

# CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED FARMERS ALLIANCE

Tuesday October 22, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

USDA building conference room

28 Farmvu Drive, White River Jct., VT

## Business Meeting Agenda

Start: 10:10am

Present: Katherine Adams, Paul Doton, Andrew Davis, Craig Gardner, Steve Stocking, Carl Majewski, Laura Johnson, Jennifer Byrne, Ed MacGlaflin, Amy Richardson

Welcome

Approval of Minutes –September 11, 2019 meeting

Treasurer's Report

Discussion – Developing the talking points

Survey to CRWFA members by CRWFA admin assistant about why they have joined the group. 14 (out of 38 members) respondents. Andrew with details. Discussion around confusion about dues. Needing to refine requesting of payments. Online not an options because 3% taken from payment.

No-Till seeder update: No real cover cropping because so much corn still in the ground. Sullivan County just got an Esch drill and it is free to use. No money or maps yet for CRWFA drill. Some mechanical reparations, bearings. Need fitted tarp. Storage facility? Discussion of maintenance and repairs in relation to the cost of the seeder. **Contract**

and drill agreement needs to be on the website with all costs transparent. To do → Laura

GPS tracker

CRWFA goals:

What value do you see in being a member: New Farmers, finding community, mentorship, and technical assistance. Experienced farmers, community.

Educational opportunities. Opportunities presented as a result of being under the umbrella of the CRWFA group organization. New channels of communication.

NH, lots of VT regulations discussed, but good to be in the know because eventually will probably cross the river and need to understand how things are being dealt with.

Extension, good sounding board and extending the community network

What goals: Retention of current members more than new members, but new members important too.

How to reach folks on the fringes of water quality. TA contact list. Marketing resources, then funnel to WQ because focus of the group is ultimately WQ.

Mentorship partnering-serving as a resource base

Possibility of social event for members? Beyond annual meeting? Something like the Vital Communities Skinny Pancake event?

Continued educational opportunities: farm succession

Volunteer worksheet-for Jenn and RCPP....Need list of hours from CRWFA members, **who will get this together?**

## Events-

Winter meeting ideas, farm viability-UNH and UVM speakers, farm panel

October 17 Brownsville 4-6 Asclepias Farm – Milkweed production

### Success

- September 22-Statehouse to Farmhouse – Richardson Farm
  - o Organized by Vital Communities, 5 legislators, 6 farmers. Farm tour really important because legislators needing farm exposure. Even though low farmer turnout, still okay event, but some challenges with legislator to farmer ratio.
- October 21 Quechee 5pm -Farmer Climate Network
  - o 25 attendees, mostly veg folks, some livestock, Skinny Pancake. Next meeting at Edgewater farm on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- October 21 PES Working Group meeting 10-2 Waterbury
  - o Tyler Webb-organic farmer, well spoken and progressive ideas on PES. January 15 deadline, 3 more meetings. Low farmer to service provider ratio, no one yet identified to lead or oversee
- Dairy-and-Water Coalition progress-
  - o Coalition of Rural VT, NOFA, UVM Ext, and many others. Discussion of topics around farmer rights, worker rights, animal welfare...Need more trust building between group entities in order to have a good conversation

Future Events – Put on Calendar Laura. November 14- PES related Brattleboro (tentative)

Possible scholarship for members to have CRWFA pay workshop fee, motion made to offer 5 scholarships to cover registration fee (but not time and mileage). Who will develop this offering to advertise?

- November 6 Plainfield, NH Edgewater Farm – Farmer Climate Network

Basin 14 tactical basin plan at 4:30pm

Nov 18 at 1pm Bradford Firestation

November 1<sup>st</sup>, Soil health field day Grafton County, morning demo and conversion of planters at Hatchland Farms in North Haverhill, 1.5 pesticide credits. Afternoon is facilitated discussion

Management Development series, Yankee Farm Credit organized, for young, beginner, veteran farmers focused. Woodstock, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> -Feb 20<sup>th</sup>

Other Business – The future including grant opportunities.

November 17<sup>th</sup> educational opportunities grant deadline.

Laura To do: look for resources list that Liz Kenton did, maybe resource for CRWFA

Next Meeting- 18<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of November. TBD

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

Notes taken by Laura Johnson