

Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 9:30 AM-3:30 PM

Green Mountain Girls Farm

Voting Board Members Present: Alyson Eastman (Deputy Secretary, Agency of Agriculture – designee for Anson Tebbetts, Secretary), Chair; Charlie Hancock, Vice Chair; Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation; Elisabeth Nance (designee for Lindsay Kurrle, Secretary, Agency of Commerce and Community Development); Bob Lesnikoski; Will Belongia; Alisha Utter; David Hubbard; Donna Young

Voting Board Members not Present: Megan Camp; Alan Calfee; Chris Castano; Jon Ramsay; Alison Low; Megan Camp; Tyler Miller

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)

Non-Voting Board Members not Present: Ellen Kahler (Executive Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund)

Staff: Clare Salerno, Abbey Willard, Trevor Lowell, Diana Ferguson (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets); Katharine Servidio (Department of Forest, Parks & Recreation)

Guests: Kathy Murphy Moriarty

Members of the Public: None

WLEB members hear from Mari, co-owner of Green Mountain Girls Farm, who provides a presentation on farm history and focus, and visit one of the farm fields.

Alyson Eastman calls the meeting to order at 10:28 AM.

WLEB members introduce themselves. Alyson Eastman announces that Brooke Gladstone has resigned from WLEB, leaving a vacancy in the dairy farmer seat.

Agenda Review and Intended Symposium Outcomes – Clare Salerno

MOTION to approve minutes from the May 14, 2024 Board meeting – David Hubbard motions, Alisha Utter seconds

Bob Lesnikoski and Elisabeth Nance abstain

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Presentation of Proposed FY25 Funding Strategy and Budget – Clare Salerno

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

BREAK FOR LUNCH

WLEB Input on the Proposed FY25 Funding Strategy and Budget – Abbey Willard

DISCUSSION

Project Eligibility and Defining ‘Cost of Doing Business’ Projects – Charlie Hancock

DISCUSSION

Measuring Climate Impacts and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Clare Salerno

MOTION to approve FY25 Proposed Budget as planned with Business Enhancement Grant awards ranging from \$10k-50k with no business plan requirement and no match requirement – Alisha Utter motions, Will Belongia seconds

MOTION carries with unanimous voice vote

Symposium Evaluation – Clare Salerno

DISCUSSION

Other Announcements – none

Public Comment – none

MOTION to adjourn – Danielle Fitzko motions, Charlie Hancock seconds

MOTION passes by unanimous voice vote

Meeting is adjourned by Alyson Eastman at 3:30 PM.

Meeting Materials

- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Minutes Draft 5/14/2024*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Board Symposium Agenda 6/25/2024*
- *FY25 Proposed Funding Strategy and Budget*
- *Working Lands Enterprise Fund Investments Summary Presentation Slides*
- *Summary of Agriculture and Forestry Funding Gaps in FY2025*
- *FY24 WLEI Business Enhancement Grant Request for Applications (RFA)*