

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting

116 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05601

Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

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Meeting ID: 237 273 494 464

Passcode: BmpBu6

9:00am-9:05am – Welcome – Alyson Eastman

Special welcome to Alex Barrett, who has been appointed to the consulting (licensed) forester seat.

9:05am – 9:10am - Approval of October 2024 meeting minutes **Action: Board Vote** – Alyson Eastman

9:10am – 9:55am – Vermont Community Loan Fund presents the impact of the FY21 Working Lands Service Provider Grant supporting the SPROUT Loan Fund (began on 8/1/2022 and ended on 7/31/24). The \$150,000 grant filled a funding gap by targeting new and beginning stage working lands businesses with low interest (1%/2%) loans. The WLEB grant helped support loans to eighteen businesses with total funding of \$846,536.

9:55am – 10:40am – Christine McGowan, Forest Products Development Program Director at the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund presents an update on the program’s work and impacts. The WLEB has been partnering with VSJF since they began their Forest Products Value Chain Investment Strategy work in 2016.

10:40am – 11:25am – Steve Bick, who runs The Vermont Forest Business School (FBS), presents an update on the school’s work, impacts, learning and on-going community of peers. The WLEB has been partnering with the FBS since the pilot project for the initial session of the Vermont Forest Business School in 2020.

11:25am – 11:40am – Updates from WLEB members on site visits

11:40am-11:45am - VNFP Update

11:45am-11:55am - Administration Updates –AAF, ACCD, DFPR

11:55am-12:00pm – Other Announcements and Public Comment

Adjourn **Action: Board Vote**