

Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Thursday, August 22, 2013
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
UVM Extension - Middlebury
23 Pond Lane, Suite 300
Middlebury, VT 05753



Members Present:

Brian Kemp, Director
John Roberts, President
Jeff Carter, Treasurer
Kirsten Workman, Secretary
Lorenzo Whitcomb, Director

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Meeting called to order at 10:25 am

Review and Approve July Meeting Minutes

Jeff Carter, Kirsten Workman

Motion: John Roberts

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: none

Passed without dissent or abstention

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

Motion: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion:

Passed without dissent or abstention

President's Report

John Roberts

Out at AC field days at CVFC Booth, split time between booth and walking around to talk to farmers. Talked to several potential new farmer members. Took questions...lots of 'non-farmer' questions. Answered all questions via email, surprised to get an answer, good PR.

Insurance

General Liability Quotes...best quote from Nationwide \$425/year, 2 million
Officers & Directors...best quote from Nationwide \$920/year, indemnification from losses, costs (from lawsuits brought against CVFC from alleged wrongful acts by officers)
Grant may be able to cover it for the first year. Ask Jim Foley about if necessary with the corporation business structure.

Those present felt we needed broader input from the board before proceeding with Director's & Officers insurance. We will table this for a future meeting with more attendance.

Motion:

Second:

Discussion:

Membership Application Approvals

John Roberts/Kirsten Workman

- Cargill
- Tom & Mike Audet, Ledge Haven Farm

Motion: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion: Why some, but not others? How do we continue to get more support (especially from businesses & farms)...businesses listed on website

Passed without dissent or abstention

Projects

John Roberts/Jeff Carter

- Stone Environmental – AGO
 - Outreach to local farmers, eight farms applied, some didn't meet criteria
 - Two weeks ago talked to Julie Moore, things going well & moving forward
 - Let other people know that it was a success having CVFC getting farmers interested
- VAAFM – FAP
 - Most the FAP \$\$ coming to UVM Extension to give to farmers
 - Sub-contract with CVFC
 - 4000 acres signed up for cover crop, 720 alternative manure,
 - Work plan (attached)

Motion to have CVFC accept pass-thru FAP \$\$ for farmers implementing FAP practices (with approved applications), authorizing John Roberts to sign UVM sub-award contract: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Second: Brian Kemp

Discussion: We will only serve Addison, Chittenden, Rutland counties. Heather Darby/FWA will serve Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille. The rest of the state will continue through VAAFM.

Passed without dissent or abstention

- *CIG Grant update*
 - *Good reviews about effectiveness of Extension and CVFC*
 - *\$8686.99 in third party cost share match from CVFC towards grant from meeting participation*
- *FWA Airways*
 - *FWA has mentioned they might like to have CVFC own/operate the equipment*

Outreach

Jeff Carter/Kirsten Workman

- Addison County Field Days
 - Display, handouts, banner, chocolate giveaways
 - successful
- Vermont Dairy Producers Conference (February 2014)
 - Separate or joint tables?
 - Ted Foster & Eric Clifford are board members
- Vermont Farm Show
- Bourdeau Brothers Open House? September 5th
 - Eric & Matt Severy will have equipment on display

- Extension will have a booth
- Should CVFC have separate booth?
- Other?
 - Beef Producers Meeting (January)
- Across the Fence
- Made in Vermont

Policy Updates

Jeff Carter/John Roberts

This group could have input into policy/programs like EQIP, VAAFM, and other statewide programs and have influence over how the money gets spent.

- Ag Workgroup – VESAP Program
 - Met last week
 - Presented a VAAFM program called Vermont Environmental Sustainability in Agriculture Program (VESAP)...certainty program. Would have smaller farms doing NMPs. All farms eligible to apply. Those enrolled could get higher cost-share rates. September/October we can have Laura/Marley come and brief CVFC.
- NRCS EQIP workgroup
- NRCC
 - Is there cross-pollination between CVFC and CD boards??
 - Is there an opportunity?
 - Can we invite the CD to a meeting to present and discuss?
 - Public input opportunity...last year almost no one attended

Other Updates

- Mountain Meadows/Brian Kemp....went to Denver to accept ESAP(environmental sustainability award) National Cattleman's Assoc. Region 1 winner, in the running for national award in Nashville in February. Video shoot. Narrative on website, video will be posted soon. Unique in amount of conservation practices and direct customer impact.
- Tour just got moved to October 24th...NRCS going to Monument Farms, Blue Spruce, No. Williston Cattle Co., and Mountain Meadows

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:00: Brian Kemp

Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb

Discussion: none

Passed without dissent or abstention

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2013 10:00 – 12:00