

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM-4:15 PM

Shelburne Farms

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); Oliver Pierson (designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation; departs 11:30am at which point Katharine Servidio becomes designee); Bob Lesnikoski; Will Belongia; David Hubbard; Donna Young; Megan Camp; Tyler Miller (departs 3:00pm); Kathy Murphy Moriarty

Voting Board Members not Present: Alan Calfee; Chris Castano; Jon Ramsay; Alison Low, Alisha Utter

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Liz Gleason (designee for Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (departs 3:10pm); 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: Clare Salerno, Abbey Willard, Trevor Lowell, Diana Ferguson (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets); Katharine Servidio (Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation; becomes designee for Danielle Fitzko at 11:30am)

Guests: None

Members of the Public: None

Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

Agenda Review and Intended Symposium Outcomes – Alyson Eastman

- Alyson Eastman reminded WLEB members that per Act 133, all WLEB meetings must be recorded. Breakout sessions are not recorded because there is no quorum in each group.

MOTION to approve minutes from the June 25, 2024 Board meeting – David Hubbard motions, Elisabeth Nance seconds. Megan Camp abstains

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Vice Chair Nomination – Alyson Eastman

MOTION to nominate Alisha Utter as vice chair – Bob Lesnikoski motions, Megan Camp seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Oliver Pierson announced that a candidate has been identified for the consulting forester seat vacated by Charlie Hancock. Staff stated that they are working to move the nomination process forward with the Speaker of the House. Alyson Eastman stated that she has made phone calls to solicit candidates for the dairy seat.

Mission, Vision, Strategies – Clare Salerno

Clare Salerno explained the purposed of the work and the instructions for the small groups.

MOTION to move to breakout sessions – Donna Young motions, Megan Camp seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Meeting reconvenes at 1:10 PM.

Vision, Mission, and Strategy Statements Follow Up – Full Group Discussion – Clare Salerno

Board members reviewed and workshopped three potential versions of the vision statement. Board members and staff reported out on the breakout groups for each strategy and presented suggestions for combining and/or rewording strategies.

DISCUSSION

WLEB Committee Discussion – Clare Salerno

Clare provided an overview of the goals of the small group discussions by committee.

MOTION move into small groups for committee conversation – Elizabeth Nance motions, Megan Camp seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting reconvenes at 3:08 PM.

WLEB Committees Report Out – Ellen Kahler

WLEB members shared decisions made on priorities and schedule for the Service Provider Strategy Committee, Policy Committee, and the Forest Economy Committee. The Enterprise Financing Options Committee shared that they will disband.

WLEB Fiscal Year 2025 Calendar Review – Clare Salerno

Clare Salerno provided an overview of the board calendar for FY25, including meeting dates and grant application due dates and review dates.

Grantee Site Visit Recap – Clare Salerno

WLEB members shared out learnings and insights from recent grantee visits.

Symposium Evaluation – Ellen Kahler

Other Announcements – none

Public Comment – none

MOTION to adjourn – Kathy Murphy Moriarty motions, Bob Lesnikoski seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Alyson Eastman at 3:57 PM.

Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Minutes Draft 6/25/2024*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Symposium Agenda 8/27/2024*
- *WLEI Program and Performance Metrics*

- *WLEB Committee Overviews*
- *WLEB Committee Charters*
- *Working Lands Fiscal Year 2025 Calendar*