

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

UVM Extension Office  
23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**  
**Directors Business Meeting**

9:30am

**Loren Wood, David Conant, George Foster, Marie Audet, Eric Clifford, Louise Waterman, Brian Kemp, Peter James, Nate Severy, Kirsten Workman, Jeff Carter**

## **President's Report**

*Brian*

General Comments

Public Forum at Middlebury College Panel Discussion- John Turner, New Haven organizing CLF tile drainage discussion about their pending ideas on legislation

Marie, Brian, Harvey Smith, Jeff, Kirsten meet with Conservation Law Foundation

Brian attended Governor Clean Water Week Kick-off, Julie Moore, Anson Tebbitts

## **Secretary's Report**

*Kirsten*

Review July Minutes and Approve

Review August Minutes and Approve

*Motion to approve August minutes as presented: George Foster*

*Second: Marie Audet*

*Discussion: approved*

*Passed by a vote (7 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

*Motion to approve July minutes as presented: Marie Audet*

*Second: Eric Clifford*

*Discussion: approved*

*Passed by a vote (7 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

## **Approve New Members**

*Kirsten*

*Membership applications to consider today:*

### **Class 1:**

Jack Forgues, Forgues Dairy (Addison)

Randy Jr. & Becky Quesnel, See Green Farm (Salisbury)

David & Hilary Mack, Mack Farm (Charlotte)

Ethan Gevry, Champlain Valley Farm (Addison)

Additional

Gerard Judy & Michael Sabourin (Shoreham)

Bob Sunderland, Sunderland Farm (Bridport)

*Discussion on two of the farms: Quesnel, Gevry*

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*Marie suggested to accept as probationary members.*

*Louise concerned that she is not comfortable with Board not telling her to not approach certain farmers.*

*Brian, these new members need to receive a letter to remind them that goals of CVFC is good stewardship for water quality, farm practices and animal welfare.*

*Discussion of how to draw farmers in and participate in organization in appropriate way.*

*David - Letter to all new members, not select applicants. Include all farmers to bring all farmers along with water quality practices and reach out for help with issues they have on their farm.*

*Motion to approve new members as presented: David Conant*

*Second: Peter James*

*Discussion: all: Letter to all members about CVFC expectations of members.*

*Eric - closing sentence needs to describe consequences for not striving for excellence and compliance with water quality standards.*

*Passed by a vote (7 yes/0 no/0 abstain)*

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Jeff*

Jeff reviewed the Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet,

*Motion to approve August treasurer's report as presented (includes everything since January 2017):Marie*

*Second:Second*

*Discussion:*

*Passed by a vote (7 yea/0 nea/0 abstain)*

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**OVER →**

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**Wednesday, September 6, 2017**  
**General Membership Meeting**

10:00

**Welcome & President's Report** *Brian*

**RAP Development Committee Input** *Brian*

Didn't meet last month and September is still trying to be scheduled. Site specific buffers is on the docket.

## **Small Farm Inspections**

Jen Hall, Hall & Breen Farm, Organic dairy with two Lely robots, milking 75 cows.

Recently had her inspection with Clark Parmalee last week. Didn't receive anything in writing, didn't hear if she would. Surprised by

Had already been signed up for EQIP, had George Tucker (NRCS) take a look at headquarters, came up with around \$200,000 in projects that might be issues. Inspector saw nothing. Rainwater runoff

Either her expectations are off or the training is inadequate. She educated them about her NMP and goCrop. They should have as much training as the farmers.

Our next meeting with VAAFM leadership: should focus on

What to expect at your inspection? Planned for late October

Halls

Chalker Farm

DeGraaf Dairy

**Program Update** *Nate*

What to Expect at Your Expectation? Planned for late October

Clean Water Week Event @ Rob Hunt's – 41 people

November Manure Meeting with Karl Czymmick about spreading in adverse weather conditions.

January Annual Meeting...need to set date for that meeting.

Manure Applicator Training & Manual will need to be completed by the end of the year for compliance with certification program.

**Extension Update** *Jeff*

- Rain continues
- NRCS deadline for cover crops is October 10<sup>th</sup>...no exceptions.
- State deadline for cover crops is October 1<sup>st</sup> for floodplains
- Funding is a continual concern for CVFC and UVM Extension

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- Tile Drainage: CLF is trying to submit draft legislation, VAAFAM wants more data, RFP for sampling, UVM Extension will be doing some sampling.
- NRCS East Creek agreement is on hold until at least the first of the year. Out of 10 Vermont approved contracts, VT NRCS only put 3 to National for contracting (not East Creek)
- DEC contracts are going similarly
- Wetland conversions....NRCS permission does not mean ANR approves (or Army Corps). Should we invite the Addison County Wetlands person to present at a board meeting. Shouldn't it also be in your NMP?
- AgroForestry on Dairy Farms – what is it? How to have buffers that create income streams for the farm.
- July –August number of dairy farms slipped to 780.
- Looking at cover crops: winter wheat, winter barley, winter triticale, winter rye (with and without oats).
- Rico in Rutland.
- Pasture Class – starting this fall
- Manure grassland injector
- CIG economics
- Gypsum
- ACAP...unsure of future funding.

## **Governor's Climate Action Commission** *Marie*

- Public Scoping sessions...St. Albans (9-28), St. Johnsbury (9-14), Manchester (9-21), Brattleboro (10-5)
- Data already exists about where Vermont is (rainfall, etc), Working with Joshua Faulkner (carbon sequestration), Alex DePillis (oilseed, biofuels), Anne Hogenboom's work (she's now with Cabot).
- We need to start talking about what we do already in the Vermont and how it can impact the future. We will have more water, but will need to manage it.
- Changing the conversation and talk about moving forward, not backward.
- Making connections: Vermont Business for Social Sustainability including CVFC in a water campaign. Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance annual meeting. DEC Emily Bodecker is coming to Blue Spruce Farm.
- VPR story

## **Phoenix Feeds 'Perspectives' Article** *Louise*

- Fall 2017 edition will highlight CVFC. Interviewed 7 members and why they are members.

## **Media Training** *Nate/Laura Hardie*

Laura Hardie is working with Nate to put together a media training for directors/members.

October 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00 – 1:00 (with lunch)

Open it up to other farmer watershed groups?

Learn how to respond to media inquiries effectively

See how many of our members sign up and allow other watershed groups to come...invite other groups to have 2 slots each.

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Have a list of folks willing and able to respond to media inquiries.

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

November 9<sup>th</sup> at Wilson Hall

We will need to have lots of farmers in the audience as well as on the panel

## **Green Mountain Dairy Discussion Group** *Jeff/Eric*

GMDDG would like to partner with CVFC on workshops/events. Jeff & Eric will recap a recent meeting with them to identify ways to partner and we can determine if the Board of Directors supports this partnership.

Core group has shrunk a little bit and wanted to talk about collaboration.

Topics don't always line up, but when they do

## **Other Business**

Do regular members want to receive minutes? Send out the minutes with the next agenda.

September 18 – Middlebury Climate Economy Initiative, Forum at Ilsley Library 4:15 food, agriculture and health

**12:00 Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Eric Clifford, Second: David Conant.**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – Oct. 4, 2017**