



**WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE**  
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Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets  
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation  
Agency of Commerce & Community Development

## Working Lands Enterprise Board Meeting

116 State Street, Montpelier, VT, 05601

Join on your computer or phone

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Meeting ID: 243 260 995 698

Passcode: 7eE94t

**Tuesday, May 16th, 2023, 2:30PM – 5:10PM**

2:30pm – Welcome - Alyson Eastman

2:30pm-2:35pm - Approval of April 2023 meeting minutes **Action: Board Vote** – Alyson Eastman

2:35pm-2:40pm – Introduction of Alan Calfee, Calfee Woodland Management, Rupert, VT. Alan is joining the WLEB as a *representative of a membership-based forestland owner organization*.

Alan is a Vermont Licensed Professional Forester who has been practicing in southern Vermont for over 30 years. He has an undergraduate degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland and a Masters in Forestry from the University of Vermont. Alan's business, Calfee Woodland Management, helps hundreds of private, municipal, not-for-profit and corporate woodland owners steward their properties with a holistic and sustainable long-term approach. Alan was involved with Vermont Coverts since its inception. He ran and taught landowner workshops for many years and is still involved with the Board. Alan and his wife Jeanne live in Rupert and steward almost a thousand acres of beautiful Taconic land along the Mettewee River.

2:40pm-2:45pm – Intro to the Farmer/Farm Worker Housing Panel – Elizabeth Sipple

2:45pm-3:30pm – Farmer/Farm Worker Housing Panel

**Goal:** The WLEB is going to be making strategic decisions about funding engagement with farmer and farm worker housing in FY24; and this panel aims to be an educational opportunity that will support the boards decision-making process.

### Panel participants:

- Josh Hanford Commissioner, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development
- Julie Curtin Director of Homeownership, Champlain Housing Trust
  - Champlain Housing Trust is administering the VHCB funded farmworker housing repair program, and implementing the pilot farmworker replacement housing program, also funded by VHCB, that is providing a loan to Riverview Farm.
- Seth Leonard, Managing Director of Community Development, Vermont Housing Finance Agency
- Peter Schneider, Senior Consultant, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC)
- Tyler Miller, Vice President for Stewardship at Vermont Land Trust.

### Questions for the Panel:

1. Please explain your group's work with farmer and farmworker housing in VT? Please highlight key initiatives, challenges, or successes.



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2. What are current funding sources available for affordable housing? How effectively are farmers accessing those funds? And if they are not, why not?
3. How do you see farmer and farmworker housing addressing systemic challenges for farmers, for example employee retention or safe living conditions for farm workers? How does having on-farm housing strengthen the overall business?

Prior to the next questions, Elizabeth will provide background information on WLEF funding.

4. The board is being asked to provide grant funding for housing, why is that needed? Based on the funding available to WLEB, what is the most meaningful support or gap you think WLEB grant funding can fill?
5. Can you speak of strategies for assuring that grant funded housing is fulfilling its intended purpose as farmer or farmworker housing long-term?

3:30pm-3:45pm - Program Updates – Elizabeth Sipple

- June 28<sup>th</sup> Symposium
- 10 Year Celebration
- Intro to Beef-on-Dairy presentation

3:45pm-4:45pm – Presentation on Beef-on-Dairy work Supported by WLEF

**Goal:** To understand the successes and challenges to the beef-on-dairy work to date, the key goals and outcomes for year two of this project, and projected goals/outcomes for year three. This presentation aims to support the WLEB's understanding of the work to date and funding needs for year three prior to the FY24 annual budget prioritization process.

The year one contract was from May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 (\$100,000). As planned this contract has been renewed, with year two beginning on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 and ending on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**Participants:** Kevin Channell

4:45pm-5:00pm - Administration Updates – Alyson Eastman – AAFM, Tayt Brooks (Randall Szott) – ACCD, Danny Fitzko (Paul Frederick) - DFPR

5:00pm - Other Announcements and Public Comment

5:10pm - Adjourn **Action: Board Vote**

\*Includes Board discussion and questions

\*\*Executive Session, from which the general public is excluded, is entered to protect applicant confidential business information pursuant to 1 VSA section 313(a); 1 VSA section 317(c)(7) personal finances; (c)(9) trade secrets, including confidential business and financial information; (C)(13) public agency consideration of acquisition of real or personal property; and (c)(15) records relating to negotiation of contracts.