

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board
Finance Committee Meeting
MINUTES
Friday, June 20, 2025
9:30am
Meeting by ZOOM Conference Call

Attending:

Board Committee Members: (remote) Neil Mickenberg, Dave Marvin, Clarence Davis, Billy Coster

Staff attending: Brenda Riddle, John Grosvenor, Christy Velau, Bonnie Woodford, Trey Martin, Pollaidh Major, Christopher Baning, Anna Foltz, Francis Sharpstene, Gus Seelig

FY25 End of Year Financial Report

Christopher went over where we are expecting to end FY2025 and what surplus is anticipated. He went over the operating budget and explained budget lines both savings and overages. \$1.7m anticipated surplus due to increased interest income as well as operations savings.

Recommended Resolution

1. FY25 Trust Fund Surplus

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board authorize the following actions regarding the projected FY25 Trust Fund surplus:

Maintain the Unrestricted Reserve Fund Balance at a level equivalent to approximately 10 weeks of operating expenses. This is an increase from 8 weeks in previous years. The change has increased the Reserve from \$750,000 to \$900,000. Considering current federal funding volatility, this was considered a prudent option.

Allocate \$58,066 to the Systems Improvement Reserve, bringing the fund to its \$175,000 target level.

Allocate \$16,921.85 to the Professional Development Reserve.

Apply the remaining surplus to FY26 Housing and Conservation Project Target Allocations.

FY2026 Budget Revision Resolution

Due to losses in the amount of Federal Funding the FY2026 Budget requires update. Added \$5million additional awarded through the legislature towards housing. Discussion around whether there are any additional steps VHCB can take to protect in the event losing more Federal Funds. The next program funds we are concerned about is NRCS funds.

Discussion around whether there is concern about staffing levels going forward with funding changes.

FY2026 Budget Revision Resolution:

2. The Committee recommends the full Board adopt the Revised FY26 Budget in the amount of \$72.1m and Operations budget at \$8,220,964.

TA and Feasibility Recapitalization:

3. TA & Feasibility Recommended Resolution:

To recapitalize VHCB's feasibility and technical assistance pools for the housing and conservation programs as follow:

Housing Technical Assistance, Pool No. 1930-002-000: \$75,000

Housing Feasibility, Pool No. 1946-002-000: \$150,000

Conservation Technical Assistance, Pool No. 1930-003-000: \$75,000

Conservation Feasibility, Pool No. 1946-003-000

NRCS Reserve Set Aside:

4. NRCS Resolution

The Finance Committee recommends that the Board reserve \$2.5 million in FY25 Trust funds to be used in place of NRCS funds for Board-approved farm projects, should we learn that NRCS funds are not available for said projects.

Neil made the motion to approve the Allocation of FY25 Surplus & Revised FY26 Budget & TA Feasibility Recapitalization, NRCS reserve. Billy seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Roll Call

Neil Mickenberg - Yes

David Marvin – Yes

Billy Coster – Yes

Clarence Davis - Yes

Conservation Stewardship Fund discussion

Discussing whether setting some funding aside into VCF for future stewardship needs is appropriate. Finance Committee wants more information regarding fees and return of investment. Staff will continue to research options and take to Conservation Issues Committee for deeper discussion. Gus says the goal will be to have a recommendation to the Board for fall 2025.

Adjourn:10:26am