

CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED FARMERS ALLIANCE

Thursday November 21, 2019

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

USDA building conference room

28 Farmvu Drive, White River Jct., VT

Business Meeting Agenda

Start at 10:00am

Present Board Members: Linda Corse, Beth Kennett, Amy Richardson, Paul Doton, Steven Stocking, Ed MacGlaflin

Others: Andrew Davis, Carl Majewski, Laura Johnson

Highlighted in yellow, tasks and names of people dedicated to completing those tasks.

10:00 Welcome

10:05 Approval of Minutes –October 22, 2019 meeting (attached)

Motion to approve. Approved.

10:10 Treasurer's Report

Thorworx \$180 paid for the year

\$17674.51 CRWFA balance

Linda able to do tax return stuff yesterday. CRWFA not under non-profit status.

Linda initiated non-profit status and some paperwork to be done to establish this.

Dues-collect for 2020, not try and back bill for 2019

Treasurer's report accepted

10:15 Admin Report

Basin 14 plan meeting on Monday with Danielle Owczarski. Seeking input on how to include ag in the basin planning.

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Sierra Club meeting in St Johnsbury, Andrew attended. Sierra Club seeking to include farmers and foresters input on carbon sequestration. Proposing cap and trade instead of carbon tax.

10:20 Discussion – CRWFA Purpose and Goals

-What value do you see in being a member?

In agreement with community and voice associated with the consistency of having a group. As a group we can focus the conversation of many conversations.

- \$500,000 for monitoring of conservation practices coming to VT. Comparing conservation practice outcomes in two watersheds (UVM's Joshua Faulkner).
- Dam re-licensing. Dam open and closing based on value of electricity per dependency of stock market. Charitable Trust of NH. Funding from dam for groups to receive (outdoor rec, etc) BUT none for agriculture. PES, is there opportunity for payments in the dam re-licensing process or formation? NH is driver of these relicensing agreements. Amy Kuster, NH rep.....question posed: What is the process for getting our voice heard? Tom Beaudry's CT River erosion video. **Beth and Carl to distribute video to key voices in the dam re-licensing.** Before and after pictures, book, John Mudge. "The Erosion Ratio or Erosion for Dummies"

-What do you want more of out of your membership?

-What are the duties and responsibilities of a director?

10:50 No-Till seeder update

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Steve still needs payment for this calendar year's drill (47 hours and 1354 miles traveled) Still collecting maps, pictures, and needed details for State report (due on the 18th of December). Invoices needed to bill farmers using

Laura and Steve to meet to get drill details on the website

11:00 Volunteer worksheet – come with the events you have attended

Keeping track of events board members attend (to help Jenn Colby and RCPP funding)

Farm to plate panel discussion of the Culture of Agriculture. Challenges and experiences of different types of farmers in VT.

Scholarship money to encourage farms to go to events and stipends for farms to host gatherings. How much? Limit? Who will work on this?

Get someone from Farm to Plate to come to CRWFA meeting?

11:05 Events

- November 14: Abe Collins event (Brattleboro)
 - o Laura J, Leon Corse, and Corse Farm master grazer apprentice attended along with the host farmer (of Rebop Farm, Ashlyn), Stonyfield Farms representative and interested community members.

- November 15: PES Working Group meeting (10:30-3:00 location TBD)

PES paying for performance. Abe Collins requesting letter of support specifically for his services from watershed alliances. Maybe better to draft a general letter of support around the concepts and not specifically endorse one person or company. Discussion of PES monitoring services pilot projects and how PES payments will evolve and for all farms.

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- November 6: Plainfield, NH Edgewater Farm – Farmer Climate Network
 - o Andrew and Laura attended this
- Dairy-and-Water Coalition progress
- November 20: Forum on Climate and Agriculture 5:00-6:30 pm at Hartland Public Library
 - o Climate Change in Ag Forum: run by Windsor county Farm Bureau
 - o Paul attended forum.
 - o Vital Communities rep was there along with Windsor County Farm Bureau reps.

11:10 Future Events

- Annual meeting planning-January 15, 2020, location, agenda, speakers, director elections, pre meeting send out (including dues request)

UU Church Hartland, 22nd of January.

Lunch: Chili and corn bread (bought). Board members bring side, salad, dessert. Amy is in charge of meal and location.

Andrew to put out notice

Paul will email notices of invoices for member dues before and after the meeting

Linda will keep list of who has paid.

Info@crwfa.org CRWFA email

What to include at annual meeting agenda:

PES, Alyson Eastman to highlight. Paul will ask Alyson

Dam re-licensing – Kathy Urffer and Tom Beaudry , show video

UNH faculty-potentially- Carl Majewski will help id person

Agency of Ag videos of Newmont Farm and Richardson Farm

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Early December save the dates (first week of December) and then invitations with invoices, the first week of January-Andrew will send out.

Half-hour for each speaker, 1 hour lunch,

Nominating committee for board member recruitment formation-Craig Gardner and Paul Knox

11:40 Other Business – The future including grant opportunities

CRWFA pamphlets, we need to include the website, contact info (email at least), non-glossy paper. Motion to approve buying/printing new brochures.

Andrew going to update and have brochures printed

Farm videos- VT Agency of Ag and NE Dairy Promotion

11:55 Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 12th

Meeting adjourned 11:57am