

# Champlain Valley Farmers Coalition, Inc.

Wednesday, September 7, 2016  
UVM Extension Office, 23 Pond Lane, Middlebury, VT



## Directors Business Meeting Minutes – September 2016

### *In attendance:*

Brian Kemp, Marie Audet, George Foster, Eric Clifford, Kirsten Workman, Jeff Carter, Nate Severy,

### **9:36 am Meeting called to order**

#### **Opening Comments (Jeff Carter)**

Sept 12, 5-7pm...LCBP CAC: Making the Most of Manure

Sept. 28, 9:30-12...NRCS State Technical Committee

Nat'l No-Till Conference...Jan.10-13, 2017 (St. Louis, MO)

#### **Opening Comments (Brian Kemp)**

Legislative meetings and a separate gubernatorial candidate meetings

#### **Secretary Report - Approve Minutes last meeting**

*Motion to approve August Minutes: Eric Clifford*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion:*

*Passed (4/0/0)*

#### **Membership Applications and Approvals**

*None received*

#### **Treasurer Report - Financial Report to the Board**

Jeff presented Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss statements (summaries and by class)

*Motion to approve treasurer's report: Marie Audet*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion: none*

*Passed (4/0/0)*

#### **Dairy Outreach Coordinator Position – Update**

#### **Response for LCAR,**

Responses are due Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, then chair sets schedule, meeting has to be before October 15<sup>th</sup>. RAPs will be only one of many topics.

CVFC response...Eric proposes a letter addressed to committee that summarizes our participation, consensus among ourselves, difficult situation, believe from the industry and state and water quality points of view this is fair. The time is now.

Kirsten drafts letter, sends to board of directors for review, comments by 12<sup>th</sup> and send to membership after.

Other Business \_\_\_\_\_

- Is it possible to get a bi-monthly blurb in Add Ind...short, picture, crop updates and wq updates. Picture of a member farmer. Find out if it would cost money for advertising.

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## Open Membership Meeting Minutes

### In attendance:

Kirsten Workman, Jeff Carter, Nate Severy, Dave DeFreest, Eric Clifford, Marie Audet, Brian Kemp, George Foster, Eric Severy, Jed Davis, Renee SAenger, Katie Gehr, Tyler Knapp, Matt Biette,

### **10:00 Meeting called to order**

#### **Welcome and CVFC President Comments (Brian Kemp)**

#### **Organizing a Legislative Meeting**

2014 meeting went well, going to do it again

Farmer panel,

Let them know we want to hear from them, and if they have ag proposals and financial support this session,

Same location, timeframe,

Farmer panel: SFO, MFO, LFO, transitioning to organic

Speakers...highlight progress in adopting new practices

Gubernatorial candidates...a separate event...at their scheduling opportunity

#### **Conservation Farm of the Year Bus Tour**

Orwell, Shoreham area....end of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 9-3 pm

In addition to honoree farm, visit a member farm in the area...Orrs, WLEB, Woods, manure spreading

Need members to get on the bus

#### **Crop Patrol Update**

Aeration Tillage @ Doug Goulds

Orr Farm...SeedWay lunch, no-till alfalfa new seeding, no-till corn, John Lucas NT alfalfa

Short Season corn: Starksboro & Panton

Danby...Dorset Peak Jerseys,

Except for Danby, most field days had around 30 participants,

Most folks coming to Crop Patrols are already members or have been approached. Do we need to change things up and get new people...location, subject matter,

#### **Manure Training for Custom Applicators- timeline, expectations, and scheduling listening sessions**

Met with St. Albans extension crew

(Eric S.) Frustrated with whole process, invested time, \$ and dollars, no one has asked what works and doesn't, it's my livelihood, attack on production dairy farmers, didn't start there but now feel that way. Trying and made progress, but state doesn't see that. We're doing everything asked and still being accused of doing things wrong. Needs to be more clear, cut and dry, black and white. What are the rules? Needs solid answers. Spring stuff for employees. Bigger guys are more exposed, being held to the same standard with a different scale.

Communication is really important,

Severy, Whitney, Linehan, Shane Nisun 802-349-3129, Tyler Steady, Jason Eathier 802-398-7212, Lawes, Bourdeaus, Northeast Ag, Lawtons, Cassella, RMI,

Other Business: \_\_\_\_\_

- Marie...Joe Tisberg, new VT Farm Bureau president. We need to reach out and strengthen relationship. He has reached out to Brian, wants to have better connection to dairy. **Invite him and Lynn DeMarias to bus tour, leg meeting, oct CVFC meeting.**
- Jeff...thank you for all your entries in crops exhibit at Addison County Field days. Best show ever.
- Tyler Knapp...VAAF, new MFO/LFO inspector introduced by Katie Gehr
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- Channin Hill: Tour de Farms...September 18<sup>th</sup>. Four Hills is first stop 9:00 – 12:00, Nate & Kirsten, Brian K,
- Eric Clifford: Jane Clifford no longer going to work with GMDF, will still be in Montpelier working on ag issues, CVFC should meet with her to talk about the future...newsletter, how else she could be of help, invite her to October meeting? Underwrite newsletter?
- Huge changes in Montpelier, heads of committees, those doing committee assignments, CVFC needs to keep track to make sure that ag issues are still a priority.
- Katie Gehr....all inspectors are doing LFO and MFO inspections. All LFOs need to be complete by end of year, half of MFOs by July 1. Past coordinator joins new coordinator on inspection and then transferred over. Prior to leaving the farm and checklist will be left, official inspection report within one month.
- Middlebury College students: work in McKenzie Brook in cooperation/\$\$ with DEC (Ethan Swift) in McKenzie Brook to do more monitoring, more flow monitoring, tile drainage monitoring
- Brian K: **no-till drill clinic, calibrate, closing, depth, etc,**

Move to adjourn: Eric Clifford

Second: Brian Kemp

Adjourned at 11:46 am.

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**12:00 ADJOURN Meeting**

**Reminder: Next CVFC Board of Directors Meeting – October 5, 2016**