

# Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 PM, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

**Voting Board Members Present:** Alyson Eastman (Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture – designee for Anson Tebbetts, Secretary), Chair; Charlie Hancock, Vice Chair; Bob Lesnikoski; Chris Castano (departs 3:18pm); Jon Ramsay; Alisha Utter; Will Belongia; Megan Camp; Alan Calfee; Alison Low; David Hubbard; Donna Young (arrives 1:12pm)

**Voting Board Members not Present:** Tayt Brooks (designee for Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development); Oliver Pierson (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation); Tyler Miller; Marisa Mauro

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:** Liz Gleason (designee for Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board), Sarah Isham (Vermont Economic Development Authority; designee for Cassie Polhemus, CEO); Ellen Kahler (Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund)

**Non-Voting Board Members not Present:** None

**Staff:** Elizabeth Sipple, Clare Salerno, Diana Ferguson (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets); Katharine Servidio (Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation)

**Guests:** None

**Members of the Public:** None

Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

**MOTION** to approve minutes from the March 19, 2024 Board meeting – Charlie Hancock motions, Chris Castano seconds

**MOTION** passes by unanimous voice vote

- Alison Low, David Hubbard, Alan Calfee, Brooke Gladstone, Megan Camp abstain

**Decision Making Overview** – Elizabeth Sipple

Elizabeth provided an overview of the Supply Chain Impact Grant and ARPA Primary Producer Impact grant review process and decision-making plan for the day.

**Supply Chain Impact Grant Decisions** – Elizabeth Sipple

Elizabeth updated the board on the high demand for the Supply Chain Impact Grant and informed the board that there were 14 applicants with a total request of \$2.2M, which is an oversubscription of \$1.5M. Elizabeth informed the board that currently the reviewers are putting forward eight applications for discussion and that those eight applications represent an overspend of \$400k.

Reviewers provided an overview of the eight applications currently recommended, including the business and project overview.

DISCUSSION

**MOTION** to fund the slate as presented by the board – David Hubbard motions, Donna Young seconds

**MOTION** carries with unanimous voice vote

- Bob Lesnikoski abstains from voting on LSF Forest Products. Bob discloses that Myers Produce is a customer.
- Jon Ramsay abstains from voting on Champlain Valley Grain Center.

### **ARPA Primary Producer Impact Grant Decisions – Elizabeth Sipple**

Elizabeth Sipple informed the board that there were 11 applicants requesting \$1.6M for the \$812,991 in available funds. Elizabeth Sipple informed the board that grant reviewers are recommending funding for six applications, which represents an overspend of \$31,807.

Elizabeth reminded the board that farmworker housing requests were steered to this pool.

Reviewers provided an overview of the six applications being proposed by reviewers.

#### **DISCUSSION**

**MOTION** to fund the slate as presented by the board– Jon Ramsay motions, Charlie Hancock seconds

**MOTION** carries with unanimous voice vote.

- Brooke Gladstone abstains from Machia Brothers Dairy.

**MOTION** to not fund the remaining slate – Will Belongia, David Hubbard seconds

**MOTION** carries with unanimous voice vote.

- Brooke Gladstone abstains from Machia and Sons Dairy.

### **Follow Up on Supply Chain Impact Grants – Alyson Eastman**

**MOTION** to not fund the remaining slate – Charlie Hancock motions, Alisha Utter seconds

**MOTION** carries with unanimous voice vote.

### **Administration Updates**

Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets - Alyson Eastman

**Other Announcements** – none

**Public Comment** – none

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

- Charlie Hancock motions, Bob Lesnikoski seconds

#### Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Minutes Draft 3/19/2024*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Agenda 4/23/2024*
- *FY24 ARPA + Supply Chain Impact Grant Full Review spreadsheet*