

**VERMONT HOUSING & CONSERVATION BOARD**

**Viability Grant Review Committee Meeting  
Vermont Economic Development Assn., 58 East State Street, Montpelier**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**April 30, 2019**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: David Marvin (Chair), Bob Baird, Diane Bothfeld, Sarah Isham, Jill Arace (2:27 to 3:47pm), Alyson Eastman (by phone, 1:09-2:27 pm), and Obe Racicot (by phone, 1:15 to 3:15pm)

VHCB staff present: Ela Chapin, Nancy Everhart (from 1:09 to 3:30 pm), Liz Gleason (from 1:09 to 2:00 pm) Katie Michels, Ethan Parke (from 2:30 to 3:47pm), Gus Seelig (from 1:40 to 3:00pm)

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At 1:09 pm, David Marvin opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made.

Diane Bothfeld moved to approve minutes from the January 29, 2019 grant review committee meeting. Bob Baird seconded, and all were in favor.

At 1:10 pm, David Marvin opened the floor for public comment. No public comment 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 and available funding. 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. David Marvin reminded the group that all applications contain proprietary and confidential information and information from application materials should not be discussed outside of the meeting.

A motion to go into executive session, at 1:16 pm, for applications review was offered by Sarah Isham, seconded by Diane Bothfeld, and all were in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session at 3:43 pm was made by Diane Bothfeld, seconded by Sarah Isham, and all were in favor.

Diane Bothfeld made a motion to recommend the following Water Quality and Dairy Improvement Grant awards to the VHCB Board. The motion was seconded by Bob Baird and approved unanimously. David Marvin abstained from the vote on HJ&A Howrigan and Sons, Inc. Sarah Isham disclosed that a number of farms have loans with VEDA/VACC.

| <b>Water Quality Grant award recommendations:</b> |                                 |                                    |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joseph, Claudia & Rebecca Allen                   | Allendale Farm LLC              | \$40,000                           |
| Andy & Jennifer Andrews                           | JASA Family Farm                | \$40,000                           |
| Ernest, Eugene & Earl Audet                       | Blue Spruce Farm Inc.           | \$40,000                           |
| Amerigo & Jill Balzano                            | Walnut Hill Farm                | \$20,000                           |
| Pete Decker and Tina Durrance                     | New Venture Farm                | \$40,000                           |
| Lyle & Kitty Edwards and<br>Sebastien Latraverse  | Spring Brook Dairy              | \$40,000                           |
| Logan, Bradley & Gigi Judd                        | Judd Dairy LLC                  | precommit \$40K<br>with conditions |
| Misty-Anne Koloski                                | Misty Meadows Farm              | \$40,000                           |
| Rich & Cynthia Larson                             | Larson Farm and Creamery        | precommit \$40K<br>with conditions |
| George & Robert Lawson                            | Cornerstone Dairy LLC           | \$0                                |
| Seth & Brian Leach                                | Woodlawn Holsteins LLC          | \$25,000                           |
| Adam & Joanna Lidback                             | The Farm at Wheeler Mountain    | precommit \$22K                    |
| Alison, Paul & Kari Lussier                       | Lussier Dairy at Lone Pine Farm | \$0                                |
| Pat Saltis  | Saltis Farm Inc.                | precommit \$40K                    |
| Larry and Peggy Hewes Scott                       | Ekolott Farm                    | Application<br>withdrawn           |
| Nate & Joe Severy                                 | Severy Farm LLC                 | \$40,000                           |
| Art and Dave Seward                               | Seward Farm                     | \$40,000                           |

| <b>Dairy Improvement Grant Recommendations</b> |                                |                                    |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Joseph Allen                                   | Allendale Farm LLC             | \$0                                |
| Sam Bellavance                                 | Sunset Lake Farm, LLC #2       | \$39,000                           |
| Harold Howrigan                                | HJ & A Howrigan and Sons, Inc. | \$8,181.40 WQG;<br>\$31,808.60 DIG |
| Matthew Laroche                                | Laroche Dairy and Son, LLC     | \$0                                |
| George and Robert Lawson                       | Cornerstone Dairy, LLC         | \$0                                |

|                           |                               |          |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| Jacques and Roberta Royer | J&R Family Farm, LLC          | \$40,000 |
| Ron Sweet                 | Bedrock Farm                  | \$0      |
| John and Tammy Thibeault  | John and Tammy Thibeault Farm | \$0      |
| Patti and Brian Wilson    | Morningside Farm              | \$10,000 |

The application from Lussier Dairy at Lone Pine Farm was deferred. The farmers will be invited to resubmit their application for consideration in a future Water Quality Grant round, once they explore whether NRCS or BMP funding sources can support the project and develop engineering plans for the proposed structure.

Four applications were funded with a pre-commitment of funds from FY20: Judd, Larson, Lidback, and Saltis. All four applications are contingent upon VHCB's receiving funds for this program again in FY20, or funds becoming available from decommitments from other funded projects from past rounds.

The applications from Judd Farm LLC and Larson Farm & Creamery were approved with an additional condition: the farm needs to provide an updated project description and budget that illustrates what VHCB funds will pay for by June 30, 2019. If the farms are unable to provide that information by June 30<sup>th</sup>, the farms will need to reapply in a subsequent water quality grant round this fall.

The Andrews application is contingent on the farmer demonstrating that they are paying for a minimum of 1% of the final project cost through a combination of cash and/or in-kind labor.

Morningside Farm's application is contingent on receipt of a letter from Organic Valley confirming that they can divert a portion of their milk for this new enterprise, as well as a review of their business and marketing plan by an external business advisor.

The meeting ended at 3:47pm.

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Minutes submitted by Katie Michels