

**Vermont Conservation Strategy Initiative - Agriculture Working Group  
Meeting #2, January 10, 2024, 11 am – 1 pm on Zoom**

**\*Use link below to register in advance of the meeting\*:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdu-uzq4iGdV3lax\\_tfZg5c2nhwqHOODG](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpdu-uzq4iGdV3lax_tfZg5c2nhwqHOODG)

**11:00 – 11:10: Introductions – Names, Organization, Role**

**11:10 – 11:30: Review Group Mandate and Roles (Stacy Cibula and Zoraya Hightower)**

*Group Mandate: Develop criteria to determine the types of conserved agricultural lands that will qualify as supporting and restoring biodiversity, and therefore count towards the natural resource management area category. If time allows, provide feedback on other aspects of the Conserved Land Inventory that are relevant to meeting the goals and vision of Act 59 as it relates to agriculture and the conservation of agricultural lands.*

**11:30 – 11:40: Group Agreements and Conservation Logistics (10 minutes) (Stacy Cibula)**

**11:40 – 12:15: Review and discussion of Act 59 Definitions, Vision and Goals, and Conserved land Inventory (Stacy Cibula)**

*\*Before the meeting, please review Act 59. We recommend that you focus your review on those portions of the legislation that you feel are relevant to the Group Mandate described above.*

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT059/ACT059%20As%20Enacted.pdf>

**12:15 – 12:20: Break**

**12:20 – 12:55: Overview of Farmland Conservation in Vermont (trends, stats, what tools do we use?) (Isaac Bissell, VHCB)**

*\*Before the meeting, please review Agricultural Conservation Easement Template (sent with agenda)*

**12:55 – 1:00: Recap and Next Steps:**

*Next meeting – January 24<sup>th</sup> from 11 to 1 on Zoom*

## RESOURCES

**Agriculture Working Group Google Drive Folder:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jwZ-V-rzfndHIAsDzKfBat-lj-lpfC8Q>

**Vermont Conservation Strategy Initiative Website:**

<https://vhcb.org/our-programs/VCSI>

For more information on the Ag Working Group: email co-chairs: Stacy Cibula at [s.cibula@vhcb.org](mailto:s.cibula@vhcb.org) or Ryan Patch at [ryan.patch@vermont.gov](mailto:ryan.patch@vermont.gov).

For more information on public participation, stipends, or the overall VT Conservation Strategy Initiative process, email Zoraya Hightower at [zhightower@nature4justice.org](mailto:zhightower@nature4justice.org).