



## ECO-VRINDABAN

### ECO-Vrindaban Board Meeting Minutes 4/30/2023

**Mission Statement:** ECO-Vrindaban promotes cow protection, local agriculture, and above all, loving Krishna, as envisioned by Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON New Vrindaban's Founder-Acharya.

Participating Board Members: Jamuna Jivani, Makara (chair), Ranaka, and Vraja.

Participating Advisors: Chaitanya Mangala, Kalakantha, and Jaya Krsna

Recording Secretary: Vrajakisori

### 1. Ranaka's Report for March 2023

Ranaka reported on the previous month's projects:

- Lalita Gopi (Temple Barn)
  - Temple Barn
    - There are seven cows being milk: Lalita, Subhadra, Jayasri, Usha, Parijata, Radhika Keshavi, and Yashoda.
    - There are five calves: Padmagandha, Raghunath, Rupa, Makara, and Kadamba Kanana.
    - Butter production is back to normal: 20-30 lb per week.
    - The cows produce 28 gallons of milk per day.
    - There was a nice visit with a group of college students from Vedic Studies in Chicago. They were fun and helped with some difficult work.
    - Rasalila milks a cow almost every evening.
    - Sri Badarayani milks most Wednesday mornings.
    - Yashoda delivered her baby bull, Kadamba Kanana on March 11.
    - The barn door above the entrance doors (second floor), had blown halfway off in a windstorm. John has repaired it.
- Hari Nama (Vidya's Garden & High Tunnel)
  - Ground maintenance, moved all the cut and dried bamboo.

- Weeded the high tunnel.
  - Weeded the asparagus bed.
  - Weeded lily bed.
  - Secured garden structures.
  - Divided tuberose and replanted them in new rows in the high tunnel.
  - Cleaned and pruned carnations in the high tunnel.
- Josh Starkey (Nandagram)
  - Purchased and picked up a hay ring for the oxen.
  - Shut off the water pump (definitely have a leak in line or tank).
  - Put up the rest of the fence to separate the bull pen from Rico.
  - Let the cows out on pasture.
  - Moved 28 bales this month into a bigger barn.
  - Cleaned up more trash/rotten wood from the old cabin area.
  - Removed treated 2x6s from beside the old cabin and used them on the feed aisle in the big barn.
  - A steer got out (broke through the feed aisle). Caught him and got him back to the main herd.
  - Opened a section of fence going to the main barn, so the cows could avoid the mud when entering.
  - Walked the fence line around Snyder's and picked up branches on the fence.
  - Put 4x8 pieces of wood on the little bridge by the stream.
  - Cut a trail through the multiflora rose bushes by the stream.
  - Finished up the ATV wagon trailer.
  - Cleaned up dead trees in the small orchard.
- Ray
  - Delivered hay to Temple Barn, fed and cleaned Valley Barns as needed.
  - Repaired side openers on Vidya's High Tunnel and delivered a load of gravel for the driveway.
  - Spread manure on the potato bottom and outside garden beside Valley High Tunnels.
  - Picked up and cut 1,000 lb of potato seed.
  - Did repair work on Gopal's Garden school building.
- Yudhisthira das (The New Yamuna Valley Farms) - Ox Training Report
  - Completed second level of ox barn. (Ox downstairs with room for 12 round bales upstairs along with grain storage).
  - Building supplied with gravity fed spring water.
  - Continued routine training operations on a daily basis.
  - Oxen wintered well and are in very good condition, brushed daily.
- Badarayani - Ox Program

- Hitched Govardhan to the cart and covered more distance (Going to Nandagram workshop shed and back to barn). Doing this almost every day.
  - Trained Nandalal and Kaustubh yoking together.
  - Trained Nrsimha with basic commands.
  - Building a relationship with Raghunath and trained him with basic commands.
  - Getting to know Kadamba.
- Suchandra (Valley High Tunnels One and Two plus Greenhouse & Outside Garden)
  - Crew: Lila & Bhumika
  - High Tunnel 1
    - Cleared spinach rows out.
    - Sprayed neem oil on plants and beds to try to get rid of aphids.
    - Planted Dahlias in row.
    - Made cages for dahlias.
    - Cleared beds as much as we could for tomato plants.
    - Bhumika planted tatsoi.
    - Transplanted Romaine lettuce, broccoli, green cabbage and collard greens.
    - Seeded carrots, beets and radish.
    - Bhumika added more drip line to each bed, making sure all beds had three lines.
    - Bhumika sprayed beds and plants with neem oil mix.
    - Pulled plants that were bolting.
    - Harvested kale, arugula, collard greens, rainbow chard, and Bok Choy.
    - Bhumika harvested for the devotees.
    - Weeded and watered when needed.
    - Covered and uncovered plants when temperature dropped below 27 degrees at night.
  - High Tunnel 2
    - Thinned spinach and cilantro.
    - Seeded carrots, radish, beets, lettuce, and kale.
    - Lila dug up asparagus to replant outside.
    - Planned where to move the fig tree and tried digging up, might have to cut up to remove.
    - Cleared beds for tomatoes.
    - Added extra fencing pieces for peas to vine up.
    - Trained pea plants to vine up cages and pieces of fencing.
    - Fixed leaks in the watering system.
    - Bhumika sprayed beds and plants with neem oil mix.
    - Lila added ladybugs from her house to tunnels.

- Harvested carrots, radish, spinach, parsnip, cilantro, and some beets.
  - Weeded and watered as needed.
  - Covered and uncovered plants when temperature dropped below 27 degrees at night.
- Greenhouse
  - Bhumika and Lila transplanted kale, broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, and other vegetables.
  - Bought and mixed-up soil for soil blocker.
  - Used soil blocker to make trays for marigolds and started some seeds.
  - Used soil blocks for some arugula and lettuce.
  - Started more vegetable seeds and zinnias.
  - Moved plants from heating mats to tables.
- Outside Garden
  - Lila added dirt around the outside of the greenhouse and the high tunnels.
  - Lila secured plastic around the high tunnels.
  - Lila watered and looked after potted carnations.
  - Had cow manure added to the outside bed area.
  - Lila went through the outdoor bed area and removed large rocks and weeded some.
  - Planted gladiolus in pots.
  - Stored the rest of gladiolas in the HT building area.
  - Lila made signs for the outdoor area.
- Teaching Garden
  - Weeded around beds and teepee.
  - Cleared herb bed.
  - Added manure to some of the back beds.
  - Got some vines to add to the pavilion in the center of the garden.
  - Cleaned out pots.
  - Prepped beds for mulch.
  - Planted gladiolus bulbs from the thinned out batch into beds that needed to be filled in more.
  - Thinned out mint bed.
- Production from Valley High Tunnels #1 & #2 for March 2023
  - Arugula – 19.5 lb
  - Cilantro – 89.5 lb
  - Beets – 6 lb
  - Bok Choy – 40.5 lb
  - Cabbage – 36 lb
  - Carrots – 25.5 lb
  - Claytonia (Salad) – 11 lb

- Collard Greens – 38.5 lb
  - Kale – 57.5 lb
  - Lettuce – 5.5 lb
  - Parsley – 1 lb
  - Parsnips – 15.5 lb
  - Radish – 25.5 lb
  - Salad Greens – 20.5 lb
  - Spinach – 39.5 lb
  - Swiss Chard – 14.25 lb
  - Turnips – 8 lb
- Radha Vrindaban Chandra’s Herd Count
  - Temple Barn Herd
    - Milking Cows- 7
    - Cow due to Freshen- 1
    - Heifer Calves- 3
    - Bull Calf- 1
  - Bahulaban Herd Count
    - Steer- 1
    - Retired Cow- 1
  - Valley Barn Herd Count
    - Bull- 1
    - Being Bred Cow- 1
    - Bred Cows- 5
    - Open Heifers (not yet breeding age)- 2
    - Retired Cows- 21
    - Steers- 5
  - Nandagram Herd Count
    - Steers- 14
    - Ox- 4
    - Bull- 1
    - Heifers- 3
  - Yudhisthira Herd Count
    - Oxen in Training- 2

**The total herd count is 73.**

## **2. External Funding Request: \$7.6K for ISKCON Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to support cow protection and sustainable agriculture throughout ISKCON.

RESOLVED: The Board approves a grant up to \$7,600 to the North American IMCPA for its expenses for 2023. This grant is contingent upon the NA IMCPA's 501(c)(3) status being current and in good standing, as well as a full financial report from the Ministry's nonprofit.

### **3. External Funding Request: up to \$45K for the Village Association and Devotee Care Department**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to help support devotees in the New Vrindaban community.

RESOLVED: The Board authorizes up to \$45K in grant funding to the New Vrindaban Village Association for the devotee care department, with the following stipulations:

- Funds will be distributed on a biannual basis
- The Village Council will continue to provide quarterly reports and financial accounting
- ECO-V maintains the option to have any unused funds returned at the end of the year
- The NVVA must bring its 501(c)3 up to good standing with the IRS (and provide proof of such to ECO-V) by filing for both the 2021 and 2022 years by July 2023. Failure to do so will delay payment for the second half of the year.
- A maximum of \$2,500 of this funding may be allocated to the NVVA. The \$42.5K is exclusively for the devotee care department.
- A 2023 financial review must be performed by an outside company such as Rama Associates.

#### Email Vote

### **1. Internal Funding Request: \$200K for Temple Barn Renovations**

WHEREAS: The ECO-V Board wishes to maintain and expand its facilities as needed.

RESOLVED: The ECO-V board approves up to \$200,000 for the renovations to the Temple Barn facility.