

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

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

**DRAFT MINUTES
Monday, March 11th, 2024**

Viability Grant Review Committee Members present: Ryan Patch (facilitator and chair), Travis Thomason (non-voting member), Joshua Faulkner, Sarah Isham, Marli Rupe, Alli Lewis, Amy Richardson, Calley Hastings (designee for Gus Seelig)

VHCB Staff Present: Liz Gleason, Betsy McGavisk, Jillian Conner, & Calley Hastings

At 9:35am, Ryan Patch opened the meeting. Brief introductions were made.

A motion to approve minutes from the March 16th, 2023 grant review committee meeting was made by Sarah Isham and seconded by Joshua Faulkner. All were in favor. Motion passed at 9:43am.

Liz Gleason introduced the grant review process. Betsy McGavisk provided an overview of this year's review process, number of applications, and available funding.

Ryan Patch called for public comment at 9:51am. No public comment was made.

At 9:52am, Marli Rupe made a motion to enter executive session to review applications. Sarah Isham seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Executive session began at 9:43am.

At 12:41, Sarah Isham motioned to end executive session, Joshua Faulkner seconded. All were in favor.

At 12:45, Sarah Isham motioned to approve the slate, Amy Richardson seconded. All were in favor. The slate in the table below was approved, with a funding total of \$807,626.00 awarded to 21 farm businesses.

Applicant Name	Project Name	Recommended Funding Amount
McKnight Farm LLC	Manure Storage Structure	\$50,000.00
Grass Cattle Company LLC	Bedded pack Facility	\$50,000.00

Sunday Bell Farm	Covered Dairy Cattle Barnyard, Feed Bunk, and Manure Storage	\$50,000.00
Clair-A-Den Farm	NRCS Waste Storage & Bedded Pack	\$50,000.00
Mailles Dairy LLC	No-till Grain drill	\$6,400.00
Ethan Illingworth Farm	manure stack pad, waste transfer area and roof runoff structure	\$50,000.00
Lindstrom Farm	NCRS Waste Storage Facility	\$50,000.00
Allendale Farm LLC	NRCS stack pad & scrape alley, WSF perimeter fencing, & access road	\$50,000.00
Alan & Karen Bathalon	Waste Storage Facility	\$50,000.00
Choquette Dairy LLC	Manure Injector Toolbar	\$12,000.00
von Trapp Farmstead	Bedded Pack Barnyard Expansion	\$50,000.00
Robeth Holsteins LLC	Covered Barnyard Expansion	\$50,000.00
Seize the Day Farm	Hoop Barn	\$17,226.00
Miller Farm Inc.	Concrete Manure Pit & Pump	\$50,000.00
Kennland Farms LLC	Yetter Refresher/strip builder	DEFER - \$40,000
Bobolink Farm LLC	Covered Winter Barnyard	\$43,000.00
Critter Meadows Farm	Barn roof gutter cleaner	\$43,000.00
Manning Dairy, LLC	Manure Injection Drag Line System	\$25,000.00
Hillside Homestead	Covered Barnyard and Bedded Pack	\$43,000.00
Breezy Acres Farm	Bedded Pack	\$43,000.00
Cornerstone Dairy LLC	Manure Injection Hose	\$25,000.00

Motion to adjourn by Josh, all in favor, 12:46pm.

Notes submitted by Betsy McGavisk and Jillian Conner