on how to show how agriculture is part of the SOLUTION...not just the problem. Shift the culture so the public (constituents).

Public engagement is paramount. Surveys from BOTF confirm that getting the public on the farm.

House Ag/NR is educated and supportive. Senate Ag the same way. Senate Natural Resources needs better information.

Chris Bray at Legislative breakfasts in Bridport and Vergennes, very critical of ag and saying that Act 64 not working. Most powerful thing was Chanin Hill inviting people to see what they are doing, gave folks her cell phone number.

Governor’s Climate Action Commission Jeff Carter (Marie absent)

Jeff has prepared some information about how farming can improve climate change resiliency. Water quality practices are the same ones that protect climate.

REMINDER – Upcoming Legislative Breakfast Schedule:

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

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

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

▪ **Other Business**

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12:12 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: David Conant

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Passed (8/0/0)

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, April 4, 2018