

## **VERMONT HOUSING & CONSERVATION BOARD**

### **Viability Grants Review Committee Meeting Virtual Meeting by Zoom**

#### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**May 13, 2020**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: Diane Bothfeld (Chair), David Marvin, Karen Freeman (for Gus Seelig), Sarah Isham, Colleen Goodridge, Marli Rupe, Marie Audet, Obediah Racicot, Jeff Carter, Marie Audet, Jill Arace, Abbie Corse, and Heather Hurlbert (joined at 3:32pm)

VHCB staff present: Ela Chapin, Nancy Everhart, Katie Michels, Ashia Gallo, Liz Gleason (joined at 3:32pm) and Mariah Noth (joined at 3:32pm)

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At 1:03pm, Diane Bothfeld opened the meeting. Gave overview of dairy and farmer realities during COVID-19. Brief introductions were made.

A motion to approve minutes from the January 31, 2020 grant review committee meeting was made by Jeff Carter and seconded by Marie Audet. All were in favor. Karen Freeman and Sarah Isham abstained as they did not attend.

Ela Chapin introduced the grant review process and described available funding at 1:11pm.

Diane Bothfeld called for public comment at 1:19pm. No public comment was made.

Katie Michels outlined the meeting's agenda and review process, provided an overview of Water Quality Grant applications received this round, and summarized staff considerations about the different categories of grant requests (infrastructure, equipment, and grazing). This review committee's role is to provide funding recommendations to the VHCB board chair, and the VHCB board chair must review and finalize funding recommendations.

Obe made comment at 1:24pm about EQIP-funded applicants; new EQIP contracts will not be signed until mid-June at the earliest.

Marli asked at 1:32pm about applications seeking project completion to be in compliance or to fulfill regulatory requirements and if we are reviewing good standing in our recommendations.

A motion to go into executive session, at 1:33pm, for applications review was offered by Abbie Corse, seconded by Sarah Isham and all were in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session, at 3:31pm, was made by Marie Audet, seconded by Jill Arace, and all were in favor.

A motion to fund the following water quality grants, at 3:31pm, was made by Sarah Isham, seconded by Abbie Corse, and all were in favor.

<b>Water Quality Grant Award Recommendations:</b>			<b>Contingencies/Notes:</b>
Stephanie Pope	Iroquois Acres NWA, LLC	\$40,000	
Julie Longway	Longway Farms	\$18,000	
Jennifer Churchill	Wonder Why Farm	\$40,000	
Laura Rivers	J and L Dairy	\$20,339	
Chester Baker	Hillside Homestead	\$35,359	
Justin Poulin	Poulin & Daughters Family Farm	\$40,000	
Ethan Gevry	Champlain Valley Farm	\$40,000	Contingent on review of final project budget and scope from BMP
Mark Dill	Chandler Pond Farm LLC	\$40,000	Contingent on farm's development of a nutrient management plan
Jill Garland	Westminster Farms	\$40,000	
Steve Schubart	Grass Cattle Company	\$8,154	
Grace Gosliga	Gosliga Farm Inc.	\$40,000	
Walt Gladstone	Newmont Farm	\$31,425	
Clara Ayer	Fairmont LLC	\$20,000	
Reg Chaput	Chaput Family Farms	\$20,000	
Greg Bouchard	Bouchard Family Dairy	\$40,000	

Peter Hutchins	Peter and Lorie Hutchins	\$16,300	
Sandy Gebbie	Gebbies' Maplehurst Farm	Defer	Reapply when NRCS contract is signed

<b>Grants awarded pursuant to additional funding becoming available:</b>			<b>Contingencies:</b>
Christian Winslow	Winslow Farm	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Brian Kemp	Mountain Meadows Farm	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Katie Atherton	Aires-Hill Farm	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Adrian Fortin	Edward Fortin	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Kirk Lanphear	Lanphear Family Farms	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Richard Larson	Larson Farm and Creamery	\$38,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability
Peter Rainville	Homestead Farm	\$40,000	Contingent on signed NRCS contract and VHCB funding availability

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Obie Racicot recused himself from all votes for recommending grant funding.

Sarah Isham recused herself from voting on the Poulin application, due to a personal relationship.

Colleen recused herself from voting on the Baker application, due to a personal relationship.

Jill and Obie departed at 3:32pm.

Liz Gleason, Mariah Noth, and Heather Hurlbert joined at 3:32pm.

Liz Gleason provided an overview of the Implementation Grant applications received this round and explained the ranking category breakdown in the review process. This review committee's role is to provide funding recommendations to the VHCB board chair.

A motion to go into executive session, at 3:37pm, for implementation applications review was offered Marli Rupe, seconded by David Marvin and all were in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session, at 4:00pm, was made by David Marvin, seconded by Karen Freeman, and all were in favor.

A motion was made to award the following implementation grants, at 4:00pm, by David Marvin, seconded by Colleen Goodridge, and all were in favor.

<b>Implementation Grant Award Recommendations:</b>		
Karie Atherton	Aires Hill Farm Inc	\$6,000
Ashlyn Bristle	Rebop Farm	\$6,000
Marc Cesario	Meeting Place Pastures/The Perennial Grazing Co.	\$4,126.23
Heidi Choate	Small Axe Farm	\$6,000
George Sawyer	Sawyer Made	\$4,000
Tyler Webb	Stony Pond Farm	\$6,000
Jon Wagner	Bear Roots Farm	\$4,800
Richard Shurtleff	Maple Valley Farm	\$6,000
Chad Beckwith	Ice House Farm	\$6,000
Valerie Woodhouse	Honey Field Farm	\$4,000

Abbie Corse abstained from voting on Rebop, Stony Pond, Meeting Place Pastures, and Bear Roots farms, due to personal relationships with farm owners.

Diane Bothfeld ended the meeting at 4:02pm.