

VERMONT HOUSING & CONSERVATION BOARD

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

DRAFT MINUTES

January 31, 2020

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: David Marvin (Chair), Abbie Corse, Andy Wood, Colleen Goodridge, Marli Rupe, Jess Buckley, Gus Seelig, Diane Bothfeld (arrived at 10:14am); and Jeff Carter, Marie Audet and Jason Fleury by phone

VHCB staff present: Ela Chapin, Nancy Everhart, Katie Michels, Ashia Gallo, and Ethan Parke

At 10:08am, David Marvin opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made.

A motion to approve minutes from the April 30, 2019 grant review committee meeting was made and seconded. All were in favor.

Ela Chapin introduced the grant outreach process at 10:09.

David Marvin called for public comment at 10:13am. No public comment was made.

David Marvin and Ela Chapin reminded the group that all applications contain proprietary and confidential information and information from application materials should not be discussed outside of the meeting.

Katie Michels outlined the meeting's agenda and provided an overview of the Water Quality 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.

A motion to go into executive session, at 10:13am, for applications review was offered by Abbie Corse, Marie Audet seconded and all were in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session at 11:43am was made by Abbie Corse, seconded by Marli Rupe, and all were in favor.

Diane Bothfeld made a motion to recommend the following Water Quality Grant awards to the VHCB Board. The motion was seconded by Abbie Corse and approved.

Jeff Carter disclosed that he is related to the Audy family and abstained from the vote on Audy Farms LLC; Marie Audet abstained from the vote on Maple Cedar View; Diane Bothfeld abstained from the vote on Clifford Farm, and Andy Wood abstained from the votes on Pinello Farm and Lambert Farm.

Water Quality Grant Award Recommendations:		
Dave, Donald, & Peter Bartholomew	Bartholomew Brothers Inc.	\$40,000
Greg & Jennifer Bouchard	Bouchard Family Dairy	defer
Corie Pierce & Brandon Bless	Bread and Butter Farm	\$40,000
John E. Forgues	Rusty John Farm	\$40,000
Jeffrey, Keith, Carol, & Jonathan Audy	Audy Farms LLC	\$40,000
Dale C. & Alma Briggs	Briggs, Dale C. & Alma M.I.	\$33,147
Eric & Jane Clifford	Clifford Farm	\$16,497
Marcel, Gaetane, Matthew, & Steven Patenaude	Maple Cedar View	\$35,616
Frank & David Pinello	Pinello Family Farm	\$15,800
Phil, Diane, Mark, & Philip Livingston	Rail View Dairy	\$40,000
Ben & Hilary Haigh	Rolling Bale Farm	\$39,147
Paul & Frances Stone	Stonewood Farm	\$40,000
Chelsea & Keith Sprague	Sprague Ranch LLC	\$40,000
George & Marcia Hollister	Dry Brook Farm	\$6,217
George, Robert, Jim, Jeremy, & Mark Foster and Heather Foster-Provencher	Foster Brothers Farm	\$40,000
Ronnie & Carol Sweet	Bedrock Farm	\$0
Jennifer & Jesse Lambert	Lambert Farm	\$0
Hadley & Mike Stock	Pink Boot Farm	\$0
Jennifer Alexander	Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation	defer
Ethan Gevry	Champlain Valley Farm	defer

Awards were recommended with the following conditions:

- Rolling Bale Farm's application is contingent on the farm securing technical assistance about how to manage a bedded pack system and a professional engineer's review of the barn, foundation, and site to ensure proper engineering and RAP compliance.
- Sprague Ranch's project needs to be reviewed by a professional engineer to ensure proper engineering and RAP compliance.
- Foster Brothers' application is contingent on VAAFMs approval of this equipment as a solution to the farm's water quality issues.
- Dry Brook Farm's covered barnyard was approved, but the manure stacking pad was denied due to low water quality impact.
- The application from Clifford Farm will be funded with Dairy Improvement Grant funds because the project will have positive impacts on overall dairy farm viability and allow the farm to innovate.

A motion to adjourn was made by Abbie Corse, seconded by Diane Bothfeld, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:43am.

Minutes submitted by Ashia Gallo