

**VERMONT HOUSING & CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Viability Grant Review Committee Meeting  
Vermont Realtors Association Conference Room, 148 State Street, Montpelier**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**January 25, 2019**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: David Marvin (chair), Bob Baird, Alyson Eastman, Sarah Isham, Marli Rupe, Hannah Sessions, Susie Walsh-Daloz (1:15 to 3:15pm), and Obe Racicot (by phone, 1:15 to 3:15pm)

VHCB staff present: Ela Chapin, Nancy Everhart, Katie Michels, Gus Seelig, Jen Hollar (from 3:10-3:30pm)

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At 1:15 pm, David Marvin opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made. Ela Chapin and Katie Michels outlined the meeting's agenda and provided an overview of the Water Quality Grant and Dairy Improvement Grant applications received this round. This review committee's role is to provide funding recommendations to the VHCB board, and the VHCB board chair must review and finalize funding recommendations.

Motion to approve minutes from the October 18, 2018 grant review committee meeting. Sarah Isham moved to accept the minutes, Bob Baird seconded, and all were in favor.

At 1:20 pm, David Marvin opened the floor for public comment. No public comment made.

Motion to go into executive session, at 1:22 pm, for applications review made by Hannah Sessions, seconded by Bob Baird, and all were in favor.

Motion to come out of executive session at 3:07 pm was made by Bob Baird, seconded by Hannah Sessions, and all were in favor.

Hannah Sessions made the motion to recommend the following Water Quality Grant awards to the VHCB Board, motion was seconded by Sarah Isham and approved unanimously.

**Water Quality Grant award recommendations:**

- |                             |                           |                                |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Greg & Jennifer Bouchard  | Bouchard Family Dairy     | \$0, reallocate existing grant |
| • Kylie & Jeremy Chittenden | Richville Farms           | \$0                            |
| • Joe & Emily Donegan       | Donegan Family Dairy      | \$8,500                        |
| • George Foster             | Foster Brothers Farm Inc. | \$40,000                       |
| • Niko & Lianna Horster     | Broad Acres Farm          | \$11,500                       |
| • Misty-Anne Koloski        | Misty Meadows Farm        | defer                          |
| • Rich & Cynthia Larson     | Larson Farm and Creamery  | defer                          |
| • Seth & Brian Leach        | Woodlawn Holsteins        | \$15,000                       |
| • Phelan & Kelsey O'Connor  | Pigagus Meats             | \$40,000                       |

- Hadley & Mike Stock                      Pink Boot Farm                      defer
- Kelly & Mark Stone                      St. Rocks Farm                      \$0

The applications from Misty Meadows Farm, Larson Farm and Creamery, and Pink Boot Farm were deferred for a future round. The farmers will be invited to resubmit their application for consideration in the next Water Quality Grant round, to provide time to review updates on project engineering, budget, and scope, or for farmers to consider other better-fit grant programs at the request of the review committee.

At 3:09pm a special request from Marc and Cheryl Cesario (Meeting Place Pastures) for additional funds for a recent grant award due to increased project costs was discussed. Bob Baird moved, and Sarah Isham seconded, a motion to not award any additional funds to their project.

At 3:14pm, Susie Walsh Daloz moved to go back into executive session to continue discussing grant applications, Hannah Sessions seconded, and all approved. The committee considered the Fisk-Haines Farm and Chimney Point Farm applications, both of which had come in as requests for Water Quality Grants, as a better fit for Dairy Improvement Grant funds.

At 3:15pm, Susie Walsh Daloz and Obe Racicot left the meeting.

Motion to come out of executive session at 3:28 pm was made by Bob Baird, seconded by Sarah Isham, and all approved.

Bob Baird made the motion to recommend the following awards using Dairy Improvement Grant funds to the VHCB Board, motion was seconded by Marli Rupe and approved unanimously. David Marvin abstained from the vote on B & T Black Creek Farms.

**Dairy Improvement Grant award recommendations:**

- Kylie & Jeremy Chittenden                      Richville Farms                      \$0
- Hilda & Steve Haines                      Fisk-Haines Farm LLC                      \$40,000
- Thomas Howrigan                      B & T Black Creek Farms                      \$40,000
- David Manning                      Manning Dairy LLC                      \$33,684
- Peter Smith                      Chimney Point Farm LP                      \$40,000

Sarah Isham moved to adjourn at 3:30pm. Seconded by Hannah Sessions, and unanimously approved.

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Minutes submitted by Katie Michels