



# Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition Inc.

Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Virtual/Remote Meeting

## ZOOM LOCATION:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uvmextension.zoom.us/j/7672674868>

Dial in by phone: 1-646-876-9923 | Meeting ID: 767 2674868

## Directors & Membership Business Meeting

**In Attendance:** Kirsten Workman, Marie Audet, Jeff Carter, Brian Kemp, Loren Wood, John Roberts, Tom Eaton, George Foster, Sarah Audet, Matthew Biette, Eric Clifford

### 9:33 am Call to order & President's Report

*Brian Kemp*

- Ecosystem Service Working Group reconvening, shorter more intense meeting schedules. Breaking up into sub groups (soil, marketing, facilitation/logistics, technical/programming), farmer on each subgroup. Lots of unanswered questions. Jon Winsten's idea people like as a starting point
- John and he met with Grace Odele Maddie Kempfer....good dialogue, they are open and want to make sure and work with farmer organizations, more head's up when issues arise, vet the testimony givers, Cheryl C expressed concerns as well. Did not meet with Rural VT yet...John is meeting with them later today.

### Secretary Report

*Kirsten Workman*

- Review and approve March meeting minutes (*attached*)
- Approve Membership applications
  - *None received this month*

*Motion to approve March Meeting Minutes as presented: Loren Wood*

*Second: Brian Kemp*

*Discussion: none*

*Passed (6/0/0)*

### Treasurer Report

*Jeff Carter*

- Review March financial reports (*attached*)

No word on IRS appeal

*50 farmers*

*20 businesses*

*19 individuals*

*Motion to approve March Treasurer's Report as presented: George Foster*

*Second: Eric Clifford*

*Discussion:*

*Passed (7/0/0)*

## Communications Update

Sarah Audet

- CVFC Communications
  - Added a revised checkout form to the website to collect the same comprehensive information that we used to collect on the paper form.
  - Added an embedded events calendar to the website – adding CVFC events, grant deadlines, potential for other organizations to share their events with us too.
  - Quarterly print newsletter went out in mid-march, next one is late June/early July
  - This month: paid media for CVFC, ad in ACoRN, AddiInde food hub section, collaborate with WETK season radio spot with seasonal farm updates. April story is Goodrich Farm
  - Survey regarding online survey for private forum: <https://forms.gle/ZTyKvx7L3wrrsNXv5>
- **Farm24VT Update – May 12, 2021**
  - If you haven't signed to participate or follow along, you can go here: <https://farm24vt.com/for-farmers-agribusinesses/>
  - *34 days away!*
  - *\$4000 in donations*
  - *Paid advertising starting this week*
  - *Next social media workshop next week*
  - *Social media toolkit*
  - *40 farmers/food producers pledged*
  - *Across the Fence episode*

## Executive Director Report

John Roberts

ISSUES Updates (*\*new/emerging issues*)

- Regulatory Certainty Discussions\*

During CAFO discussion, the conflict between ANR and VAAFm came up as an important discussion topic. We need to follow-through on, but want to touch base with other farmer watershed groups, and decide if we sit down with agencies or otherwise. Lots of information inside administration. Some movement on wetlands, but updated rules not out yet. Transparency, clarity, responsibility....so farmers don't have to second guess staff, situations, etc. Need to have a constructive conversation, brought to a head by the CAFO discussion, Meeting individually with agencies might be the first place to start. What are the results we are looking for – what do we need to get there?
- Climate Economic Action Council (CEAC) - Addison Co.

Jeff, John Roberts, and Susan Smiley are the ag subcommittee, plan by the fall for greenhouse gas reductions
- Vermont Climate Council\*

Ag & Ecosystem sub group, meeting weekly, plan due by December 1<sup>st</sup>, lots of procedural stuff right now,  
How will this mesh with the local (Addison Co.) version?
- Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Working Group & recent focus group  
Brian covered PES workgroup  
Appreciate the members who participated in the Winooski focus group, and sharing your points,
- Gov. Commission on Future of Agriculture
  - Kate Finley-Woodruff of Duxbury
  - David Roth of Saint Johnsbury
  - Harold Howrigan of Fairfield
  - Jed Davis of South Burlington

Ellen Kahler of Starksboro  
Nick Richardson of Jericho  
David Mance of Shaftsbury  
Steven Schubart of Charlotte  
Annie Myers of Glover  
Mieko Ozeki of Burlington  
Josh Poulin of Newport  
Leslie McCrorey Wells of Grand Isle

- Nina reminded him about report due in May for Clean Water Grant
- Diane Bothfeld  
Below 600 dairy farmers (595) – January – April, 14 farms in Chittenden county went out of business, 35% drop; franklin and Orange counties went up

#### **CAFO Discussion**

*All*

- Review meeting with DEC Staff (3/10/21)
- Review follow up questions/responses
- Discuss CVFC formal Response

#### **Education/Outreach Update**

*Kirsten Workman/Jeff Carter*

*Herbicide Education for Farmer Members – 3-part series*

1. Glyphosate & Atrazine basics...how do they work, what are their benefits and risks, management factors to reduce risks to human health and the environment. (*Speaker TBD*)
2. Herbicide & Sustainable Agriculture - Communicating to the public about the pros/cons of herbicides in our cropping systems and the role they play in sustainable agriculture. (*Dr. Terence Bradshaw, UVM*)
3. Vermont Agency of Agriculture's role in herbicide use in VT – understanding how they track herbicide use, monitoring for ground and surface water contamination, and regulatory requirements for herbicide use in VT (*Agency Staff*)

Structured system for inputs, time limits,

#### **Other Updates:**

*All*

- Certified Manure Applicator Training – Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 8:30 AM  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/challenges-and-opportunities-new-manure-application-equipment-webinar-tickets-149314241917>
- UVM Extension Update
  - Dean has been here a year
  - New Extension director, Fitzroy Beckford (starts in May) – former extension agent, NC/FL, consulting in other countries, how would you like to interact
    - Invite him to a meeting right off the bat
    - Invite him to some farms, tour
    - Also meet with other farmer watershed groups
  - USDA - ARS – first one in a very long time in the USA
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**11:41 AM Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Marie, Second: Eric Clifford**