



Connecticut River Watershed

Farmers Alliance

2023 Annual Meeting

11:00-2:30

Minutes

(Optional: from 9:30-10:45 the NRCS State Technical Committee will be held on site prior to our meeting)

Roll Call

Introduction & Speech - Paul Doton, Chair

- Accomplishments-
 - Partnership with White River Conservation District (Jen and Lyle)
 - Helped with strategic plan and administrative assistant
 - Received grant from working lands grant
 - SWOT Analysis
 - Finished fourth or fifth no till seeders(CEAP)
 - Covered 2,000 acres and added a new drill and crimper
 - #Farm24vt (Special recognition to Amy Richardson)
 - Soil health group
 - Goals
 - Work with farming community (underserved)
 - Educate in RAP
 - Provide space for farmers to be heard
 - Continue our Strategic plan

Anson Tebbetts - Vermont Secretary of Agriculture

- 9.4 million for water quality
 - 2.9 federal
 - 1.1 from farmers
 - 1.8 Ct river valley (4 times from the year before)
 - 44,000 acres of conservation practices
 - 22 production areas inspected
 - 678 technical and regulatory visits
 - 129 with districts and federal in Ct river valley
 - Vt pay for performance program is open. **Due January 20th**
 - Performance based payments
 - Farm agronomic practice program

- Payment for ecosystem services (pilot program to pay farmers who go above and beyond)
- The Ag committee is larger and very new.
 - Still figuring out what their goals are.
- The future will hold more money for working lands
- Follow the DBIC (lots of grant possibilities)
- Newsletter that goes out every sunday

Conservation District Updates - Jennifer Byrne

- Describing district role and shares forms
- Farm teams form (gathering all your service providers)
- Payment for Ecosystem Services
 - Report came out, has summary report.
 - Explains how csp is changing
 - Equipment rental library
- District is looking for a supervisor (stipend is given)
- Local Working Groups
 - Way of communicating with state and federal government to apply for local funding pools that is dedicated in meeting a practice
 - AG EMP through WRJ district
- Funding Programs & Farm Teams

11:50 Ten Minute Break

12:00 UNH Agriculture Extension - Carl Mejewski

- Up and Coming Agriculture Programs in New Hampshire
- Programs in NH
 - partners with District (equipment rental program that includes
 - Extension helps educate farms in how to use equipment
 - Field meeting in educating how to use a soil steamer
 - Corn evaluation in north haverhill
 - Corn and forage meeting in person
 - New positions include will hastings
 - New Dairy specialist in NH-Sarah Allen
 - New position for state specialist (soil stewardship specialist) Ronuca mather
 - Farm strong Nh program
 - Managing stress of farmer is important
 - Partners put together program that provides resources for mental health, legal advice, financial advice
 - Webinar series (new farmer school, half dozen webinars on growing and marketing for small farms)

12:20

UVM Agriculture Extension - Abigail Augarten

- Nitrogen and Soil Health
- Available for visits (agronomy)
- From westchester NY, went to Cornell
- Peace Corps then wisconsin Discovery Farms
- Nitrogen efficiency work
 - What does that mean for water quality, environment, economics and agronomics
 - Nitrogen cycle is complex
 - Many paths for N loss
 - Only 90% is taken up by the plant
 - Loss through air and mostly through leaching
 - Tile drained fields are worse
 - Nitrogen use efficiency assessments
 - How is it being currently used and what practices can improve it
 - The Wisconsin N use efficiency project was a project that measured N on 90 farms
 - Measuring Nitrogen use efficiency is found from Partial Factor Productivity= Yield(lb/ac) over N applied (lb/ac)
 - Provided tools for farmers making nitrogen decisions
 - Zero- N test strips, assess N credits from manure and legumes
 - NRCS practice for Comparing fields.
 - How can this apply to hay? Work done was for monitoring corn silage and groundwater
 - How do you know the measurement when there is no tile?
 - Need to put equipment in ground

12:40

Farm First www.farmfirst.org

- Funding comes from Dept of Ag
- Takes calls on mental health. Things are harder than ever for farms
- Counseling can help with dealing with anxiety and stress
- 12 sessions free
- Giving farm legal services, mediation, financial planning

Strategic Planning Review & Activity

- Send email for Natural resource planning questions
- What are the biggest concerns for farmers?
 - How do we get more members
- The Champlain Valley shifted to business sponsorship rather than paid members.

2:10 Financial Report

- Profit/loss \$6,498
- No Till program \$7,400.
- Balance of \$75,000
- Approved

2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Approval

- Approved

Board Elections & Board Reorganization

- Ed McGlaffin, Bill Emmons, Paul Doton, Linda Corse
 - Passed
 - The board appreciates the amount of work that Amy Richardson has done with the CRWFA (Thank You!)
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- Reorganization of the board
 - Paul Nominated (passed)
 - Bill vice chair (passed)
 - Secretary (Beth) (passed)
 - Treasury (Linda) (passed)
 - Assistant treasurer/secretary Lyle Nichols (passed)
 - Cindy Westover to take Amy's place (appointed)
 - USDA room. meeting on the 27th 10-12 in person

2:30 Close

1. Lyle Nichols
2. Paul Doton
3. Jennifer Byrne
4. Walt Gladstone
5. Amber Reed
6. Nick Cook
7. Carl UNH
8. Abi UVM ex
9. Linda Corse
10. Erin Shaw
11. Heather Blunk

12. Cory Ross
13. SoniaHowlett
14. Steve Stocking
15. Arlene Stocking
16. Kate Bucknam
17. Kathy Urfer
18. ALden dumont (CRC)
19. Elizabeth sipple (working lands initiative)
20. Steve taylor (NH)
21. Linda Miller
22. Goerge Miller
23. Matt myers
24. Nina Gage
25. Ed mcglaflin
26. Ed (agromark)
27. Barbra fallom
28. Beth Kennet
29. Bob Kennet
30. Alicia
31. Josh Allen (NRCS)
32. Keith vt DEC watershed planner
33. Maria watershed planner
34. Tom akin (NRCS agronomy)
35. Steve schmidt
36. Guy crosby
37. Paul
38. Marli rup
39. Travis thomason (NRCS)
40. DAve Blogget
41. Phylisia moore (NRCS)
42. Karl thideman (soil for climate)
43. Bj nasworth
44. Bill emmons
45. Tess edwards
46. Walt gladstone
47. Tom beaudry
48. Tom Eaton