

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Wednesday, June 7 2017
Directors Business Meeting

9:30am

President's Report

Brian

- Meeting w/ VAAFM Leadership. Anson asked to schedule next meeting on July 20th 10:00 am. Wants to have topics ahead of time
 - LTP Capacity (funding)
 - Follow-up items: NRCS Engineering not available, but they won't pay for private engineers, buffers & inspection, anonymous complaints and encouraging, communication
 - Environmental Stewardship update
 - RFP for tile drainage sampling
- Bus Tour....Brian and Marie have been reaching out to individuals. Marie presented specific information, need to continue

Secretary's Report

Kirsten

Review May Minutes and Approve

Motion to approve May minutes as presented: Marie

Seconded: Brian

Discussion:

Approved (5/0/0)

Approve New Members

Kirsten

The following new members were approved via email since the last meeting. Jeff Carter emailed all directors on May 15, 2017 and received 8 votes approving by May 17, 2017.

Class 1

Tirzah Hescocock, Elysian Fields Dairy (Shoreham, VT)

Class 2

J. Drexel Wheeler DVM – Valleywide Veterinary Services, Cornwall

Additional Membership applications to consider today:

Class 1:

Jeep Madison, Madison Dairy (Shoreham, VT)

Joe Allen, Allendale Farm LLC (Vergennes, VT)

Lawrence Rowley, Rowley Bros. (Milton, VT)

Bernie Guillemette, Guillemette Farm (Shelburne, VT)

Class 2:

Vermont Feed Dealers & Manufacturers Association (Enosburg Falls, VT)

Motion to approve all applications as presented: Brian

Second: Loren

Discussion:

Approved (5/0/0)

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Treasurer's Report

Jeff

Jeff presented Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet from January 1, 2017 to June 7, 2017

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Marie Audet

Second: George Foster

Discussion:

Approved (5/0/0)

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 General Membership Meeting

10:00

Welcome & President's Report

Brian

RAP Development Committee Input

Brian

Brian would like input to bring to the next meeting of the RAP Development Committee. The June topics are

- Site Specific Buffers
- Animal Mortality Siting
- Stacking Sites

Meeting with VAAFM Leadership Recap *Jeff/Brian*

- Jeff, Brian and other attendees will recap a meeting with VAAFM Leadership held on May 31st.
- Topics: RAP rollout, inspections/inspectors attitudes and consistency, response times and communication, BMP and other cost share programs,
- Sec. Tebbetts wants to continue the discussion. Next meeting already scheduled for July 20th.

Spring Bus Tour Planning

Nate/Jeff/All

Revised agenda and logistics, RSVP list, who might need additional outreach.

Need more legislative attendance...please call your representative/senator.

DISCUSSION: Potential Project with EnSave manure biogas digestion, bedding separation and P recovery

Tom Boucher and EnSave (CVFC Members) are looking to partner with CVFC and member farms on a planning grant application to investigate a system of Phosphorus management for liquid cow manure. Please join in the discussion. Some of the major components are:

1. Manure separation + centrifuge P removal (P-cake)...multiple farms

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2. Manure biogas digestion that would power P-cake drying and processing...one farm receiving P-cake from other farms
3. Potential use of end product
4. Financing, business planning, carbon credits, P-bounty payments, etc.

Questions:

- Have you been in contact with Newtrient...Yes
- End product of this grant? Identify farms, identify equipment, identify market
- \$357 net savings for participating farms
- What is the benefit to CVFC to sponsor the application? F & A, plus FTE
- Each farm has a separator and centrifuge? Would there be a follow-up grant to actually build these projects? NRCS EQIP dollars (centrifuge is now an allowable practice), state dollars. It is a financeable project that pays for itself.
- What about the Machia project...the problem is moving the product.
- There is a need for P-bounty...P credits...where state (?) pays for P reductions
- Addison County doesn't have a lot of long hauls for nutrients/manure
- Couldn't you just develop the business plan on your own? Why do you need the grant money/CVFC? Collaboration, opportunity to take an advantage of a funding opportunity. Is the value to determine the feasibility (or not) of this happening before anyone tries to do it in earnest.
- Would the farmer get paid for the product that leaves their farm? Still working that out with financials. Farmer would benefit from the bedding.
- How dry does it get? That would be part of the proposal to figure out what end product makes the most sense.
- What about issues with fire, liability, etc? part of the investigation

Can't make a decision today...

Program Update

Nate

Waiting for the fields to dry out. Trying to get the roller/crimper down to Addison County.

Also looking at using the interseeder to plant cover crops into corn.

June 27th Crop Patrol – Kenyon Wood Chip Barnyard event.

Extension Update

Jeff

Grazing planning courses.

Public Relations Around Farming Practices *All*

CVFC Members recently responded to social media issues surrounding farming practices. Kirsten will share some talking points she put together surrounding no-till, herbicide usage, etc. In addition, New England Dairy Promotion has started a media campaign with a 30-second PSA on television, social media and in movie theaters giving the public 'the scoop on (cow) poop'. If there are other 'neighbor' inquiries that it may be helpful to have talking points for, please bring them to the group.

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Laura H...NEDP expanding PR staff. Moving beyond just environmental issues. Rene Thibault joining staff (from Fox 44). Rene will be doing public relations, PR, advertising, social media in Vermont. Laura will be transitioning towards farmer relationships across New England.

\$20K advertising campaign for 30-second PSAs. June is manure. Fall will be manure and cover crop. Expected to have 1.5 million 'impressions'. Scoop on Poop video will be in ECHO starting ASAP. They will also be updating the display.

Breakfast on the Farm update. 100+ volunteers at each event.

Other Business

Time to address additional agenda items brought by members.

- RCPP Signups for NMP
- Invite Jane Clifford for session wrap up at July Meeting

12:00 ADJOURN Meeting

Motion to adjourn: Ernie Audet

Second: George Foster

Approved (5/0/0)

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – July 5, 2017