

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 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; arrives 2:24); Oliver Pierson (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation); Alisha Utter (Vice Chair); Bob Lesnikoski; Will Belongia; David Hubbard; Donna Young (arrives at 1:05 PM); Kathy Murphy-Moriarty (departs 3:40); Chris Castano (departs 1:30, returns 2:00); Jon Ramsay; Alison Low; Tyler Miller (departs 2:14)

Voting Board Members not Present: Alan Calfee; Megan Camp

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Liz Gleason (designee for Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board; departs 3:51); Ellen Kahler (Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; arrives at 1:10 PM, departs 2:47); 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 (departs 3:31) (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets), Katharine Servidio (Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation; departs 1:40, returns 2:13)

Guests: Steve Collier, VAAFM General Counsel

Members of the Public: None

Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

The Board welcomes Elizabeth Sipple back from maternity leave and congratulates Alisha Utter on her first meeting as Vice Chair of the Board.

MOTION to approve minutes from the August 27, 2024 Board Symposium – David Hubbard motions, Will Belongia seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Clare Salerno recalls scheduling poll to determine whether monthly WLEB meeting should be moved from the afternoon to the morning.

Public Meeting Law Updates – Steve Collier, VAAFM General Counsel

MOTION to enter Executive Session – Oliver Pierson motions, Kathy Murphy-Moriarty seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Executive Session begins at 1:14 PM.

Executive Session ends at 2:02 PM.

During Executive Session, the Board received legal advice about how to apply the Open Meetings Law.

Finalizing WLEB Program & Performance Metrics – Clare Salerno

Clare introduced the revised WLEI vision and mission statements, statewide indicators, program operational measures, programmatic strategies and performance measures.

DISCUSSION

MOTION to approve the WLEI Program and Performance Metrics document as edited during this meeting – David Hubbard motions, Kathy Murphy-Moriarty seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Approval of Eligibility Criteria for Business Enhancement Grant – Clare Salerno

Clare reviews need to revisit eligibility criteria for confirmation of FY25 Business Enhancement Grant to enhance consistency and clarity for grant applicants.

DISCUSSION

Site Visits

- Chris Castano shared summary and learnings from a visit to Lyndon Furniture.
- Donna Young shared summary and learnings from a visit to Local Donut.
- Oliver Pierson shared summary and learnings from a visit to Wooden Hammer and Maple Wind Farm.
- Alison Low shared summary and learnings from a visit to Triple J Pastures.

Administration Updates

- Agriculture, Food & Markets – Alyson Eastman
- Forest, Parks & Recreation – Oliver Pierson
- Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Other Announcements – none

Public Comment – none

MOTION to adjourn – Oliver Pierson motions, Bob Lesnikoski seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Alyson Eastman at 3:52 PM.

Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Symposium Minutes Draft 8/27/24*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Agenda 9/17/24*
- *WLEI Program and Performance Metrics – September 2024*
- *FY25 Business Enhancement Grant Eligibility*