

Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, July 11, 2018
UVM Extension Office
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



Directors Business Meeting - Directors only please

9:30am

Attendance: Louise Waterman, Eric Clifford, Ben Dykema, Merritt Gleason, Jonas Hastings, Rachel Orr, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Nate Severy, Jeff Carter, Brian Kemp, Kirsten Workman, Chase Goodrich, Peter James, Ray Brands

Call to order Brian Kemp

Secretary Report Kirsten Workman

Motion to approve May minutes: Brian

Second: Rachel Orr

Discussion: none

Passed (7/0/0)

Membership Applications Kirsten Workman

Class 1 – Vermont Farmer Member

Andrew Peterson, Peterson Quality Malt (N. Ferrisburg)

Rachel Nevitt & David Zuckerman, Full Moon Farm Inc. (Hinesburg)

Class 3 – Business Member

Brian Hoar, Goss Dodge (S. Burlington)

Ray McLaughlin, Chr. Hanson Inc. (Castleton)

Motion to approve members as proposed: Rachel Orr

Second: Marie Audet

Discussion:

Passed (8/0/0)

Treasurer Report Jeff Carter

Final invoice for Keep Local Farms about to be sent. Finished up all High Meadows, Keep Local Farms and first VAAFM Clean Water Fund grant projects.

See Treasurer's Report for details, Profit & Loss, Balance Sheets etc.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Ben Dykema

Second: Chase Goodrich

Discussion: none

Passed (8/0/0)

Upcoming sponsorships/booths:

Addison County Field Days

Addison County Ag Showcase (9/6/18)

BBQ at Clifford Camp on August 1st

Grants Update

Jeff Carter/Nate Severy

NEW VAAFM Clean Water Fund grant = \$242,360 for four years, Nate Louise and Louise now both two days/week on this grant to meet deliverables.

Need to send condolences to Randy Quesnel Jr.s family and Eric Rozenthaal family for deaths

Motion to adjourn Board of Directors Meeting: Ray Brands

Second: Peter James

Passed (8/0/0)

General Membership Meeting - All are welcome

Attendance: *Ed Schillawski, Tom Eaton, Alyson Eastman,*

10:00am

Presidents Report

Brian Kemp

Dairy Discussion Group to brainstorm to discuss ag issues, particularly dairy. Goal is to be able to provide guidance to legislature on issues, potential funding sources. Continuing through October with a report to Legislature.

Brian Kemp, Jon Rooney, Bob Foster, Gaye Symington, Heather Darby, Scott Magnan, Tom Bellavance, Will Raap, Roger Albee, others.

Marie mentioned that Brian should be able to bring Climate Action items to this group too. WE need to be able to measure all of these things before we can pay farmers incentives for them. Final report coming out next week, will forward to the whole group.

Brian: the August meeting could be perfectly timed. Heather/Brian are supposed to present and could bring this to the group.

Marie: AgriMark is also facilitating a meeting on August 13 in Albany, NY Empire State Plaza. Making the problem clear, what's happened in the past, lessons from other commodities, legal concerns, action plan. Louise could organize a carpool.

Community Phosphorus Recovery Collaborative proposal

Fred Kenney, ACEDC brought group together lots of local organizations to

Chase Goodrich attended meetings, has some concern whether there would be benefit to farmers

Copies of proposal can be sent to anyone interested

VAAFM Clean Water Implementation Grant

Jeff/Nate/Louise

We will review the newly funded CWIP grant to support outreach efforts, membership, board leadership development and strategic planning.

Review tentative education/outreach schedule

Nate

40 workshops over 4 years

8/3/18 is first one...@ Middlebury Rec Center

Veenhuis rep will be here sharing global perspectives on innovation and regulations

Highlight local projects going on

Lunch

Field → Fosters demo injector, tour the new robot dairy barn

Please RSVP

Ideas:

vegetable summer cover crops/nmp

Irrigation on pasture/field crops @ Hescocks

Compost/bedded packs

Grain drills, calibration, options for

Fall/spring cover crops

Compaction in relation to tanks vs. dragline and manure (Ben Dykema)

Yield Monitors...in the cab, see how they work

Lock in dates for strategic planning & leadership development *Louise*

Leadership development for Board Members (in prepration for Strategic Development)

11/7 after Board Meeting 10-5

Strategic Development – 2 half day sessions

12/5 (after Board Meeting) 1-5

12/6 (9:30-3:00)
DISC Training (all members)
12/13 @ American Legion 1-5
Would like to include a networking opportunity after with food
Let's not charge if we don't have to. Louise will work with Jeff on training budget

Wetlands Permit Issues

Harvey Smith

Nobody knows what a wetland is or where they are.

Map...wetlands on the national wetlands inventory, hydric soils, and soils with hydric inclusions
Lots of farmland and farm buildings in areas in one or more of these areas.

Farm roads built to get equipment off town roads, are not considered agriculture and wouldn't \$0.75/sq. ft retroactive for projects that impact functions of a wetland....even if it was already approved for General Permit (5,000 sq.ft. exemption)

Asked DEC to take time for rulemaking. They are doing it internally without public hearing.

Looked at original statute that requires permission of the Secretary of Agriculture, there is some disagreement on this point (between ANR and AAFM)

Water quality improvements would not qualify as 'food production'

Need to clarify conflicts in legislation, instead of rulemaking, otherwise it can be changed.

Delineation is the responsibility of the landowner

Could also include 'continuance' of wetlands (ie. if crossing Lemon Faire, which is connected, even if you are not in wetland with your project).

VAAFM meeting with ANR this week...would like to be removed from general permit and address with legislation, looking to governor's office to help facilitate discussion/decision

Same law, different interpretation with this administration

If you end up needing a permit...could be big delays, not enough staff at DEC to process current permits

ACTION NEEDED: ask Governor's Office to slow the process down rulemaking, let it go to legislation to have a well thought out approach. Resend our concerns with a reiteration to SLOW DOWN before requiring a new permitting process (highlight the time it could take to get even a general permit).

Barriers to ag water quality projects (\$35K application fee for a transfer line). New changes on top of RAPs, etc. Stay vigilant...how? Legislation would allow for a better clarity. 4th year of declining prices, in addition to adapting and adopting the new RAPs, we can't have more barriers to get it done and do it right.

Right to Farm issues...when farming ceases on a property for 3+ years, a new farming enterprise could be at risk of complaints from neighbors because it is 'new ag activity'.

Event Recap

Kirsten/Louise/Nate

6-5-18 Connecting Communities to Ag. WQ (Senesac Farm, Colchester)
6-8-18 Grassland Manure Injector Field Day (Barnes Bridport Ventures Farm, Bridport)
6-8-18 NEDP Dietician Education Event (Conant Farm, Richmond)
6-20-18 Winooski Basin Tactical Planning, Agriculture (Essex Jct.)
6-23-18 Breakfast on the Farm (Gervais Farm, Enosburg)
Others?

Breakfast on the Farm Volunteer Opportunities

Louise

July 28th @ Kayhart Bros. Farm

Kayharts are excited to be hosting. We still need volunteers.

Tell Louise, name, station, shirt size

Vermont Feed Dealers Assoc. Meeting – Farmer Panel

Louise

Chase Goodrich, Bob Sunderland, Dan Barnes on panel.
9-13-18 @ Killington

Chittenden Co. Regional Planning Comm. Ag Rep

Louise

They have an open position for an agricultural representative. Does it have to be a producer? Tom Eaton interested. Meet 10 times/year. Louise will connect with Charlie Baker.

Future guests @ CVFC Meetings

Louise/Jeff/All

Many people come to CVFC looking for input or farmer perspectives on certain issues
How do we prioritize and handle these requests?
Perhaps encourage them to set up meetings and invite our members on particular issues

Attorney who works with LFOs, Tom Brennan, to present to group about how to avoid and handle an enforcement issue? Maybe if there was a specific issue that touched many farms.

Governor's Climate Action Commission Update

Marie Audet, Jeff Carter

See above

Other Business

All

Time for another meeting with Secretary Tebbets? Yes. Inspection process and other issues, tile, new department structure. Include Alyson, Ryan & and Laura. September 4th/5th

Maybe meet with Sec. Julie Moore, President Sullivan (UVM)

LFO rules being updated, using PIVOT process with outside facilitator. Farmers asked to let the planners represent them, when they did not RSVP to meeting, all summer meetings canceled. Agency really wants to have farmers there.

Brian: MFO general update...all MFOs need a new NOIC by 180 days from June 12, 2018 (Dec. 2018)

Marie: Farm Bureau has really evolved....should CVFC be a member of Vermont Farm Bureau??
Agenda item for next time? Put it on agenda for August meeting. Vermont Dairy Discussion Group....
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/214836832030558/?ref=bookmarks>

FAP Funding Request is out

VHCB Dairy Improvement/Water Quality Grants

Upcoming Events:

- 7-26-18 Northwest Crops & Soils Annual Field Day (Borderview Research Farm, Alburgh)
- 7-28-18 Breakfast on the Farm (Kayhart Bros. Farm, Addison)
- 8-3-18 WQ Week Event – Innovation in Crop & Nutrient Management (Middlebury Town Rec Center & Foster Bros. Farm, Middlebury)
- 8-6-18 Enter your CROPS at Addison County Fair & Field Days!!!

12:00 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Rachel Orr, Second: Brian Kemp

Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2018