

WLEB/VAFPDB Restructure

Proposed Structure – January 20, 2015

The proposal below represents the consensus of the two boards, coming out of three months of drafting and discussion. Our goal is to create the institutional structure for interaction between the policy development and investment to better serve Working Lands businesses.

Statutory Committees: The Board would allocate its work between two core functions, performed through two standing committees --

- (a) Policy Development – serves an advisory role to the three state agencies and the legislature on issues impacting the working landscape
- (b) Investment and Grant Making – attracts and distributes funding to promote growth and viability of Vermont’s working lands businesses

A Board member could serve on more than one committee. Issue-specific work groups may be formed that could include members from outside of the Board.

Board Membership:

State Agency Representatives (full voting members):

- Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation
- Secretary of Commerce and Community Development

Citizen Representatives (full voting members):

Four representatives of the Forest Sector, which may include:

- One member who is a consulting forester (private sector)
- One member who is actively engaged in primary wood processing (e.g. milling) or logging
- One member who is actively engaged in wood products manufacturing
- One member who is a working forest landowner

Four representatives of the Ag Sector, which may include:

- One member who is a dairy farmer
- One member involved in production agriculture whose primary enterprise is not fluid milk
- One member who is actively engaged in on-farm value-added processing
- One member who is actively engaged in manufacturing and/or distribution of Vermont agricultural products.

Ag/Forest:

- One member who is actively engaged in maple production

Cross-Sector:

- A person with expertise in sales, marketing and/or market development.
- An agriculture and forestry enterprise funder.
- An employee of a Vermont institution engaged in agriculture and/or forestry education, training and/or research.
- A person with expertise in land planning and conservation efforts that support Vermont's working landscape.
- A person with expertise in rural economic development

Non-Voting members:

- The manager of the Vermont Economic Development Authority or designee;
- The executive director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund or designee; and
- The executive director of the Vermont Housing Conservation Board or designee.

Leadership: The Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets (or designee) would serve as Chair. The Vice Chair would be elected from among the citizen members of the Board. The Vice Chair would also serve as Chair of the Policy Committee

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