

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, June 3, 2015
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



10:00am Business Meeting MINUTES

Board of Directors: Brian Kemp, Tim Kayhart, Loren Wood, Ben Dykema, Peter James, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Ted Foster, Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman

Members: Brad Lawes, Ben Gleason, Matt Severy, Ed Schilliwaski, Eric Severy, Matt Biette, Dan Barnes

Staff: Nate Severy

Public: Rico Balzano (UVM EXT), Kristin Williams (UVM EXT), Tim Howlett

Welcome and introductions

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve May minutes as presented: Peter James

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion: none

Passed without abstention or dissention

- Membership Application Approvals:
 - Robert & Phyllis Bowdish, Weybridge Farms (Weybridge)
 - Matt Mayer & Eben Weil, AerWay, SAF-Holland (Norwich, Ontario)

Motion: Ben Dykema

Second: Loren Wood

Discussion:

Passed without abstention or dissention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Jeff presented balance sheet and profit & loss statements through May 31st, 2015

Motion to accept treasurer's report as presented: Ted Foster

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: there are still three pending membership payments that were received after May 31st

Passed without abstention or dissention

Presidents Report

Brian Kemp

- H.35 passed. LFO's/MFOs will have a permit fee. SFOs will not have a permit fee for first year or two. AAPs being re-written this summer (RAPs – required agricultural practices). 199-100 cows will be first focus for small farms. Funding will be bagged landscape fertilizer fees, property transfer taxes, project \$11 million.
- WLEB grants final approval, paperwork. We are looking for 6 farms to participate in Crop Management Implementation Plans. Contact Nate if interested
- Membership...talk to your neighbors. Getting more business members, but need more farm members

VEC Conference

Jeff Carter

- Last Friday. Different groups....environmental firms in addition to state agency folks. Mostly non-farmers.
- 1/3 of conference had to do with urban stormwater runoff, road runoff
- Eric Clifford on panel, on WCAX. Current use issues
- Other groups looking to CVFC as a strong partner in these conversations and solutions.
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Program Coordinator Report

Nate Severy

- H.35 Final summary (ag portions only)
 - Jane Clifford, GMDF Summarized H.35 after passage (handed out)
 - AAPs to RAPs
 - Tile Drainage study
 - Water quality training
 - Custom applicator certification (manure & fertilizer)
 - Flood plains, livestock exclusion, etc.
 - Increased enforcement capabilities
 - Funding mechanisms...PTT expires in 2018, will reevaluate then
- VT Working Lands Enterprise Board
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- Field Trials
 - Italian Ryegrass variety trial...similar yields, milk production as corn silage (Jericho, Weybridge)
 - Forage Sorghum...in comparison with corn silage, sorghum-sudangrass, potential for double cropping system (Randolph, Bridport, Sudbury, Weybridge, Addison, Cornwall). Conventional and organic, tillage and no-till
 - Spring alfalfa into winter rye, late may winter rye harvest (Addison)

UVM Extension Updates

No-Till and cover crops

Problems with termination of cover crops

Frost Seeding trials on 8 farms, legumes, grasses, chicory

Italian Ryegrass

Forage Sorghum

No-Till Corn...Ferrisburgh, Vergennes, New Haven

No-Till Grain Drill...fixed hayfields, soybeans, pasture,

Soil Health on heavy clay in different situations, different soil health tests

Multi-species cover crop projects, 2nd year of CIG + commercial mixes

AerWay on grass hay...Bridport, Addison (clay)

Soil Compaction...subsoilers vs. cover crops

GPS...training at Salem Farm Supply

Winter Rye variety trials, Triticale...for performance and termination

11:00am Discussion

State plan for Targeted Watershed approach to meet TMDL goals

In Addison County THIS IS THE TARGET:

McKenzie Brook Watershed - Whitney Brook, Hospital Creek, Braisted Brook, Stoney Creek and Lake Champlain Direct. This is the north end of the South Lake.

Farmers in this sub-watershed will be required to reduce P loading by **56%**, a P reduction of 24,235 lbs/year.

Jeff Carter described a new approach from NRCS, State of Vermont and others to focus on 'priority watersheds' for focus and prioritized funding.

- Gap Watersheds (Rock River, St. Albans, South Lake)...a gap between required reductions and the real-life capability to achieve those reductions.
- There will be funding specific to McKenzie Brook watershed, cooperators will only be competing with other producers in that watershed
- Lemon Fair, South Lake (East Creek) are likely next
- The plan (in very short time...October) will outline what needs to be done in THIS watershed to meet water quality goals, and what do we need to get it done?
- Locally led...they want ALL stakeholders involved, farmers
- DEC Grant to UVM Extension to work in the watershed in conjunction
- RCPP...VACD & State Funding will also work in conjunction with this project
- Meeting on June 25th...how will it work?
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Other Business

- Ben Dykema did a pod cast with RetroMotion Media and Jane Clifford/Louise Calderwood for Phoenix Feed's Perspectives.
- Vermont Department of Taxes visiting No. Williston Cattle Co.
- 11:00 on June 5th Essex Farm...solar panel ribbon cutting at No. Williston Cattle Company

Motion to adjourn: Ted Foster

Second: Ben Gleason

Discussion

None.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

ADJOURN

Next CVFC Board of Director Meeting – July 1, 2015

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