**Agriculture Meeting – State Workforce Development Board – Minutes**

**Thursday, June 22, 2023**

**Meeting Date/Location:** Thursday, June 22, 2023 via Microsoft Teams

**Video Recording of the Meeting:** [Agriculture Committee - 6/22/23 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXjx8idCpcI)

**Attendance:** Roy Beckford, Tori Biondolillo, Kiersten Bourgeois, Kelly Dolan, Alyson Eastman, Dylan Morse, Abby Rhim

Tori Biondolillo began the meeting by updating the committee on the passage of the State Workforce Development Board’s strategic plan in May. In execution of the strategic plan, Tori introduced the upcoming goals of the Agriculture Committee. In relation to the goals, Tori shared that the Board received $200,000 via line item in the now-passed budget to help efforts of recruiting New Americans to Vermont.

Abby Rhim introduced the agenda of the meeting, followed by the upcoming actionable goals and milestones set out in the strategic plan. The first milestone is:

“By December 2023, the Agriculture Committee will develop an inventory of Vermont employers looking to engage with agriculture focused students”.

Tori took a couple clarifying questions and clarified that the intent of this milestone is to get as many individuals and businesses connected with prospective youth as possible via high schools and work-based learning. The committee brainstormed ways to make consistent connections between employers and agriculture focused youth, taking into consideration the wide-spanning sector of “agriculture” and how its many components are evolving.

The committee then moved to the second milestone of the strategic plan:

“By January 2024, the Agriculture Committee will develop an employer toolkit, focused on hiring foreign labor”.

Tori asked the committee what information would be useful, what questions are being asked, and what farms, businesses, and employers would want to see in a toolkit as the Board works to develop one. Alyson Eastman suggested help with visas and having agents to help people hit the ground running in Vermont. Kelly Dolan suggested “contact information for Migrant Ed and Bridges to Health that can support employers with healthcare and other related needs”.

Tori then asked the committee where employers need assistance when they are looking to hire. Advertisement, clarity, and a “dos and don’ts” of hiring list were recommended. The committee then shared further ideas for the toolkit regarding supporting foreign labor. Roy Beckford recommended updates to clarify the Board’s website.

Tori then adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

-----------------------------------------

Respectfully submitted by Dylan Morse

Dylan Morse, Intern, State Workforce Development Board