



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**STATE OF VERMONT**  
LEGISLATIVE JOINT FISCAL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Minutes

Video Conference

Members present: Representatives Ancel, Fagan, Hooper, Lippert, and Toll and Senators Cummings, Kitchel, Sears, and Westman.

Other attendees: Joint Fiscal Staff and various viewers on live stream.

Senator Cummings, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m., and Representative Fagan moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2020 meeting. Senator Kitchel seconded the motion, and the Committee passed the motion and approved the minutes on a unanimous voice vote.

A. Administration's Fiscal Management Request from the COVID-19 Relief Fund

Brad Ferland, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration, responded to the Committee's questions on the Administration's fiscal management request from the COVID-19 Relief Fund (CRF). He agreed to include the State Auditor in conversations with the contractor on CRF expenditure tracking as well as the use of the expertise of the Auditor's Office but noted that the Auditor informed the Administration that his office must maintain a certain degree of independence as it carries out its mission. Mr. Ferland offered to make the contractor available to the Joint Fiscal Office and other legislative offices as a resource.

Senator Kitchel moved to approve up to \$1 million from Vermont's CRF grant for the purpose of contracting for accounting and related consulting services and other staff costs to ensure federal funds expended by the State are in compliance with auditing and documentation requirements. Senator Ancel seconded the motion, and the Committee approved it on a 9-0-1 vote.

B. JFO #3006–\$29,750 from the Vermont Land Trust to the VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife to facilitate the purchase of 527 acres in the Town of Shrewsbury for a new wildlife management area. This request does not stem from the State or federal response to the COVID-19 pandemic. [JFO received 05/13/20]

John Austin, Land and Habitat Program Manager, Department of Fish and Wildlife, summarized the grant. Representative Toll moved to accept the grant, and Senator Westman seconded it. The Committee approved the motion and accepted the grant on a unanimous voice vote.

The Committee adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Utton-Jerman  
Legislative Joint Fiscal Office