

# Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting Notes

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)*