

# Working Lands Enterprise FY24 Symposium Part 1

## Funding Prioritization Decisions

June 28th, 2023, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Bread and Butter Farm  
200 Leduc Farm Rd, Shelburne, VT 05482

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### Desired Outcomes:

- Agree on a FY24 Budget to enable staff to complete timely operations.
- Engage in strategic conversations to clarify priorities and budget implications.

### Central Strategic Question:

- How best can the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative impact the viability of Vermont working lands enterprises favorably in the next three years?
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### Agenda

8:30-9:00am: Welcome breakfast and introduction to the Blank Page Café (FY22 grantee) - with café owner Mike Proia

9:00-9:30am: Introduction to the Bread-and-Butter Farm (FY22 grantee) - with farm owner Cory Pierce

9:30-9:40: Welcome and Agenda Review / Intended Outcomes - WLEB Vice Chair Charlie Hancock

9:40-9:45: Approve May Meeting Minutes— **Board Vote**

**Discuss Sector Needs and Priority Investments in the Agriculture Sector (9:45am-10:45pm)** - Elizabeth Sipple

9:45am-10:05am: Presentation on key learning, trends, and hurdles identified by Farm to Plate Priority Strategy Teams; and recommendations to the WLEB regarding priority investment areas – Jake Claro, Director of Farm to Plate Network (20MIN)

10:05-10:25am: Presentation on the Future of Agriculture Commissions' research findings and analysis regarding diversified agriculture needs and infrastructure investments within the maple, produce, and meat sector – Abbey Willard, Agricultural Development Division Director, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (20MIN)

10:25-10:45am: Overview of funding available to Vermont agriculture and food businesses in FY24 – Kristina Sweet, Agricultural Development Division Assistant Director, Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets (20MIN)

10:45-11:00am: Break

**Discuss Sector Needs and Priority Investments in the Forestry Sector (11:00am-12:15pm)** - Charlie Hancock

11:00-11:40am: Presentation on Forest Futures Report – Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (40MIN)

11:40-11:55am: Presentation on Northern Forest Region plan - Rob Riley (joining remotely) (15MIN)

11:55-12:15pm: Recommendations regarding priority areas of investment - WLEB Forestry Economy Committee - (20MIN)

12:15pm-12:30pm: Reflections on presentations and key takeaways – Abbey Willard

**Working Lunch (12:30pm-1:45pm)** - Tyler Miller

12:30-1:30pm: Working lunch to discuss WLEB engagement around housing.

1:30-1:45pm: Groups share back key reflections from working lunch on housing.

**Discuss Sector Needs and Priority Investments, cont'd (1:45pm-2:05pm)** - Elizabeth Sipple

1:45-2:05pm: Presentation on priority areas of investment - WLEB Service Provider Strategy Committee (20MIN)

**Discuss and Finalize FY24 Provisional Budget (2:05pm-4:00pm)** - Ellen Kahler

2:05-3:45pm: Deliberation on and vetting of FY2024 Funding Prioritization Recommendations Brief

- 2:05-2:25: Individual reflection - post and review questions and suggestions
- 2:25-3:40: Group discussion and informal motions to adopt/reject proposed changes

3:40-3:45pm: Vote on Final Provisional Budget— **Board Vote**

3:45-4:00pm: Symposium evaluation (+/-) and closing reflections- Elizabeth Sipple

4:00pm: *Adjourn*