

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, April 13, 2016
UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting - Directors only please

Eric Clifford
George Foster
Loren Wood
Rachel Orr
Lorenzo Whitcomb
Peter James
Tim Kayhart
David Conant

Nate Severy
Jeff Carter
Kirsten Workman

9:30 – 10:00

President's Opening Comments

Brian Kemp is in Montpelier but left some comments:

- Representing CVFC or individual comments

Secretary Report

Motion to accept March minutes: LorenWood

Second: Rachel Orr

Discussion:

Passed without abstention or dissent (5/0/0)

Membership - Applications/Approvals

Business Members

Dairy Vision VT - Jacklyn Folsom (Cabot, Vt)
DuBois & King - Andy Hoak (Randolph, Vt)
Bronson Transport - Jeff & Giselle Bronson (Shoreham, Vt)

Farm Members

DeFreest Farms (Warren, Vt)
Goodrich Farm Inc. (Shoreham, Vt)

Motion to approve farmer applications as presented: Eric Clifford

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion: none

Passed without abstention or dissent (5/0/0)

Motion to accept business member applications as presented: George Foster

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion: none

Passed without abstention or dissent (6/0/0)

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter presented Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss (summary and by class) through April 13, 2016

Provided Directors present a copy of HMF Report

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report: Eric Clifford

Second: Rachel Orr

Discussion: none

Passed without abstention or dissent (7/0/0)

Dairy Outreach Coordinator Search

Updated Board on Hiring Process

Other Business :

Dairy Reception at State house

Eric Clifford provided summary of event

- Gave GMDP ok to be a sponsor
- Three speakers...all mentioned CVFC
- Nate had good representation/display
- Nate will prepare event summary

Motion to pay \$350 sponsor: Peter James

Second: Rachel Orr

Discussion: support annually?

Passed without abstention or dissent (8/0/0)

Open Membership Meeting

George Tucker, NRCS

Matthew Biette

Paul Doton, CRWFA

10:00am

Welcome and CVFC President Comments - CVFC Representation V. Individual Opinion

Paul Doton, CRWFA – introduced as guest

Manure Applicator Training Workshops - Shoreham, Richmond, Pawlet

Nate gave a summary of the three manure trainings co-hosted by CVFC and UVM Extension

- 166 people attended, 122 were farmers, 16 businesses, 4 agency staff, 11 TSPs, 2 Extension
 - Handed out Event Summary
- Follow up with a summer 'field day' to show practices like buffers, grassed waterways.
 - Three locations worked well...repeat this
 - Next year do more locations, more statewide

WLEB update

- Reworked format of farm report to have a one page plan of action
- Could be a format that Extension could use going forward...a followup summarizing discussions/recommendations

McKenzie Brook Watershed NRCS Action Plan - Targeted Watershed

McKenzie Brook is a targeted watershed in Vermont for action.

NRCS is working on a plan for watershed for implementing water quality practices and targeting funding Middlebury College students working on survey and water quality monitoring

George Tucker (NRCS):

We're already moving towards these goals, this plan just puts it on paper to prove to EPA and Vermont that we are taking enough steps to meet the requirements of TMDL

- Based on EPA TMDL, NRCS selected four watersheds (McKenzie, Rock, Pike, St. Albans)
- Background work, data collection
 - Farmstead locations
 - Annual cropland/hayland
 - Slopes (and proximity to cropland)
 - Wetland Restoration potential
 - Erosion runoff risk potential
 - Farm ditch locations
- Two meetings already –
 - 4 core strategies (out of strategic plan)
 - Locally led/farmer engaged conservation
 - Technical assistance
 - Financial assistance
 - Outreach and education
 - Set target for P reduction
 - EPA reduction need 60% of current loading
 - Watershed group suggested ½ that as a preliminary target (30%)...within 5 years
- NRCS Funding
 - \$1 million/year for 5 years potential
 - Flexibility could play a major role...farmer comment
- Other practices not factored into plan?
 - P Recovery systems
- Next steps:
 - Plan goes to state office next week
 - We can be flexible with acreage goals
 - Watershed-specific meeting needed ...twice a year

Middlebury College Project - Water Quality and Tile Drain Survey

Diane Munroe and students working with UVM Extension, Ethan Swift, Marli Ruppe

- Collecting more water quality data.
- Survey for Addison county producers
- Morgan, Hillary, Emma....senior environmental studies students

- GIS data seems inaccurate...not all streams have P data. Could there be a longer term study through Middlebury College for monitoring. Looking for sites to sample above and below to monitor BMP implementation...especially around tile drainage. Data will be anonymous and will be used to inform future studies at MC.
- Survey handed out.

Other Business:

- CVFC Sponsorship of ERP grant for Blue Spruce Farm P Recovery System
- Cover Crop Field Day at Vorsteveld Farm on April 21st.
- CRWFA Update (Paul Doton)
 - Launch meeting in December
 - Two weeks ago submitted bylaws to VT, EID from fed
 - 11 person board of directors...no members yet, need to set up financial stuff
 - Diverse group, small farms, beef, etc, vegetables
 - Good progress
 - Current project...relicensing of trans Canada damns. Water level issues
 - Working on promotional materials.
 - Working with Mary Childs from Conservation District...
 - Jenn Colby, Dan Hudson, Carl Majewski, Jason Fleury
 - Coordination between groups is good...don't have to agree, but now where everyone is coming from

12:00 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: David Conant
Second: George Foster
Passed (8/0/0)

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting - May 11, 2016