



Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition Inc.

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Minutes

LOCATION:

Blue Spruce Farm – Shop | 1537 VT-22A, Bridport, VT 05734

In attendance: Lorenzo Whitcomb, John Roberts, Jeff Carter, David Conant, Ben Dykema, Eric Clifford, Marie Audet, Sarah Audet, Jed Rubin, Terry Norris, Kirsten Workman, Ray Brands, Jed Davis, Rene Thibault, Jim Faulkner, Pamela Stefanek, Peter James, Grace Gosliga, Bert Gosliga, Dan Barnes, Joshua Faulkner, Steve Kayhart, Geoff Gosliga, Gerritt Gosliga

Directors & Membership Business Meeting

10:30 am

Call to order & President's Report

Brian Kemp

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

- Review and approve May/June meeting minutes (*attached*)
 - Motion to approve May/June minutes as presented: Ray Brands
 - Second: Marie Audet
 - Discussion:
 - Passed (8/0/0)

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

- Review May/June financial reports (*attached*)
 - Jeff presented both May and June Balance Sheets and Profit & Loss Statements \$42,000 in savings and \$65,000 in checking to date. 99 paying members + 50 not paying
 - Motion to approve treasurer's report as presented: Marie Audet
 - Second: Ben Dykema
 - Discussion: will update QuickBooks software
 - Passed (8/0/0)

Communications Update

Sarah Audet

- Mailed out second quarterly print newsletter for members and, feature farmer story of Ben Dykema and Wilcon Farm
- Public Education campaign on WDEV – first campaign. May and June was 1-minute ad about manure injection, plus an interview with John Roberts (water quality and soil health practices), full interview on the website. Ads will repeat on quarterly basis with seasonal updates.
 - Steve Kayhart – heard John's interview and it sounded good.
- Goodrich Farm won 2021 Sustainability Award, getting the word out
- Farmer Forum on website - development continues, will require substantial effort to drive engagement. Going to reach out to CRWFA for advice on how their forum is working. Checking on grant opportunities.
 - This forum would be a way for members to connect with each other on issues

- Farm24VT final report was shared with Governor Scott and Sec. Tebbetts. Also shared with all the participating farms, media folks, etc.
- July –
 - monthly e-newsletter
 - instead of farmer feature, will cover the BBQ

Addison County Fair & Field Days:

Enter your crops by noon on August 9th.

11:00

Executive Director Report

John Roberts

- CAFO – John gave background on the ANR CAFO permit update. They are proposing extensive rules in addition to the VAAF MFO permit.
 - Buffers, pit measuring, manage more storm water runoff from headquarters, there are definitely some things that will cost \$\$,
 - Reached out to FWA, VDPA, and CRWFA...it is still prior to public comment, so there is time to
- Vermont Climate Council – ag sub committee
 - Interesting and positive experience so far
 - Mitigation, sequestration, resilience/adaptation
 - Practices and suggestions
 - Contractor will be hired to quantify carbon reductions of practices in all sectors
 - Empowering Vermont farmers to
 - Ag = 12-14% statewide
- Taskforce to revitalize Vermont Dairy Industry (Bobby Starr and legislature)
 - Monthly meetings
 - Farmer names submitted to provide input
 - Do no harm...let's not introduce things
 - Recommendations by the end of the year
- Wetlands rules
 - ANR has released the new rules.
 - John has sent them out, PLEASE REVIEW. Addison County will be the most impacted.
 - Harvey couldn't be here, but wanted to be
- Met with the British Counsel General...partnerships with
- Spending a lot of effort reaching out to the other producer groups. Met with VDPA last week.
 - Important to work together
 - While we are not a lobbying an organization, we can be educating the legislature, and this will be a place to join efforts and try and be on the same page
 - Not a lot of response yet, but will keep trying...especially on CAFO issue
- Discussion with VAAF M about potential future funding. Potential for a joint funding for all three watershed groups. Fall RFP for next May's ends.

Payment Ecosystem Services & President's Report

Brian Kemp

- Adjourned for summer.
- Legislation to fund it for another year
- Hiring a consultant
- Looking at current programs already in place

- Programming, financing, etc.
- A LOT of discussion around soil health and what the measurement
- Not a good idea where the funding will come from.

Climate Economic Action Council (CEAC) - Addison Co. *Jeff Carter*

- Jeff distributed a handout
- 40% attributed to agriculture (not counting equipment)
 - Enteric fermentation
 - Manure management
 - Soils/Liming (27%)
- GOAL: 25% reduction of 2017 levels by 2030
- This could be a place for us locally to have input, that then could get move it up to state plan
- Draft strategic goals created 5/27/21, needs some thought and input
- Sometimes water quality practices can be in conflict with GHG, but sometimes they can be complementary
- Two computer models: COMET and COOL Farm Tool
- A lot of what we are already doing should be counting
- Jeff is charged with interviewing farmers

Extension Director Remarks

Dr. Fitzroy Beckford

- British Virgin Islands, Florida, North Carolina and now Vermont
- Shared remarks
- Goal is to connect Extension in a big way to the communities we serve
- Call me if I'm doing what you see is needed
- Looking for influencers to help us find \$\$ and make a mark on Vermont
- We are a change agency and we have lots of potential

Dairy Net Zero & Conservation Effects Assessment Project Updates/Announcement

Dr. Joshua Faulkner,

UVM Extension Farming & Climate Change Coordinator

Other Updates:

All

- FAP Cover Crop application deadline is August 1st. <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/fap>
- Updates from the floor

ADJOURN Meeting - Next Meeting...August 4th, 2021