

**Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program**

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

**DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, March 16th, 2023**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: Nina Gage (facilitator and chair, sitting in for Ryan Patch), Colleen Goodridge, Joshua Faulkner, Sarah Isham, Marli Rupe, Alli Lewis, Amy Richardson, Trey Martin (sitting in for Gus Seelig)

VHCB staff present: Liz Gleason, Betsy McGavisk, Holly McClintock, Jillian Conner

At 9:34am, Nina Gage opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made.

Trey Martin moved to adopt the agenda, Marli Rupe seconded. All were in favor.

A motion to approve minutes from the March 8th, 2022 grant review committee meeting was made by Colleen Goodridge and seconded by Joshua Faulkner. Trey Martin and Amy Richardson abstained due to absence from the March 8th meeting. All were in favor.

Liz Gleason introduced the grant review process. 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.

Nina Gage called for public comment at 9:42am. No public comment was made.

At 9:43am, Marli Rupe made a motion to enter executive session to review applications. Trey Martin seconded the motion. All were in favor.

At 12:27, Marli Rupe motioned to end executive session, Sarah Isham seconded. All were in favor.

At 12:28 Trey Martin motioned to approve the slate, Sarah Isham seconded. All were in favor, with Marli Rupe abstaining from voting on Fern Hill Farm and Joshua Faulkner abstaining from Jeff Sanders VI LLC. The slate in the table below was approved, with a funding total of \$755,041.50 awarded to 22 farm businesses.

Boyden Farm	No-Till Planter with Banding Fertilizer System	\$ 40,000.00
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Bridgemanview Farm	Feed Bunk	\$ 40,000.00
Bryce Farm Inc	Silage Bunk, Barnyard, and Lined Pit	\$ 40,000.00
Cornerstone Dairy LLC	Manure Injection System	\$ 40,000.00
Four Girls Dairy	Hay Merger	\$ 40,000.00
John & Tammy Thibeault	Waste Storage Structure	\$ 40,000.00
L.F. Hurtubise and Sons INC	Dragline System	\$ 40,000.00
McGarry Dairy	Silage Drainage	\$ 30,175.00
Morin Farm	NRCS Manure Storage	\$ 40,000.00
Nelson Farms VT LLC	No-till Drill	\$ 21,080.68
Rainville Bros. Dairy LLC	Feed Storage Pad	\$ 40,000.00
Richville Farms	Replacement Hoop Barn	\$ 40,000.00
Riverview Dairy, LLC	Feed Storage	\$ 40,000.00

Rogers Farmstead	Composting Manure Storage Barn	\$ 40,000.00
Sanders VI LLC	Cover Cropping Equipment	\$ 40,000.00
Sawmill Brook Farm	Covered Barnyard/ Manure Storage	\$ 40,000.00
Shadagee Farm	Manure Loading Modifications	\$ 15,125.00
SVTFarm	Winter Livestock Shelter and Compost Site	\$ 17,009.00
Sykes hollow land and livestock	Organic Fertilizer Equipment	\$ 11,651.82
Sylvain Farm LLC	Manure Management System	\$ 40,000.00
Taconic End Dairy	Taconic End Dairy Bedded Pack	\$ 25,000.00
Wolf Ridge Dairy	No Till Drill	\$ 35,000.00

Sarah Isham motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:29. Seconded by Trey Martin. All were in favor.

Notes submitted by Betsy McGavisk and Jillian Conner.