

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

UVM Extension - Middlebury

23 Pond Lane, Suite 300

Middlebury, VT 05753

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Workgroup Updates

All

CAFO Update – Brian Kemp, Loren Wood, Kirsten Workman

Attended public input meeting held by Marli Rupe-VT ANR

Main differences: your NMP and pertaining records are part of the public record that could be accessed through FOIA requests...those in attendance provided input about being notified in this event, not allowing records to leave the location, and the ability to be present when records are accessed. Also your permit would be administered by ANR instead of VAAF, different inspector(s) and enforcement

Additional coverage from the EPA in the event of a 25-year/24-hour storm

If your operation changes significantly (>10%), would require new public hearing

Ag Working Group – Ben Dykema

Formal meetings wrapping up

Flood plain focus

Looking at being more flexible with manure

Dave Conant was concerned about this group committing to something that is unattainable, particularly at the production of row crops in flood plains and associated issues. He asked for a smaller group to help him craft a letter to provide formal input to the group. Eric Clifford volunteered.

WLEB – Brian Kemp

Still working on allocating grant funding

Farmer Outreach Meetings

Kirsten, Dave, Loren, Brian

Meetings were held in Winooski (Richmond) and Otter Creek (Shoreham). There was good attendance (at least 25 at each meeting). It was a good educational opportunity. Some farms had never heard of the AAPs or the cost-share programs that are available to help meet these requirements. The format seemed to work well.

FUTURE OUTREACH MEETINGS:

Peter James & Ted Foster are interested in hosting a meeting in the Lemon Fair watershed.

Ben Dykema & Eric Clifford were interested in hosting a meeting in the Lewis Creek watershed.

Tim Kayhart – Lake Direct??

Ernie Audet – Addison area??

Kirsten will follow-up and provide support

Logo Design

Kirsten

A logo design is needed to help with outreach/branding. Ben D. mentioned online resources for putting out logo design projects to graphic designers...lots of submissions, low cost, has used it in the past. Group said to go ahead and pursue this avenue. Kirsten will pursue a logo design contest online

Website

Kirsten

Jeff Carter launched a new website: www.champlainvalleyfarmercoaliton.com

Ran out of time to explore during this meeting, but group was asked to review and come with ideas for content, etc. to next meeting.

Business Meeting Adjourned – 11:05 am

BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

11:06 am Business Meeting called to order...quorum of directors

Review Business Meeting Agenda, additional items

Kirsten Workman

Brian Kemp asked to add an agenda item in regards to an event he will be attending in May – see below

ECHO Event: Blue Waters in Green Mountains Environmental Summit

Brian Kemp

Brian Kemp has been asked to attend this event that aims “to inspire interest in clean water and spark innovative action to cultivate individual and community-wide change in the Lake Champlain Basin and beyond.” He asked the Board if they would support him in a request to have a few minutes on the agenda to highlight all the innovative practices farmers are currently engaged in to protect water quality in the lake. The Board approved the idea of a presentation and many members offered to share any pictures they had that could be useful. Kirsten offered technical assistance in preparing a presentation.

Review and Approve March Minutes

Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve March Minutes: Ernie Audet

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: Kirsten made one change to reflect an agenda item (Advisory Board Member recruitment) that was tabled for April meeting

Passed without dissent or abstention

Business/Financial Update

Kirsten Workman

Received Letters of Incorporation from the Secretary of State

Received Corporate Book from J. Foley (lawyer)

Finances...gave synopsis of grant budgets, noted that Jeff hired John Roberts as UVM Extension employee to work on this and other projects

Discussion: Ernie A. expressed the desire to have input ahead of time on decisions like this.

Membership

Kirsten Workman

Kirsten presented three membership applications received since March meeting for approval as follows:

Name/Organization	Membership Type-as applied	Membership Type-as approved
Brad & Dean Lawes Lawes Ag Service Inc. Brandon, VT	Business Member	Business Member
John & Todd Belter Ethan Allen Farm South Burlington, VT	Voting Farm Member	Voting Farm Member
Art & Joan Huestis Huestis Farm Bridport, VT	Voting Farm Member	Voting Farm Member

Motion to approve all applications as submitted: Ben Dykema

Second: Ernie Audet

Discussion: Ben mentioned that he would like to know potential member’s interests and areas of priority moving forward and the group agreed. They also wanted to make sure that all new members are made aware that their input is sought after and encouraged and that they are invited to the next board meeting when notified of their membership approval. Kirsten noted that they would be sure to include that in their approval letter. Group decided ‘formal’ certificates would be sent to Business Members, with Farm Members being sent an informal certificate once a logo is designed. Welcome letters and certificates should be signed by John Roberts, President.

Passed without dissent or abstention.

Motion to have all founding members and directors submit membership dues: David Conant

Second: Ernie Audet

Discussion: Per Dave's motion, the group felt obligated to participate financially in addition to the work they have put in to get the group up and running and participate as board members

Passed without dissent or abstention.

Motion to offer membership dues scholarships in situations where financial difficulty could preclude a potential member from joining: David Conant

Second: Ray Brands

Discussion: These scholarships wouldn't be 'recruited', but made available on a case-by-case basis to those who might benefit from it as identified by Directors, members, or Extension staff. Scholarships would be approved with application submissions during regular Board meetings.

Passed without dissent or abstention.

CVFC Advisory Board Members/Recruitment

Kirsten/Eric C.

Directors reviewed draft letter and draft list of potential Advisory Board members (*see attached*).

Discussion regarding who might be most appropriate from that list.

The group decided to approach a smaller list of individuals first, to include:

- Julie Moore, Stone Environmental
- Phelan Fretz, Leahy Center for Lake Champlain
- Tom Berry, Senator Leahy's Office
- Jenny Nelson, Representative Sanders' Office
- Tricia Coates, Representative Welch's Office
- Ann Smith, Friends of the Winooski River

Eric will continue to work with Jeff Carter on this.

NEXT MEETING: May 8, 2013 10:00 – 12:00 @ UVM EXT MIDDLEBURY OFFICE

12:10pm Motion to ADJOURN: Kirsten Workman

Second: Loren Wood

Passed