

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Wednesday, July 5, 2017**  
**Directors Business Meeting**

9:30am

**President's Report**

*Brian*

General Comments

**Secretary's Report**

*Kirsten*

Review June Minutes and Approve

Motion: Eric Clifford

Second: Marie Audet

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 June 15, 2017 and received 8 votes approving by June 17, 2017.

***Class 2***

*John Rouse – Rouse Tire Sales, Inc. (Middlebury, VT)*

*Scott Miller – Harvest Equipment (Williston)*

Another application received 7 approving votes, but one vote to discuss in person at the board meeting:

***Class 2***

*Kiersten Bourgeois – St. Albans Cooperative Creamery Inc. (St. Albans)*

Eric...concern is about the legislative update and distributing to all members. We just need to make sure they know that they can only distribute it to internal staff.

*Additional Membership applications to consider today:*

***Class 2:***

*Mike Tetreault – Poulin Grain*

*Kevin Bourdon – Co-operative Insurance*

Motion to approve all members as submitted: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Approved (5/0/0)

**Treasurer's Report**

*Kirsten (on behalf of Jeff)*

Approve Financial Statements

Motion: Marie Audet

Second: Brian Kemp

(5/0/0)

**Collaborate on AFRI Project**

*Nate/Kirsten*

A project evaluating no-till, cover crop, manured systems and their impact on yield, quality, soil productivity and greenhouse gas emissions. Participation would include surveys, interviews, soil testing, outreach, advisory group. Financial compensation for participation.

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Motion to support: Brian Kemp  
Second: Eric Clifford  
Approved (5/0/0)

## **Addison County Ag Conversation with Jon Turner, Rural Vermont, NOFA, Others**

*Kirsten/Marie*

Does CVFC want to participate? What are our objectives?

- Marie gave background of how this initial meeting request came about.
- Promoting ALL agriculture, regenerative agriculture comes in all forms
- Who is the audience? What is the ultimate goal/outcome? Educated conversation.
- Questions ahead of time and preliminary responses.

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**OVER →**

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**Wednesday, July 5, 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 July topics are

- Frequently Flooded fields
  - Two new forms...one for permanent exemption and one for those that can't meet new management requirements and why.
  - They have already put them out at FSA so they are available during crop reporting
  - State may have more \$\$ for Land Treatment Planners...this could be a bottleneck
- Confidentiality of NMP and other farm information
  - Currently LFO is public information
  - SFO/MFO...most folks wanted them to still be confidential
- Surface water vs. ditch....
  - Using the word 'conveyance' now...where does it go?
  - Individual inspectors will not make determination if questionable. They will provide guidance of a field and document conditions, but the Agency review committee will make final decision. Their hope is that it will be more consistent.
  - Should only used if there is a question or farmer disagrees.

July 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:00...meeting with Anson Tebbetts and Alyson Eastman. Should we postpone or keep it in place? Keep it in plac

## **Extension Update**

*Kirsten*

Addison County Field Days – Crop Exhibit (August 8-11)

Manure Injector

## **Program Update/Spring Bus Tour Recap**

*Nate/All*

- Kenyon Farm (Waitsfield) Crop Patrol in partnership with UVM Center for Sustainable Ag.
- Planning a fall field day about manure and spreading in adverse conditions. Will highlight manure injection. Would count for educational credits.
- Bus Tour on June 13<sup>th</sup> ...45 people, several legislators
  - Can we mail the booklets to: Chris Bray, Amy Sheldon, Brian Campion
  - Senate Natural, senate House
  - How do we get more of them there? Jane...half day might be better. A lot of information (overload?), long for schedules. More deliberate, facilitated conversation/discussion. What about Rutland county, municipalities (town managers, etc). Continuing conversations. Maybe invite people from outside the community to our other events.

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- During session...would Mondays work. County legislative breakfasts. Dem/Rep fundraisers, caucus meetings, etc. Lions club, Chambers of Commerce, Rotary,
- Target the resources

## Legislative Session Wrap UP

*Jane Clifford*

Let Jane know if you have input, suggestions for newsletter

- Interesting session. Many miscues, missteps, there was no path/direction (lacking leadership?).
- Lots of new faces. Speaker, governor (and staff), Lt. Gov, pro tem, committees (members, not chairs)
- No new taxes/fees. Pushes the ball down the hill. Small farm fee elimination was part of this strategy.
- Funding Clean Water Fund...put together a group, but it is rolled into the CWF board which make recommendations to the Legislature next session. State Treasurer
- Governor 'found' additional \$25 million for clean water
- Clean Water funding distribution priorities document, includes ANR/VAAFM ([http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2016-06-30%20DRAFT%20FY18\\_CWF%20Allocations.pdf](http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/erp/docs/2016-06-30%20DRAFT%20FY18_CWF%20Allocations.pdf))
- Misc. Ag bill (H.495) ....the confidentiality proposal and tile drainage deadline were added at last minute and it caused controversy, they were ultimately removed before bill was passed.
- Forestry equipment tax exemption is now the same as ag.
- Workers comp & independent contractor (at state level)....make sure contractors have insurance. Working on definition for definition, but didn't get it this year. Hopeful for next session.
- Paid family leave, paid sick leave, and minimum wage....no exemptions for ag at state level. Two years ago ag exemption was eliminated. Paid family leave did not pass, but likely for next year. Figuring out how to fund it.
- Increase of minimum wage to \$15/hour...did not pass, but will be on docket for next year spec'd out to start in 2020
- VAAFM Enforcement & Compliance Report 2016 ([http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water\\_quality/Enforcement/2016-VAAFM-Agricultural-Water-Quality-Enforcement-Report-Final.pdf](http://agriculture.vermont.gov/sites/ag/files/pdf/water_quality/Enforcement/2016-VAAFM-Agricultural-Water-Quality-Enforcement-Report-Final.pdf))
- VAAFM Environmental Stewardship Program is rolled out (<http://agriculture.vermont.gov/vesp>) July 13 Press Conference at North Williston Cattle Company.
- Clean Water Fund taking public comment until August 2<sup>nd</sup> – should we make comment? (<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/cwi/cwf>)
- Next session starts 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday after the new year.

## Breakfast on the Farm

*Marie/Louise*

An update on the June BOTF event at Fairmont Farm and what's coming for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> event being hosted by CVFC's own Blue Spruce Farm.

- Working on logistics to make changes
- Exit survey have good results

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## **No-Till Roundtable**

*Kirsten/Nate/All*

Bring pictures and experiences to share how no-till corn planting is going this year. No doubt, 2017 is a challenging growing season, so share your successes and failure on managing cover crops, planting corn, and what you're doing to get planted in this wet season. UVM Extension staff will also share pictures from what they've seen around Addison, Chittenden & Rutland Counties (and beyond).

## **Other Business**

Time to address additional agenda items brought by members.

**12:30 Motion to Ray Brands**

**Second: Marie Audet**

**Approved (5/0/0)**

**ADJOURN Meeting**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – August 2, 2017**