

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 PM, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Microsoft Teams

Voting Board Members Present: Charlie Hancock, Vice Chair; Randall Szott (Agency of Commerce – designee for Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary); Paul Frederick (Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation – designee for Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner); Alisha Utter; Tyler Miller; Donna Young; Bob Lesnikoski;

Voting Board Members not Present: Alyson Eastman (Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture – designee for Anson Tebbetts, Secretary), Chair; Megan Camp; Alan Calfee; Marisa Mauro; Will Belongia; David Hubbard; Alison Low; Brooke Gladstone

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Ellen Kahler, Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund; Liz Gleason, designee for Gus Seelig, Executive Director, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board

Non-Voting Board Members not Present: Sarah Isham, Vermont Economic Development Authority, designee for Cassandra Polhemus, CEO; Chris Castano; Jon Ramsay

Staff: Elizabeth Sipple, Clare Salerno, Diana Ferguson, Kristina Sweet, Abbey Willard (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets); Katharine Servidio (Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation)

Guests: None

Members of the Public: None

Elizabeth Sipple calls the meeting to order at 1:07 PM.

Introduction of New Board Members – Elizabeth Sipple

- Brooke Gladstone
- Chris Castano

MOTION to approve minutes from the August 22, 2023 Board Symposium – Charlie Hancock motions, Paul Frederick seconds

Abstentions: Bob Lesnikoski and Donna Young

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Farewell to Departing Members – Abbey Willard

- Paul Frederick
- Randall Szott

Program Updates – Elizabeth Sipple

Elizabeth shares opening and closing dates of upcoming Working Lands grant applications and support services available to applicants.

FY24 Business Enhancement Grant Scoring Criteria – Elizabeth Sipple

Elizabeth provides an overview and rationale for the updated Business Enhancement Grant scoring criteria and poses questions to prompt the Board's further refinement of criteria.

DISCUSSION

FY24 VAAFM Agricultural Development Funding Landscape Update – Kristina Sweet

Kristina provides updates on the suite of Fiscal Year 2024 funding opportunities available to farmers and agricultural producers with a focus on meat, maple, and produce.

Administration Updates

- AAFM – Kristina Sweet
- FPR – Paul Frederick

Other Announcements – none

Public Comment – none

MOTION to adjourn – Charlie Hancock motions, Donna Young seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Elizabeth Sipple at 3:01 PM.

Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Symposium Minutes Draft 8/22/2023*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Agenda 9/19/2023*
- *WLEB Funding Landscape September 2023*
- *Scoring Criteria for FY24 Business Enhancement Grant*