

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 1:00-4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

Voting Board Members Present: Alyson Eastman (Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture – designee for Anson Tebbetts, Secretary), Chair; Elisabeth Nance (designee for Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development), departs 2:00, arrives 2:30); Katharine Servidio (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation; role changes to staff at 2:30); Oliver Pierson (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation; arrives 2:30) Alisha Utter (Vice Chair); Bob Lesnikoski; Will Belongia; David Hubbard; Kathy Murphy-Moriarty (departs 1:53, returns 2:32; departs 3:24); Chris Castano; Alison Low; Alan Calfee

Voting Board Members not Present: Tyler Miller, Megan Camp; Jon Ramsay; Donna Young

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Liz Gleason (designee for Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; arrives 1:41); Ellen Kahler (Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; arrives at 1:21); Colleen Leonard (Vermont Economic Development Authority; designee for Cassie Polhemus, CEO)

Non-Voting Board Members not Present: None

Staff: Clare Salerno, Elizabeth Sipple, Abbey Willard, Diana Ferguson, Trevor Lowell, Laura Ginsburg (departs 1:50) (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets), Katharine Servidio (Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation)

Guests: Ryan Patch, VAAFM Agriculture Climate and Land Use Policy Manager

Members of the Public: None

Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

MOTION to approve minutes from the September 19, 2024 Board Meeting– Elisabeth Nance motions, Alisha Utter seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote, Alan Calfee abstains

WLEB members thank Diana Ferguson for her service to VAAFM and WLEB.

Agriculture & Climate Resilience Presentation - Ryan Patch, Agriculture Climate and Land Use Policy Manager at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Ryan Patch provided an overview of climate resilience efforts and land use policy in Vermont and solicited feedback from WLEB on climate resilience and land use policy priorities.

DISCUSSION

WLEB Committee Breakouts

Three committees went into breakout rooms to update committee charters and plans for FY25.

- Forest Economy Committee
- Policy Committee
- Service Provider Strategy

Administration Updates

- Agriculture, Food & Markets – Alyson Eastman

- Forest, Parks & Recreation – Oliver Pierson
- Agency of Commerce & Community Development – Elisabeth Nance

Other Announcements – none

Public Comment – none

MOTION to adjourn – Alan Calfee motions, Elisabeth Nance seconds
MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Alyson Eastman at 3:54 PM.

Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Minutes Draft 9/17/24*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Agenda 10/17/24*
- *WLEB Committees Overview*
- *WLEB Service Provider Strategy Committee Charter*
- *WLEB Policy Committee Charter*
- *WLEB Forest Economy Committee Charter*