



Champlain Valley Farmer Coalition Inc.

Wednesday, November 03, 2021

MINUTES

Meeting held in person at UVM Extension Middlebury and virtually on zoom

ZOOM LOCATION:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uvm-edu.zoom.us/j/7672674868>

Dial in by phone: 1 (929) 436-2866 | Meeting ID: 767 267 4868

In attendance:

Brian Kemp, Jed Rubin, Tim Kayhart, John Roberts, Loren Wood, Lorenzo Whitcomb, Sarah Audet, Eric Clifford, George Foster, Jed Davis

Whitney Hull, Jackie Folsom, Susan Smiley, Darren Ucinowicz, Peter James, Ray Brands, Dan Baker

Directors & Membership Business Meeting

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

Brian Kemp

Payment for Ecosystem Services update: The RFP was awarded to UVM in collaboration with Jon Winsten > soil health matrix

Secretary Report

Kirsten Workman

- Review and approve August/September/October meeting minutes (*attached*)
Motion to approve minutes as presented: George Foster
Second: Lorenzo Whitcomb
Discussion: none
Passed (4/0/1)

Treasurer Report

Jeff Carter

- Review current financial reports (*attached*)
Motion to approve treasurer's report as presented: George Foster
Second: Loren Wood
Discussion: none
Passed (5/0/0)

Annual Meeting

Discussion ended with a decision to attempt an in-person event, only with CVFC and not combine with other watershed groups. Kirsten will work with Karen G (UVM Extension) to get details from Middlebury VFW on availability/cost

Vermont Farm Show

There will be an entrance fee (\$4 online/\$5 at the door) for the first time.

Jed Davis has a room reserved for a joint farmer watershed group meeting and has reserved the larger room behind the stage. He would like us to consider a donation to cover some of the cost of the room, but will have a better idea on the dollar amount by the December meeting.

Date: Thursday, February 3rd, 7:30 – 10:00 AM

Communications Update

Sarah Audet

October Projects

- Attended “Making Pasture Work” workshop at Meeting Place Pastures on October 13. Wrote a feature about Paul Knox, Marc & Cheryl Cesario, and the benefits and challenges they have experienced with grazing dairy heifers. Distributed via website, social media, e-newsletter, and print newsletter. Read it here: <https://bit.ly/3ElrXEu>
- Distributed monthly e-newsletters to members and non-members on October 27.
- Mailed quarterly print newsletter to members on October 29.
- The #Farm24VT steering committee approved the budget and project timeline.

November Projects

- Featured Farmer Story
- Monthly e-newsletter (send November 24)
- Website Audit
- Begin applying for grants/sponsorships for #Farm24VT

Executive Director Report

John Roberts

John updated the group on the following topics:

- #Farm24VT – no BOTF grants this year, so looking at other options for funding. The date will be May 18th, 2022
- Unpaid membership dues – will be reaching out to members who haven’t renewed now that harvest season is done
- Climate Action Committee, Ag & Ecosystem Subcommittee update – report due December 1st.
- Payment for Ecosystem Services update
- Taskforce to Revitalize the Vermont Dairy Industry update – meeting every three weeks
- Climate Economy Action Council, Addison County
- Matthew Whitten & ACRWC – meeting in December
- ACoRN – met with Al Karnatz
- Would like approval to order CVFC Logo hats...

10:30 am

Dan Baker – Farm Labor Issues & Opportunities

Dr. Dan Baker, Associate Professor of Community Development and Applied Economics will join us for an informative discussion surrounding labor issues, funding for energy efficiency upgrades in farmworker housing and more. He will share a more in-depth discussion of his research and welcomes discussion for CVFC members. A link to a recent (March 2021) brief on farmworker housing issues. [Vermont Migrant Dairy Farmworker Housing Brief](#)

- Dan shared some results from a comprehensive survey of stressors for Vermont dairy laborers.

Whitney Hull – Dairy Herd Management TA from UVM EXT/DBIC

Whitney Hull is UVM Extension’s newly hired Dairy Herd Management Educator. As part of the Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center, her program focuses on delivering technical assistance to farm business managers who wish to engage teams of specialists, targeting specific areas of dairy management with the goal of making improvements to their operations and the bottom line. Technical service providers will work directly with dairy farm business owners to deliver outreach education to farm managers in the areas of milk quality, grazing and

pasture management, dairy nutrition, animal husbandry, animal housing and facilities, and personnel management.

<https://www.uvm.edu/extension/sustainableagriculture/dairy-herd-management-technical-assistance>
Whitney.Hull@uvm.edu | 802-888-4972 or 1-866-260-5603 (toll-free in Vt.)

Director engagement

A quick brainstorm to get more engagement from younger farm members as directors and better engagement from existing directors:

- (GT) part of the lack of engagement could be due to virtual/zoom meetings during COVID
- Aim for next summer...to do field meetings and reinvigorate
- While older directors could bring the 'next generation' along to meetings to start passing the torch, it is hard to justify two people away from the farm
- Maybe have John or another director invite the younger farm members (instead of Dad)
- Have a sub-group of younger members (like the YC's)
-

Other Updates:

All

- Updates from the floor – Frank Mitloehner, UC Davis will talk about dairy cattle and methane at the Vermont Dairy Producers Conference on February 23rd (Eric Clifford)
- Stress...farmers are under stress...efficiency, economics, record keeping, regulatory compliance, competition. We are all under more pressure and stress, regardless of scale. Is the answer to get bigger and more efficient?

Motion to ADJOURN Meeting: Brian Kemp, Second: Eric Clifford, meeting adjourned - Next Meeting...December 1st, 2021