

CFED - Vermont -- March 17, 2008 9:30am - 4:00pm
VTC Campus, Rm. 215, Adm Bldg.,
201 Lawrence Place, Williston, Vermont

DRAFT AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00 Opening Business

Introductions as needed
Minutes from February 4, 2008 Meeting
Report from the Chair
Report from the Snelling Center
Financial Report - Finance Committee
Goals of the Meeting:

10:30-noon Presentations from the Agriculture and Forestry Sectors

Chris Bailey, General Manager, Vermont Smoke & Cure, South Barre
Tom Stearns, CEO, High Mowing Seeds, Wolcott
Ben Machin, Redstart Forestry, Corinth
Mark Burzynski, COO, Copeland Furniture, Bradford
Ellen Kahler, Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Montpelier

Areas of focus for discussion:

- Overview of business and activities
- What are the key components of today's agriculture and forestry economy?
- What are Vermont's strengths in agriculture and forestry, and what are points of strategic leverage?
- What are Vermont's weaknesses or challenges in agriculture and forestry?
- In what areas or circumstances do Vermont's economy and economic development policy appear to be successful in agriculture and forestry, and why?
- Conversely, in what areas or circumstances do Vermont's economy and economic development policy appear to have been less successful or unsuccessful in agriculture and forestry, and why?
- How can we measure the outcomes of our public policies as they effect agriculture and forestry?

Noon - 12:45 Lunch - continued discussion with guests

12:45-1:30 Commission review of input from presentation and discussion of how it plays against the draft vision and goals; what did we learn; what was not addressed that we still need to know.
- Evaluation of input process

1:30 - 3:00 Public Input/Public Outreach: What is expected of us?
Format and process; Locations; Sign-up; Regional outreach
Public Outreach/Public Input – Commission Discussion

3:00-3:30 Related activities:
-Report on activities, information and initiatives from the legislative session

3:30- 4:00 Agenda for next meetings - April 21; May 19

Presenters:

Chris Bailey, General Manager, Vermont Smoke & Cure, South Barre

<http://www.vermontfresh.net/member.php?ID=1237>

VSC was founded as 45+ year old Vermont smokehouse crafting world-class products. They spun out from the Farmers Diner in 1996. VSC is a fast grow specialty foods company (revenues tripled in the last two years) and can be considered a key piece of VT agricultural infrastructure, providing smoking services to Vermont's local farmers, in addition to promoting their own brands. The Company has a dual mission of helping to support agriculture in Vermont by providing value-added services for meats and supporting farmers' ability to go to market with their products. They are currently in expansion mode, looking to expand from 3,300 sf facility to 12,000 sf facility and their goal is to become the premium NE regional smokehouse. Chris Bailey spent 7 years full time farming, including 3 as nonprofit executive director. He graduated from Cornell with an MBA (focus in brand management) and has 5 years consulting, marketing, general management experience, including USDA processing facility.

Tom Stearns, CEO, High Mowing Seeds, Wolcott

<http://www.highmowingseeds.com/>

Tom has been active in the state on organic certification efforts in addition to running a national seed company with a primary client base of major growers (not home gardeners). He has helped develop an agriculture-based network of businesses in the greater Hardwick area (some 24) that meet regularly to provide mutual support and information. One project emerging out of this collaborative is a possible Agro-Ecological Industrial park. A formal proposal has been advanced. Tom moved to Vermont at 18 from Connecticut seeking farming opportunities.

Ben Machin, Redstart Forestry, Corinth

Redstart Forestry (www.redstartconsulting.com) is a consulting forestry firm based in Corinth, with 600 private clients (70,000 acres) under management. Redstart also provides forestry services – with support and cooperation from USFS State and Private – to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont. Redstart is managing an innovative pilot project that is aggregating a supply of Vermont grown, FSC certified wood, having it milled at a Vermont mill, then having it go to a Vermont furniture manufacturer who will produce a new line of furniture using this tracked wood. Ben is a Vermont native and a graduate of UVM RSENR master's program in forestry.

Mark Burzynski, COO, Copeland Furniture, Bradford

<http://www.copelandfurniture.com/>

100 employees, are located in Bradford and FSC certified as a company. Working with VSJF on the Vermont grown, FSC certified line of furniture as a future strategic advantage for wood products manufacturing in VT if it is to survive in a competitive global environment.

Ellen Kahler, Director, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, Montpelier

<http://www.vsjf.org/>

The Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund was created by the Vermont Legislature to identify and fund market driven solutions to our pressing economic, social, and environmental issues. VSJF's grant-making and technical assistance programs support innovative enterprises and business networks. Our current efforts focus on the intersection between the biofuels / renewable energy, sustainable forestry and agricultural sectors. We work to accelerate the rate at which products (and the businesses that make these products) from these sectors become firmly established in the marketplace.

DIRECTIONS TO VERMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE - WILLISTON CAMPUS

1. Heading NORTH on I-89 toward Burlington
2. Take **EXIT #12** Williston (VT-2A)
3. Turn RIGHT on **VT-2A** (Coming SOUTH on I-89 toward White River Jct. turn LEFT)
Go 0.7 miles
4. At the 3rd light, just after Friendly's
Turn LEFT on **WILLISTON RD** (US-2) toward Burlington
Go 600 feet
5. Turn RIGHT on **HELENA DR** just after Citizens Bank , just before Vermont Sandwich Company
Go 100 feet
6. Turn LEFT into **LAWRENCE PL**

To:

7. ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES and MAIN RECEPTION - West

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES and MAIN RECEPTION - West**

Turn LEFT

DOOR #231 at the FLAGPOLE

CFED will be in the Administrative Building Room 215.

VTC Contact: Donna Teasdale, VTC, Williston Campus, Office Manager, Voice: (802)-879-2323