

# Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

**Voting Board Members Present:** Alyson Eastman (Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture – designee for Anson Tebbetts, Secretary), Chair; Charlie Hancock, Vice Chair (departs 5:04 PM); Tayt Brooks (Agency of Commerce – designee for Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary); Paul Frederick (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Interim Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation); Bob Lesnikoski; Alison Low; Will Belongia; Donna Young

**Voting Board Members not Present:** Marisa Mauro, Tyler Miller, David Hubbard, Alisha Utter, Megan Camp

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:** Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (arrives 1:10 PM)

**Non-Voting Board Members not Present:** Sarah Isham, Vermont Economic Development Authority, designee for Cassandra Polhemus, CEO; Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund

**Staff:** Elizabeth Sipple, Clare Salerno, Diana Ferguson, Kristina Sweet, Abbey Willard, Laura Ginsburg (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets), Katharine Servidio (Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation); Randall Szott (Agency of Commerce and Community Development)

**Guests:** None

**Members of the Public:** None

Deputy Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

**MOTION** to approve minutes from the February 21, 2023 Board meeting – Charlie Hancock motions, Alison Low seconds

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

**Program Updates** – Elizabeth Sipple

Elizabeth shares tentative plans for the annual Board Symposium and 10-year program celebration, both slated to occur in Summer 2023. She provides updates on Board committees and the launch of the SharePoint site that houses shared Board documents.

**ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant Decisions** – Elizabeth Sipple, Kristina Sweet, Alyson Eastman

- Maximum of \$1,150,000 to award
- Suggestion to cap today's awards at \$1,100,000, excluding extra \$50,000 of prior year funds
- Elizabeth and Kristina present an overview of top six applications

DISCUSSION

**MOTION** to advance top eight applications reviewed to a “Yes” – Chuda Dhaurali, Riverview Farm, Giddings Hill Forest Products, Redstart Inc., Mud City Farm, Sunrise Orchards, Stonewood Farm, Boyden Farm) – Charlie Hancock motions, Alison Low seconds

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

DISCUSSION of applications voted “Maybe” by reviewers

**MOTION** to advance Bissonnette Firewood to a “Yes” – Charlie Hancock motions, Paul Frederick seconds (Bob Lesnikoski is a third)

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

**MOTION** to move the remaining applications to a “No” – Champlain Valley Hops, 1000 Stone Farm, Richville Farms, Maple Sugar Mountain, Ananda Gardens, Currier Farms Forest Products, Grateful Morning Dairy, Sunnyside Dairy, Deep Meadow Farm – Charlie Hancock motions, Alison Low seconds

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

### **Administration Updates**

- Paul Frederick – Forests, Parks, and Recreation
  - Announces appointment of Danielle Fitzko as Commissioner of FPR
- Tayt Brooks – Commerce and Community Development
- Alyson Eastman – Agriculture, Food & Markets

**Other Announcements** – none

**Public Comment** – none

**MOTION** to adjourn – Donna Young motions, Charlie Hancock seconds

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Alyson Eastman at 3:00 PM.

### Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes Draft 2/21/2023*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Agenda 4/18/2023*
- *ARPA Primary Production Impact Grant Reviews*
- *ARPA Primary Production Impact Grant Pitch Meeting Notes*
- *ARPA project review from Lawrence Miller*