

# VERMONT AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION

## Minutes

October 30, 2020

A video conferencing meeting of the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation (VACC) convened on October 30, 2020 beginning at 11:16 a.m. Those Directors of the Corporation present via Zoom conferencing were: T. Gallagher, Chair; S. Voigt; T. Foster; J. Goldstein (designee for L. Kurrle); T. Collier; R. Shippee; A. Gagner; D. Kurzman; D. Kittell; A. Eastman (designee for A. Tebbetts); E. Delhagen (designee for J. Tierney); L. Graves and B. Pearce. Staff present via Zoom in VEDA's Montpelier office: K. Kilpatrick, Administrative Assistant. Staff members present via Zoom conferencing were: C. Polhemus, President; P. Samson, Vice President; T. Richardson, Treasurer; S. Isham, Secretary; R. Grzankowski, Assistant Secretary; C. Houchens, Chief Risk and Resource Officer; T. Porter, Director of Commercial Lending; Senior Loan Officers: S. Croft; J. Conklin; A. Wood; E. Denny and S. Buckley; Loan Officers: C. Leonard; E. Paradee E. Hall and M. Corbett; C. Blais, Commercial Credit Analyst and C. Morris, Communications Manager. Those Directors present constituted a quorum.

### Minutes of September 25, 2020

On a motion by T. Collier, seconded by T. Foster, the minutes for the September 25, 2020 meeting were approved by those Directors of the Corporation present by a vote of 12 to 0 with the Chair abstaining.

### Agricultural Update

A. Eastman began with an update to the COVID-19 related grant funds noting there are openings and applications will be received through the middle of November. To date 684 grants have been awarded through the dairy program, totaling over \$14 million, including grants for both dairy processors and producers. 112 grants have been awarded through the Working Lands Program, totaling \$2.6 million of the \$7 million requested. A. Eastman indicated the dairy innovations grants will be starting soon.

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Next, T. Foster remarked government programs have helped in the dairy sector. A. Eastman agreed, noting that tax planning will be very important this year.

Credit Risk Classification Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter FY2021

P. Samson reviewed the Credit Risk Classification Report recommendations for the VACC loan portfolio for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of FY2021 (ended September 30, 2020) which included recommended loan loss reserves in the amount of \$2,293,100.

After discussion regarding the reserves and changes recommended thereto, on a motion by T. Foster, seconded by S. Voigt, the recommendations were approved by those Members of the Authority present by a vote of 12 to 0 with the Chair abstaining

Election of Officers

T. Gallagher presented the following slate of officers:

President:	Cassandra F. Polhemus
Vice President:	Peter F. Samson
Treasurer:	Thaddeus G. Richardson
Secretary:	Sarah C. Isham
Assistant Secretary:	Renee Grzankowski Heidi van Gulden Jennifer Pinsonneault

On a motion by T. Collier, seconded by T. Foster, the following resolution was approved by those Directors of the Corporation present by a vote of 12 to 0 with the Chair abstaining.

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following officers be and hereby are elected:

President:	Cassandra F. Polhemus
Vice President:	Peter F. Samson
Treasurer:	Thaddeus G. Richardson
Secretary:	Sarah C. Isham
Assistant Secretary:	Renee Grzankowski Heidi van Gulden Jennifer Pinsonneault

Elysian Fields, LLC and Joseph B., Kathleen R. and Tirzah HescocK– Shoreham – Farm Ownership Loan – \$349,000

E. Hall explained Elysian Fields, LLC (EF), it's Members Joseph B. and Kathleen R. HescocK and their adult daughter Tirzah HescocK request a \$349,000 VACC Farm Ownership Loan to finance the purchase of 63.3± acres of land and the buildings thereon known as the Nancy Field Property, located at 4612 Route 74W, Shoreham, Vermont. The loan will be secured by a mortgage lien on several parcels of land and the buildings thereon owned by Joseph B. and Kathleen R. HescocK, located in Shoreham, Vermont. The proposed VACC Farm Ownership Loan will also be secured by a security interest in all of the Borrower's now owned or hereafter acquired Project machinery and equipment (solar arrays), including but not limited to all replacements, substitutions, accessories, accessions and parts and all products and proceeds thereof and insurance proceeds thereof. Collateral assignment of the Act 248 Certificate of Public Good, the Interconnection Agreement with Green Mountain Power, Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) Agreement with Catamount Solar, LLC., Borrower's interest in all other Warranty and Operation and Maintenance Agreements with Catamount Solar, LLC and all other contracts involved in constructing, operating, monitoring, and maintaining the Project facilities including the system production guarantee, land and buildings lease between Joseph B. and Kathleen R. HescocK and EF, and land and buildings lease between Elysian Fields Ag Land, LLC and EF. Security interest in Borrower's milk and all products and proceeds thereof.

After discussion regarding interest rate, on a motion by T. Collier, seconded by T. Foster, the above loan request was approved by those Directors of the Corporation present by a vote of 12 to 0 with the Chair abstaining.

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Staff Authority – Loan Approvals

Pursuant to a Resolution adopted by the Directors of the Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation at the July 29, 2016 meeting, Staff has approved the following loans since the last VACC meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Loan Amount</u>
Huntington Farm, LLC (to be formed); Clemens, Skylar G. and Six, Sloane R.	South Strafford	\$722,500
Garceau, Greg W. and Julie A.	St. Albans	Loan 1: \$233,000 Loan 2: \$ 59,000
Lepesqueur, Benjamin K.; Westbrook, Lorelei K.	Enosburg	\$ 38,500
Cannavida LLC; Nohl, Erin B. and Colin R.	Waterbury	Loan 1: \$293,250 Loan 2: \$ 14,000
Ploughgate Creamery, LLC; LLC to be formed; Mauro, Marisa R.	Fayston	\$360,000
Lunar Hill Icelandics LLC; Meyer, Jana and Hoyt, Rodney J.	Bridgewater	\$220,000
Rooney, Francis W., Delia A. and Paul	Enosburg Falls	\$137,400

Staff Authority – Other Business

Staff presented the Directors with the Internal Other Business memo.

Staff Authority – Loan Denial

Staff presented the Directors with the Internal Loan Denials.

There being no other business to properly come before the Corporation, on a motion by L. Graves, seconded by A. Eastman, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

ATTEST:

Vermont Agricultural Credit Corporation



By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cassandra F. Polhemus, President