Chiara Bolton Bolton Bolton

# **Bolton Bees Honey House Project**

#### Value Added Grant FY2017 Round 2

#### **Bolton Bees**

Chiara Bolton 1130 Charles Ave Saint Paul, MN 55104 boltonbees@gmail.com O: 651-728-1530 M: 651-728-1530

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# **Application Form**

## **Project Name\***

Bolton Bees Honey House Project

# Rep Authorized to Sign Grant Contract

County\*

Ramsey

#### **Authorized Representative\***

Name of the person that will sign the Value Added Grant contract for this business if awarded a grant. Also enter his/her e-mail address.

Chiara Bolton boltonbees@gmail.com

## Does your business have a parent company?\*

No

If yes, please identify the company name and address.

**Name of Company** 

**Mailing Address** 

City

**State** 

Zip

## **Eligibility**

#### I am in good standing with the State of Minnesota.\*

(No back taxes owed, no defaults on MN State backed financing for the past 7 seven years, in compliance with current state regulations, and acceptable performance on past MDA grants.)

Yes

I am a current Minnesota resident or business authorized to conduct business in Minnesota.\*

Yes

I am the principal operator or have authority to apply for this grant.\*

Yes

I agree that no work has started on the proposed project nor will start until notified of the award.\*

Yes

Last year's gross income was:\*

Less than \$50,000

How did you hear about the Value Added Grant Program? Please check all that apply:\*

Word of Mouth

#### Please list, if applicable:

Please review the Request for Proposals (RFP) before submitting an application. Program details may be found on pages 2-4 and page 6; application evaluation criteria are listed on page 5.

## **Project Summary**

#### **Project Summary\***

(Limit: 1,200 characters, including spaces)

The summary should stand alone to describe:

- Your project
- What you hope to accomplish
- Project's importance to your farm and business
- How the project adds value to Minnesota crops or livestock

Bolton Bees is a Minnesota family-owned, location-specific honey producer seeking assistance to expand and improve honey production operations in response to rapidly increasing demand. With current operations at capacity, Bolton Bees aims to build a "honey house" to increase efficiency in honey production, extraction, and bottling. This will improve process and product consistency and better meet projected market demand while improving food safety.

Bolton Bees is currently extracting honey inside a garage that has a 6,000-pound capacity. In 2017, we are expecting to extract 13,000 pounds of honey. We have outgrown our current facility and need to build a new honey house. The new facility will have the capacity to hold 100,000-pounds of honey. Our honey production is projected to grow 22 times in the next 5 years. The new honey house will be able to provide space for our continued growth.

We are currently employing a part-time intern for spring 2017. As a result of company growth, in 2022 we expect to have 2 seasonal employees and 2 full-time employees. The hives used to produce honey will add value indirectly by increasing pollination in the surrounding agricultural areas.

#### **Narratives**

## 1. Project Description\*

(Limit: 500 characters, including spaces)

Describe your grant project

(What do you plan to buy? What facility improvements do you plan to make?)

This project seeks \$13,211 for facility improvements requiring the purchase of materials and labor including concrete, electrical, sheet metal, insulation, a furnace, garage doors, walls, doors, and plumbing. Bolton Bees has purchased land and a 30x60 shop in Menahga, MN to transform into a honey house in order to process, produce, and bottle our honey. In total, Bolton plans to invest \$52,845 on improvements that will enable consistency in operations, and increase production capacity.

## 2. Current Description of Farm, Business, or Organization\*

(Limit: 3,000 characters, including spaces)

Describe the business, including the following:

- A brief history of your business including the factors that led up to your grant application;
- The services your business provides or the products produced;
- Current market outlets;

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Current sources of all Minnesota ingredients;

- Relevant market development experience or related products sold; and
- How you or your business are qualified or able to successfully complete the project.

Bolton Bees is a family-owned business. We have been beekeeping since 2008. We sell MN Hardy spring-made starter colonies, mated queens, and location-specific honey. Typically, the only option for backyard beekeepers is to purchase bees from migratory beekeepers. Those bees are genetically adapted to a more temperate climate than that of Minnesota and have had to endure the stressors of the pollination industry. We learned from a master queen breeder how to raise and breed queen bees. Through the process of natural selection, we breed queens to be genetically adapted to survive in a northern climate. Our bees have undergone a rigorous selection process. Bee colonies in MN suffered an average loss of 58.5% during the 2014-2015 winter. Winter 2015-2016, Bolton Bees had a 93% overwintering success rate.

In addition to selling starter colonies and mated queens, Bolton Bees sells raw, local, location-specific honey. Our bee yards are located throughout Minnesota. We extract each location separately without blending. The honey from each location has a unique flavor, texture, and story. Bolton Bees' jars describe the honey and indicate where in Minnesota it originated. Our colonies stay in the same location throughout the year; making them healthier because they are not exposed to the stressors, diseases, and pests of the migratory beekeeping industry. Bolton Bees sells honey wholesale to retailers through Market Distributing (15 boutique stores and 2 co-ops) and at the MN State Fair. We also sell honey in bulk to beer makers and restaurants.

As demand for Bolton Bees' honey continues to grow, so does the need to expand our operation to a larger, more efficient honey house. The market for location-specific honey is significant. In 2015, U.S. consumption of honey reached 486.3 million pounds, 80% of which was imported to meet the growing demand. This caused the U.S. market to become flooded with imported, and likely adulterated, honey. Meanwhile, there is a growing locavore movement taking place, creating a large demand for raw, local honey.

Bolton Bees honey is unadulterated. Nothing is added to the honey to change the flavor or texture. Our honey is not heated, and we use gravity to lightly filter the product. The honey is created from the local flowers and trees surrounding each apiary. We partner with local vendors. We purchase our enameled honey jars from Fridley MN, cardboard packaging that the jars go into from Minneapolis, MN, and local lumber to build bee equipment from a saw mill in Two Inlets, MN.

Travis Bolton owns Bolton Construction, a remodeling and construction company. His expertise will enable the project to be done thoroughly, timely, and with skill as he has performed other projects of similar nature. Bolton Bees is a member of Minnesota Grown, The Stillwater Bee Club, MN Honey Producer Association, Northern Bee Network, Midwest Panty, Grow North MN, and the MN Hobby Beekeeping Association.

#### 3. Business Readiness and Financial Sustainability

#### 3.A. Description of Need for the Grant Project\*

(Limit: 2,800 characters, including spaces)

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- Describe the need for this project and/or the problem it will address.
- Summarize the project equipment and improvements and explain how the project will address your needs at this time and in the future.
- Explain how the project will add value to particular Minnesota grown products (your own and/or other producers).

Given the growing locavore movement in the U.S. and market demand for locally produced honey, Bolton Bees sees the need to expand and improve our operations. The United States Department of Agriculture reported that direct consumer food sales increased 3x from 1992-2007. This is because consumers want to learn about the farming practices and to trust the integrity of their food, as well as to support local businesses and farmers.

On average, a U.S. citizen consumes 1.51 lbs of honey a year, an increase from the 2010 average of 1.2 lbs/person. However, 80% of honey is imported in order to meet the growing demand. According to testing done by the Food Safety News, more than 75% of honey sold in the United States is micro-filtered and processed to the point that all pollen has been removed. Without pollen, it is impossible to determine if the honey is pure. Due to the demand for pure honey, many countries are labeling their honey as pure although they are in fact blending it with non-honey substances—this is called "honey laundering." Bolton Bee's honey is both local and pure.

With the need to expand the amount of honey we produce in order to meet projected market demands for the upcoming honey extraction seasons, and with our current location operating at capacity, we need to increase our production capacity through construction of a honey house.

Bolton Bees purchased a 30x60 shop in 2016 that needs renovations and improvements to be a functional honey house. We are seeking MDA's grant funding for \$13,211 of the \$52,845 total investment. We expect to complete construction of the extraction portion of the honey house in time for 2017 extraction in mid-August. The remainder of the improvements will be completed by December 2017, creating a fully functional honey house that Bolton Bees can use to extract, produce, and bottle honey. Without this project, Bolton Bees will not be able to meet the increasing demand for our raw, location-specific, local honey.

This project will add value to our own operation by providing a food-safe facility with the space needed to extract our honey, hold equipment that naturally gravity-filters the honey, store barrels of honey, bottle, and package our location-specific honey. Bolton Bees' colonies also add value to other MN-grown products. Since our bees are MN hardy; they do not migrate, meaning they stay in apiaries located on farms throughout MN year around. The bees pollinate and improve the agriculture in their surrounding area from early spring through late fall. Pollination increases the crop yield of local farmers, positively affecting their livelihood.

#### 3.B. Summary of Business Plan\*

(Limit: 2,800 characters, including spaces)

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- Explain how this project fits into your business or food safety plan- short term objectives and long term goals.
- Include estimated date when your business will begin to profit from making this investment.
- Explain how your business will benefit or be better off after completion of this project.
- You may submit cash flow calculations or other relevant documents to show financial sustainability.

In 2016, Bolton Bees had 50 hives that produced a total of 4,800 lbs of honey that are being sold wholesale to local retailers for \$9/jar (5,688 jars). We produced 19 5-gallon buckets to be sold to local restaurants and breweries. Bolton Bees is on track to sell them all (\$51,192) to local boutique stores and coops.

We currently operate out of a garage, and we can produce and store only 6,000 lbs of honey. When the garage is not being used as a honey house, we store our processing equipment elsewhere, and the garage reverts back into a standard garage. Although we are currently meeting the requirements necessary to produce and sell honey, our goal is to meet the highest standard of food safety requirements for a honey house and to increase our capacity. The new honey house will increase our production capacity to 100,000 lbs. By having the capacity to produce more honey to sell, Bolton Bees will be able to expand our existing markets, have the ability to enter into new markets as they become available, and greatly improve food safety.

By 2022, our honey production is projected to total 57,000 lbs from 780 production hives. We will need to have the space to produce and store 200 50-gallon drums of honey. We predict that 75% will be sold in our customized 13.5-oz (by weight) glass jars, totaling 50,600 jars. The remaining 25% of our honey will be sold in bulk, about 237 5-gallon buckets, to local restaurants and breweries. The jars will be sold wholesale through our distributor, Market Distributing, to Minnesota-based co-ops, grocery stores, specialty shops, and gift shops. The cost of goods varies depending on whether the honey is sold by the bucket or jar. On average, however, the cost of packing and packaging is no more than \$.84 a jar.

The entire building is projected to be completed by December 2017; however, we aim to have the portion of the honey house dedicated to extraction constructed by mid-August in time for the 2017 honey crop to be extracted. We expect to see a profit from the investment beginning immediately. In 2017, we will have 160 production hives creating about 13,000 lbs of honey; 11,574 jars, and 54 5-gallon buckets. Bolton Bees' current facility is too small and does not provide production capabilities necessary for the 2017 honey yield. The new honey house will permanently house equipment and better meet food safety standards. We are in need of the extra processing, extracting, and packing space this year and will immediately profit from the value. Upon completion of the value-added project, our production capacity will increase by 600%. With this increase, annual honey sales are anticipated to increase from \$51,000 to approximately \$505,000 within 5 years.

#### 3.B. Summary of Business Plan Supporting Document

You may submit cash flow calculations or other relevant documents to show financial sustainability below.

[Unanswered]

#### 3.C. Business plan

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Upload your business plan if you are requesting \$100,000 or more of grant award funds. Please identify and mark confidential information and Trade Secrets contained in your business plan.

#### 4. Expected Outcomes and Project Evaluation\*

(Limit: 2,800 characters, including spaces)

#### A. Address the following questions.

- How will you evaluate the success of the project? What will you measure? What changes will you
  document?
- How will your project increase sales, increase market access and/or diversify your markets? Name the potential markets and extent of the plans.
- How will your project protect or create jobs?
- How will this project affect sales of Minnesota agricultural products? Be as specific as possible by naming sources/suppliers or plans to procure more Minnesota grown products (Letters from your suppliers would support your answers.)

We will assess project success based on extraction quantity, workforce expansion, and sales level achieved.

Extraction Quantity: From 50 production hives and 4,880 lbs of honey extracted in 2016, we anticipate increasing to 780 hives and 57,800 lbs of honey extracted by 2022.

Workforce Expansion: We will hire two seasonal contract employees and two full-time employees within five years of project completion to help manage our operation, extract, bottle, package and deliver honey, and build equipment. They will be from rural communities as the best bee forage areas are typically in rural, remote locations.

Sales Level Achieved: We predict extracting 57,800 lbs of honey in 2022 valued at \$250/5-gal bucket and \$9/13.5 oz. jar, resulting in over \$505,000 in sales.

We can diversify our markets by expanding distribution of retail stores. Lunds & Byerly's has expressed interest in selling our honey but we do not have the supply or production capability. Natural Valley Food Coop in Burnsville, MN states that a store typically purchases 48 jars of one variety of honey a month. We currently have 4 varieties and stores tend to purchase all 4; 192 jars per store a month and 2,304 annually. In 2022 we hope to be in 30 co-ops and high-end grocery stores in MN.

In addition to location-specific honey, Bolton Bees is on the cutting edge of creating "solar honey." In May 2013, the MN legislature adopted a mandate on investor-owned utilities requiring them to produce 1.5% of their electricity from solar power by 2020. The utility solar gardens are required to be pollinator friendly. Bolton Bees has a contract with Connexus Energy to have the first solar array in the nation with an apiary. We will receive money for apiary placement and for providing a custom jar with location-specific honey. We plan to extend this arrangement to solar gardens throughout MN.

By increasing capacity, Bolton Bees is committing to increasing extraction levels, requiring additional colonies. In the next 5 years, we will spend \$22,000 on raw materials from Two Inlets Mill lumber yard to build 3,800 bee boxes and purchase \$5,425 in sheet metal for hive covers from Kauffman Roofing in Minneapolis at \$3.13 per sheet. Our 6-jar custom boxes from Cedar Box Company in Minneapolis are \$1.06 each, and we will purchase 35,877 boxes, totaling \$38,030.

Furthermore, since Bolton Bees' colonies do not migrate, the bees are available to pollinate agriculture within a three mile radius of their hive early spring through late fall, positively affecting towns in MN with Bolton Bees apiaries: Hugo, Stillwater, White Bear Lake, Scandia, Welch, Ramsey, Sebeka, Wolf Lake, Menagha, Park Rapids, Nevis, and Akeley. As operations continue to expand, so will the number of apiaries and locations throughout the state.

#### 4.B. Expected Outcomes and Project Evaluation\*

Complete a measures table for your business.

A table with example answers is in example measures table.

[To open the tables, click on the different colored words. To save to your computer, click on file tab in upper left hand corner and select to open in Word. Click on the "enable editing" button in the yellow heading then click on the file tab (far upper left) and choose "save as" and save it to a file on your computer.]

Provide an answer in each field, even if it is zero or does not apply. Upload your completed measures table into the "Upload a file" box.

MeasuresTable.pdf

#### 5. Work Plan\*

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(Limit: 3,400 characters; enter work plan in text box or upload below)

- Provide a step-by-step description of the grant project how and when you will carry out each item or
  activity of your grant project. The estimated timeline should indicate start and completion dates of each
  step.
- Describe the resources you will need to complete each activity.

We will wait to begin facility improvements until after signing the grant contract.

Hiring: After signing the grant contract, we will hire the contractors for the facility improvements included in the Value Added grant. Based on our August 2017 expected date of completion for the extraction portion of the honey house, we anticipate securing these contractors, and other necessary vendors, immediately after signing the grant contract and completing all ordering no later than May 2017.

Receiving and installation: We expect to begin improvements soon after all orders are placed with our contractors and material vendors in May 2017. We will have two phases of construction.

Phase 1: We expect the honey extraction portion of the house to be complete by August 2017. This will require contractors to lay concrete, build and insulate interior walls, add garage doors, connect the sewer line, and install electrical work for one-third of the honey house.

Phase 2: We anticipate the honey house to be fully functional by December 2017. This will include the renovations mentioned above to the remaining two-thirds of the honey house as well as installing the gas line

and furnace, and interior doors. We will relocate all equipment to the honey house including our gravity filters, storage, and packaging upon completion.

Project Start Date\*
04/17/2017

Project End Date\*
12/22/2017

## **Budget**

#### 6.A. Budget Narrative\*

(Limit: 6,800 characters; enter descriptions in the text box or upload a budget narrative document.)

The budget narrative is a detailed description of each of the costs in the grant project per line item. A cost estimate (e.g. price analyses, bid, vendor quote, etc.) is required for all Personnel/Contractor and Facility Improvement costs and suggested to support Equipment and Other costs. It should be uploaded into the boxes below the category descriptions.

The budget narrative should be thorough and easy to follow. Anyone reading the budget narrative should be able to easily identify and calculate how the grant project money will be spent, the cost of each line item, and its purpose.

See descriptions of each Budget Category below the text box.

BudgetNarrative.pdf

Printed On: 3 February 2020

Budget Narrative: The budget items eligible for the Value-Added grant are attached below. These budgeted expenditures total \$52,845, of which Bolton Bees is seeking \$13,211. The remaining match of \$39,634 will be provided by Bolton Bees with financial backing from a home equity line and credit card. Additionally, Bolton Bees has already provided the funds for the land and the shop to be renovated into a honey house.

Personnel/Contractors: The labor budgeted totals \$20,869 of which Bolton Bees is seeking \$5,217 cost share from the Value Added Grant.

Facility Improvements: The materials required to renovate the shop into a functional honey house in accordance to food and safety regulations are budgeted to total \$31,976 of which Bolton Bees is seeking the balance of our grant request, \$7,994.

#### **Breakdown of Budget Categories for the Narrative**

**Personnel/Contractors:** List and describe separately each individual who will receive payment. Include the following: individual/contractor's name, job title and company, cost estimate and source, and a general description of services the individual/contractor cost will cover.

For example: Bob Smith - Plumbing contractor, Drain It All Inc. - \$18,500 - Cost estimate from Drain It All Inc. - Labor to install drains in the floor and piping to smoker.

**Equipment:** List and describe separately each line item of equipment. Include the following: the piece of equipment, cost estimate and source, and explanation of how each item is important to the purpose and goals of the project.

For example: Pasteurizer - \$1,000.00 – cost estimate from Fermentation Inc. – pasteurizes the apple cider before bottling.

**Facility Improvements:** List and describe separately each major facility improvement component. Include the following: the type of facility improvement, cost estimate and source, and explanation of how each facility improvement is important to the purpose and goals of the project.

For example: Construction - \$25,000 - Cost estimate from Extra Strong Construction Co. - materials and labor for construction of the addition to the slaughter and meat processing areas.

**Other:** List and describe separately any items not fitting into the personnel/contractor, equipment, or facility improvement categories. Include the following: the item, cost estimate and source, and explanation of how each item is important to the purpose and goal of the project.

For example: Permit - \$500.00 - city website - Necessary to construct the wine production room.

#### **Budget Supporting Documentation -1**

Upload all bids, quotes, estimates etc. documents that support your budget narrative. These are required to support Personnel/Contractor and Facility Improvement requests and may be submitted to support Equipment and Other purchases.

Bids.pdf

#### **Budget Supporting Documentation -2**

Upload all bids, quotes, estimates etc. documents that support your budget narrative. These are required to support Personnel/Contractor and Facility Improvement requests and may be submitted to support Equipment and Other purchases.

There are also extra upload boxes at the end of the application if needed.

IMG\_3846 (2).JPG

An upload box can only store one document. The document may be a scan of several documents in one. For example, to upload four separate quotes, scan all four of them together. Then, save and upload the combination as one document.

## 6.B. Budget- Applicant Funds\*

(Limit: 1,000 characters, including spaces)

List each source of your matching funds and the amount of money from each source. The amounts need to add up to at least 75% of the total project cost.

Cash Match: Bolton Bees has secured the financing necessary for the materials and labor required to renovate the preexisting shop, in Menahga MN, to a fully functioning honey house from a \$18,300 home equity line and a credit card with a \$25,000 limit. This exceeds our 75% contribution towards the total project cost.

#### 6.C. Budget Table\*

Please download the *budget table spreadsheet* (in Excel) or *budget table doc* (in Word). The budget table is an overview of how grant funds and applicant funds will be spent by category. Use the descriptions and requirements of each budget category in 6.A.. If needed, create a budget table that includes grant award funds requested, applicant/matching funds, and a total project cost for each of the budget categories. *Then, upload the completed table.* 

Download, save and complete the budget table docx in Word as instructed for the measures table in 4B. Download the table in excel by clicking on the file tab (in upper left hand corner) and selecting "download as" and then select "Microsoft Excel". Then click on the enable editing button in the yellow heading. Finally, click on the file tab and select "save as" and enter a name for the table and choose your grant folder to save to your computer.

BudgetTable.pdf

#### Total Project Cost\*

\$52,845.00

#### Award Amount Requested\*

\$13,211.00

#### **Previous Value Added Grants**

# 7. Have you received a previous Value Added Grant?\*

No

#### If Yes:

(If No, skip to the Letters of Support section)

Briefly describe your previous grant project. (Limit: 540 characters)

Is the project completed and final payment request submitted to MDA?

If no, then please write an update on the progress of your current grant project. (Limit: 600 characters)

## **Letters of Support**

#### 8. Letters of Support

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Letters of support are optional except for economic development organizations, non-profit organizations, and academic entities that are applying on behalf of eligible individuals or businesses. However, they are highly

recommended for all applicants.

Letters of support may be written by:

- current or potential sources of Minnesota grown products
- current or potential buyers expressing support for the market you are entering
- financial institution or other organization that will be used for the balance of the funding
- financial or business contacts showing financial sustainability or business readiness.
- contacts in your value-added profession or previous co-workers showing experience
- local organization citing benefits of your project to local or rural economy

Support.pdf

Each upload box can only take one document. The document may be a scan of several documents in one. For example, to upload four letters of recommendation, scan all four of them at the same time, save to your computer, and upload the resulting document into an upload box.

#### **Additional Document or Letter of Support**

Credit Card statement.pdf

#### **Additional Document or Letter of Support**

Credit Line.pdf

A review committee will evaluate and score all eligible applications using the Value Added Grant Evaluation Profile on page 5 of the RFP.

Click "submit application"; you will receive an e-mail confirmation of receipt of your application. If you have question, call the AMDD Grants Line at 651-201-6500.

Chiara Bolton Bolton Bolton

# File Attachment Summary

## **Applicant File Uploads**

- MeasuresTable.pdf
- BudgetNarrative.pdf
- Bids.pdf
- IMG\_3846 (2).JPG
- BudgetTable.pdf
- Support.pdf
- Credit Card statement.pdf
- Credit Line.pdf

| Measures for value-added products: current and projected                 |   |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Description of Measure   | Actual Measure per Year<br>Before Starting Grant Project                          | Estimated Measure the Year<br>After Completion of Grant<br>Project                | Estimated Measure two<br>Years after Project<br>Completion                        |  |
| Number of full-time employees  | 0   | 0   | 1   |  |
| Number of part-time employees  | 0   | 1   | 2   |  |
| Amount of MN grown inputs purchased from another operation per year      | Two Inlets Mill: \$3,460<br>Cedar Box Company: \$1,040<br>Kauffman Roofing: \$500 | Two Inlets Mill: \$1,000<br>Cedar Box Company: \$2,100<br>Kauffman Roofing: \$500 | Two Inlets Mill: \$3,100<br>Cedar Box Company: \$3,300<br>Kauffman Roofing: \$600 |  |
| Amount of inputs from your operation used to make value-added product(s) | 15 5-gallon buckets of honey to be used in breweries and restaurants              | 30 5-gallon buckets of honey to be used in breweries and restaurants              | 63 5-gallon buckets of honey to be used in breweries and restaurants              |  |
| Number of MN livestock processed per year                                | 50 production colonies  | 160 production colonies   | 300 production colonies   |  |
| % of all ingredients/inputs that are MN grown                            | 100%  | 100%  | 100%  |  |
| Amount of value added product produced in a year                         | 4,880 pounds of honey   | 13,021 pounds of honey  | 20,631 pounds of honey  |  |
| Annual sales of value added product                                      | \$51,000  | \$110,000   | \$190,000   |  |
| Number of market outlets:  |   |   |   |  |
| Retail- # of types of outlets that are direct to consumer                | 3 boutiques/gift shops  | 5 boutiques/gift shops  | 10 boutiques/gift shops   |  |
| Wholesale to a retailer- # of retail markets                             | 15 co-ops and grocery stores  | 15 co-ops and grocery stores  | 15 co-ops and grocery stores  |  |
| to wholesaler or distributer   | 1 distributor   | 1 distributor   | 1 distributor   |  |
| farm or business to institutions-# of institutions                       | 0   | 1 solar company   | 5 solar companies   |  |
| other market outlet- # of other markets                                  | 3 restaurants/breweries<br>MN State Fair  | 6 restaurants/breweries<br>MN State Fair  | 12 restaurants/breweries<br>MN State Fair   |  |

Business Name: Bolton Bees, LLC.

Business Name:

Bolton Bees, LLC.

Personnel/Contractors

| Name                | Job Title & Company   | Cost Estimate & Source   | Description  |
|---------------------|---|--|--|
| Richard C. Gronlund | Construction<br>contractor, Sebeka<br>Homes, Inc.               | \$4,569 cost estimate from Sebeka Homes Inc.                       | Labor installation of interior walls, ceiling steel, doors, and garage doors |
| Richard C. Gronlund | Construction contractor, Sebeka Home,s Inc.                     | \$4,600 cost estimate from Sebeka Homes Inc.                       | Cement Labor   |
| Lee Hendrickson     | Septic design and installation contractor, L&B Excavating, Inc. | \$2,200 cost estimate from L&B Excavating Inc.                     | Septic line installation   |
| Ron Steinkraus      | Master Plumber, Ron<br>Steinkraus Plumbing &<br>Heating         | \$9,500 cost estimate<br>from Ron Steinkraus<br>Plumbing & Heating | Plumbing labor   |

#### **Facility Improvements**

| Facility Improvement                                       | Source  | Cost Estimate | Explanation   |
|--|---|---------------|---|
| Electrical   | Cost estimate from Zenergy, LLC.                  | \$6,238       | Materials and labor for renovation of the 30x60 shop into a honey house |
| Furnace  | Cost estimate from D.M.P. Heating - Cooling       | \$3,825       | Materials and labor for renovation of the 30x60 shop into a honey house |
| Interior Walls, Sheet<br>Metal, Doors, and Garage<br>Doors | Cost estimate from<br>Sebeka Homes, Inc.          | \$14,265      | Materials for renovation of the 30x60 shop in a honey house             |
| Insulation   | Cost estimate from<br>North Country<br>Insulation | \$7,648       | Materials and labor for renovation of the 30x60 shop into a honey house |



#### Zenergy, LLC

308 Frontage Road PO Box 304 Sebeka, MN 56477 218-837-5155 www.zenergyguide.com

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| Date      | Estimate # |
|-----------|------------|
| 2/27/2017 | 115        |

| Name / Address                                 |  |
|--|--|
| SEBEKA HOMES<br>PO BOX 255<br>SEBEKA, MN 56477 |  |

Written By: Clint Kyllonen

| Description                  | Qty      | Total      |
|------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Bolton Pole Barn Menahga     |          | 6,238.00   |
| LIVING QUARTERS:             |          |            |
| Single pole switches         | 5        |            |
| Three way switches           | 2        |            |
| Smoke detector               | 1        |            |
| Carbon monoxide detector     | 1        |            |
| Receptacles                  | 15       |            |
| GFI receptacles              | 4        |            |
| Recessed cans kitchen        | 5        |            |
| Well (wiring only)           | <b>1</b> |            |
| Water heater (wiring only)   | 1        |            |
| Gas furnace (wiring only)    | 1        |            |
| Air exchanger (wiring only)  | 1        |            |
| 200A general service         | 1        |            |
| Underground wire and trench  | 100      |            |
| Light allowance              | 5        |            |
| SHOP:                        |          |            |
| Keyless lights with LED lamp | 8        |            |
| GFI receptacles              | 2        |            |
| Receptacles                  | 4        |            |
| Three way switches           | 2        |            |
| Outside light                | 11       |            |
| Sales Tax                    |          | 0.00       |
|                              |          |            |
|                              | Total    | \$6,238.00 |

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a professional manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents, or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Worker's Compensation insurance.

Acceptance of Proposal - The above prices, specifications, and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

**Authorized Customer Signature** 

Date of Acceptance

Note: This proposal may be withdrawn by Zenergy, LLC if not accepted within 30 days.

# **RON STEINKRAUS** Plumbing & Heating

Master Plumber Lic. 060734-PM 10027 Co. Rd. 13 Sebeka, MN 56477

(218) 837-6118

# JOB ESTIMATE

2-24-17

PHONE

JOB NAME/LOCATION

| TO Schocks Homes Inc.   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Scheka Mn   | -Bolton - Menshop        |
|   | 7                        |
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| JOB DESCRIPTION:  |                          |
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| ,   |                          |
| THIS ESTIMATE IS FOR COMPLETING THE JOB AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.   | ESTIMATED 9500           |
| IT IS BASED ON OUR EVALUATION AND DOES NOT INCLUDE MATERIAL PRICE INCREASES OR ADDITIONAL LABOR AND MATERIALS WHICH | JOB COST                 |
| MAY BE REQUIRED SHOULD UNFORESEEN PROBLEMS OR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARISE AFTER THE WORK HAS STARTED.          | ESTIMATED for Stew Green |
| TEATHER COMBINERS AND AND AND THE TOTAL TOTAL COMBINERS   |                          |



2134 Bardwell Dr NW | Bemidji, MN 56601 P 218 766 6607 www.thinkfoam.com

 Date
 2/10/2017

 Travis Bolton
 Job
 Travis Bolton 30x48

Mobilizations

marty@thinkfoam.com

MenahgaQuote Presented By:Marty Fladeboe651 728 1530Plan DateBemidji MNboltonbees@gmail.comAcknowledge Addenda #218 766 6607

#### Insulation Options for Travis Bolton 30x48 with 14ft walls

Attic R50 Blown Fiberglass / Inst walls R21 Fiberglass

attic R-50 blown fiberglass

int walls R-21 unfaced fiberglass batting

Total Price: \$2,163.00

Walls 1: closed cell foam

3" 2# density, closed cell spray foam

Total Price: \$5,485.00

Walls 2: open cell foam

5" 0.5# density, open cell spray foam

Total Price: \$3,800.00

Walls 3: BiBs (dense blown fiberglass)

R-32 BIBS (8") 6mil poly

Total Price: \$2,935.00

#### Our insulation quotation is based on the following conditions:

- 1 We anticipate installing this project in 1 mobilization unless noted above. Additional charges shall apply if additional time or trips are needed due to sequencing or construction schedule changes outside of our control.
- 2 Firestopping, smokestopping, and thermal barriers are excluded from this proposal, unless specifically noted above
- 3 Parking/access to the jobsite for our equipment is required. Contact NCI for specific details
- 4 Vertical access is required to all areas to receive insulation
- 5 Substrate and ambient temperatures of 40° F shall be maintained prior to and during application of spray applied insulation, and during dry/cure time, if applicable. Temporary heating and enclosure shall be the responsibility of others. Contact NCI for specific details
- 6 The Insulation Contractors Association of America recommends that commercial and residential water and plumbing pipes or fire protection sprinkler systems be installed with the heated space of the building (defined as spaces to be maintained at 50° F). It is further recommended that water and plumbing pipes or fire protection sprinkler systems not be installed in walls, ceilings, or floors adjacent to unheated spaces. In any event, NCI cannot warrant or guarantee that the water and plumbing pipes or sprinkler system or any component thereof will not freeze, burst or cause loss of life, damages to property, or loss of the use of property, or any other damages from any cause.
- 7 Sales and/or use taxes, if applicable, are included in this proposal.

- 8 Asbestos Policy: Customer safety is our highest priority; for this reason we have a strict policy regarding suspected asbestos found prior to or during the course of our work that may become disturbed as a result of our work. To protect you, your family, and the people who occupy the building, we will suspend our work until the Owner or General Contractor has tested the suspected asbestos and, if necessary, has it abated by a licensed contractor. Any work performed will be billed on a prorated basis.
- 9 Spray foam safe handling practices require that everyone (other than certified spray technicians) vacate the jobsite, remaining completely out of the building and at least 50 feet away for 24 hours after spraying is complete unless otherwise noted. See manufacturer's Health and Safety Statement for details.
- 10 Terms: COD or Net 30 with credit approval (please contact NCI at the number above to set up an account). Draws upon request, balance upon completion. Balances over 30 days will be subject to a finance charge of 1 ½ % per month (18% annual rate). Payments will be applied to finance charges then oldest invoices. All collection costs, including attorney's fees and expenses shall be borne by Contractor. Payment processing systems requiring fees will result in additional charges.
- 11 This proposal may be withdrawn if not accepted within 30 days of the above date and is valid for work performed thru 90 days from the above date.
- 12 Signature below or commencement of work hereinabove described indicates acceptance of this proposal and these terms
- 13 Thermal insulation specifications frequently include products inapplicable to our scope of work. For this reason, rigid insulation is specifically excluded from this proposal unless explicitly called out above.
- 14 This proposal excludes extraordinary measures to achieve HERS or other ratings unless specifically noted above. These exclusions include but are not limited to: Caulking at rim joists, sill plate, and attic interface, air sealing at unit partition walls in multifamily buildings, and air sealing or other items due to unexpected framing details. Such services may be available contact NCI for details.
- 15 Inspections must be completed prior to commencement of insulation work
- 16 Spray applied fiberglass or cellulose may require drying time prior to covering. This drying time may vary due to climate conditions or assembly details. Consult manufacturer's specifications for details.
- 17 Spray applied cellulose may require that cross bracing be installed in cavities. Cross bracing shall be the responsibility of others. Consult manufacturer's specifications for details.
- 18 This proposal excludes insurance coverage for Waivers of Subrogation for Workmen's Compensation. Such coverage is available at an additional cost. Please call for details
- 19 This proposal excludes Bid, Performance and Payment Bonds. Should such a bond be required, actual cost shall be borne by Contractor
- 20 NCI is an open shop. This proposal does not include union wages fringes or dues, nor does it include Davis-Bacon prevailing wages, unless specifically acknowledged above. Additional wages required at time of work due to updated wage decisions shall be the responsibility of the Contractor.
- 21 This proposal is based on straight time. Work requiring overtime shall result in additional charges
- 22 To ensure the safety of our crews, jobsite must be broom clean and free of construction debris prior to our arrival
- 23 Contractor is to comply with and be responsible that the jobsite meets all OSHA and ANSI regulations necessary for NCI to safely complete contracted scope of work
- 24 This proposal, terms and conditions shall become part of work agreements/subcontracts

| Quote Presented By:         |      | Quote Accepted By: |      |  |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|------|--|
|                             |      |                    |      |  |
| Signature<br>Marty Fladeboe | Date | Signature          | Date |  |

# Comfortmaker DMP Heating & Coaling Bushari - Connected (218) 564-5654

#### D.M.P Heating - Cooling , LLC

15 3rd ST NE Menahga, MN 56464

Phone # 2185645654 dpinoniemi@aol.com

# **Estimate**

| Date      | Estimate # |  |
|-----------|------------|--|
| 2/21/2017 | 525        |  |

| Name / Address                      |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Travis Bolton                       |  |
| 521 1st st nw<br>Menahga , mn 56464 |  |
| <b>5</b> ,                          |  |
|                                     |  |
|                                     |  |
|                                     |  |

Project

| Description  | Qty | Cost     | Total      |
|--|-----|----------|------------|
| garage furnace and ductwork installation  m/n 925sa48060 60,000 BTU 96% Bryant furnace ductwork plenum and return / supply  PVC venting out wall / floor drain grills / registers gas line to furnace from gas meter |     | 3,825.00 | 3,825.00   |
| Sales Tax  |     | 7.375%   | 0.00       |
|  |     |          |            |
|  |     | Total    | \$3,825.00 |

Signature

#### SEBEKA HOMES INC.

P.O. Box 257

Sebeka, Minnesota 56477

Phone (218) 837-5631 or 1-800-860-5631

www.sebekahomesinc.com

sebekahomes@wcta.net

Date: February 14, 2017

No. 4398

#### Travis Bolton

boltonbees@gmail.com

Phone: (651) 728-1530

| 30 | K    | 48 | 14 existing pole shed                 |
|----|------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 2  | 10 x |    | 10 TR-2000 insulated garage door      |
| 2  |      |    | 3 ft service door with thermal break  |
|    |      |    | ceiling steel                         |
|    |      |    | wall steel                            |
|    |      |    | 2-30ft interiors wall steel both side |
|    |      |    | remove and fill in 12x12 garage door  |

#### This price valid until March 15, 2017

| QUANTITY | S           | ZE    |    | DESCRIPTION                                 | FEET        |
|----------|-------------|-------|----|---|-------------|
| 12<br>2  | lft<br>10ft | 2 x   |    | 8 treated bottom plate colored base molding | 16<br>2     |
| 108      | lft         | 2 x   |    | 8 fir stud walls                            | 144         |
| 2        | 10ft        |       |    | colored AL7 angle                           | 2           |
| 60       | Ift         | 2 x   |    | 6 treated bottom plate                      | 60          |
| 120      | lft         | 2 x   |    | 6 SPF top plate                             | 120         |
| 60       | 2 x         |       | 6  | 14 SPF studs                                | 840         |
| 1        | 2 x         |       | 6  | 12 treated bottom plate                     | 12          |
| 6        | 2 x         |       | 4  | 12 SPF wall nailers                         | 48          |
| 80       | lft         | 1 x   |    | 4 treated splash plank                      | 26.66666667 |
| 856      | lft         | 1 x   |    | 4 No 2 pine wall nailers                    | 285.3333333 |
| 120      | lft         | 2 x   |    | 6 SPF backer                                | 120         |
| 63       |             |       |    | purlin hangers                              | 63          |
| 20       | lbs         |       |    | joist hanger nails                          | 20          |
| 432      | lft         | 2 x   |    | 6 SPF ceiling nailers                       | 432         |
| 5        | 38 x        | 14.66 | 67 | colored side wall steel                     | 232.222222  |
| 10       | 10 ft       | ,     |    | colored 1 1/2 x 6 3/4 angle                 | 10          |
| 4        | 10 ft       |       |    | colored 3/4" x 5 1/2 angle                  | 4           |
| 2        | 12 ft       |       |    | colored 3/4" x 9 1/4 angle                  | 2           |
| 3        | 10 ft       |       |    | colored 1 1/2 x 9 1/4 angle                 | 3           |
| 6        | 10 ft       |       |    | colored 1 1/2 x 5 1/2 angle                 | 6           |
| 50       | 10 ft       |       |    | colored j trim                              | 50          |

| 2 1 x         | 10    | 14 No 2 pine jambs                 | 23.33333333 |
|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| 4 1 x         | 6     | 10 No 2 pine jambs                 | 20          |
| 2 3 ft        |       | service door with thermal break    | 2           |
| 2             |       | keylock                            | 2           |
| 2 10 x        | 10    | TR-2000 insulated garage door      | 2           |
| 4 10 ft       |       | heavy punched iron                 | 4           |
| 6 10 ft       | 1     | garage door jamb seal              | 6           |
| 1 bag         |       | tork jamb screws                   | 1           |
| 60 lft 2 x    |       | 6 SPF end wall backer              | 60          |
| 200 lft 10 ft |       | 4 mil ceiling poly                 | 2           |
| 1             |       | 5M H2B staples                     | 1           |
| 16 38 x       | 16    | colored ceiling steel              | 810.6666667 |
| 16 38 x       | 14    | colored ceiling steel              | 709.3333333 |
| 1000          | , , , | 1in colored neo screws             | 1000        |
| 48            |       | air shutts                         | 48          |
| 1 2 x         | 10    | 16 SPF attic access                | 26.66666667 |
|               | 10    | 4 treated wall nailer              | 20.0000007  |
| 132 lft 2 x   |       |                                    | 482.6666667 |
| 724 lft 2 x   |       | 4 SPF wall nailers                 |             |
| 34 10 ft      |       | colored double j trm               | 34          |
| 2 rolls 16 ft |       | 4 mil poly vapor barrier           | 2           |
| 2             |       | 5M H2B staples                     | 2           |
| 6 38 x        | 2     | colored wall steel                 | 38          |
| 8 38 x        | 4     | colored wall steel                 | 101.3333333 |
| 78 38 x       | 14    | colored wall steel                 | 3458        |
| 3500          |       | 1in colored neo screws             | 3500        |
| 500           |       | 2 in colored neo screws            | 500         |
| 500           |       | 1 in colored neo screws            | 500         |
| 75 lbs        |       | 16 sinkers                         | 75          |
| 25 lbs        |       | 5 in pole barn nails               | 25          |
| 8 lbs         |       | 1 1/2 in roofing nails             | 8           |
|               |       |                                    |             |
|               |       | Material Cost                      | \$13,285.64 |
|               |       | Tax                                | \$979.82    |
|               |       | Carpenter Labor                    | \$4,569.00  |
|               |       | sub total                          | \$18,834.46 |
|               |       | Cement Labor & Materials 6in floor | \$4,600.00  |
|               |       | TOTAL COST                         | \$23,434.46 |
|               |       |                                    |             |

| P.O. Box 185 LLATION Menahga, MN 56464 LLATION MPCA# 1158 | Ged on all accounts over 30 days.                       | Lucker Meet  | 3300 00 |                       |
|---|---|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Lo  | Ten Ave 55104 Mr. 55104 5% per month (18% per Lucher Ru | 4 12th Sever line 3/4 12th with wither line All Martening a Duck Fill with exist | fote    | Professional Mank You |

Business Name: Bolton Bees, LLC.

Grant Project Costs Requested Grouped by Budget Category

|                        |                   |                    | 1                      |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
|                        | Grant Award Funds | Applicant/matching | Total Cost of Items in |
| <b>Budget Category</b> | Grant Award Funds | Funds              | this Category          |
| Personnel/Contractors  | \$5,217.25        | \$15,651.75        | \$20,869.00            |
| Equipment              | \$0.00            | \$0.00             | \$0.00                 |
| Facility Improvements  | \$7,994.00        | \$23,982.00        | \$31,976.00            |
| Other                  | \$0.00            | \$0.00             | \$0.00                 |
| Total Request          | \$13,211.25       | \$39,633.75        | \$52,845.00            |
|                        |                   |                    |                        |

cross check total of all

costs \$52,845.00

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have been working with Chiara and Travis Bolton for several months as they have developed their Business Plan in preparation for their move to Northern Minnesota, and their full time commitment to growing their company. They have demonstrated the virtues that I have found, from my many years in business, to be essential in operating a successful long term business. They have a passion for their business, but it is tempered with a realistic approach to the potential risks and rewards of owning your own business.

They have completed a great deal of research, asked for professional assistance when appropriate, before entering the market on an initial test basis. This has allowed them to build a financial model that I believe will be very successful once they move beyond the first transition and relocation year.

As a general business consultant for the Northwestern Region of the Small Business Development Centers in Minnesota, I have worked with many entrepreneurs. I believe that Chiara and Travis have planned well and that Bolton Bee's will be a financial success, as well as a major asset to the local economy and to the wider community.

Respectfully,

Grant Oppegaard Business Consultant

**NWSBDC** Region

UMD Center for Economic Development

201 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NW

Bemidji, Minnesota. 56601

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

Bolton Bees has supplied my business, Corazon with honey since 2015. Selling local raw honey that is location- specific has been appreciated by our customers. It has helped educate them about both the roll Bees' play in food production and the challenges we face in the future insuring the safety and health of the Honey Bee.

Last summer Corazon was part of a food tour that featured Bolton Bees Honey. We sampled and spoke about locally-sourced honey, the mission of Bolton Bees and the unique products they offer. It was so well received by the people on the tours that we have been asked to participate again this summer; more specifically that we feature Bolton Bees Honey.

Corazon supports Bolton Bees as a company and furthermore in there mission. The Value Added Grant from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture would allow them to grow and expand their business in the future.

The demand for local consumable products is increasing. A honey house will give Bolton Bees the opportunity to offer their unique, locally produced products to a wider network of customers and businesses in Minnesota. Please consider Bolton Bees for the Value Added Grant.

Thank You Susan Zdon Owner/ Corazon 526 Selby Avenue St. Paul MN 55102 slzdon555@gmail.comp March 6, 2017

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

Market Distributing is pleased to offer support for the Minnesota Value Added grant that Bolton Bees is submitting. We are working with Bolton Bees to place their honey in stores throughout the state of Minnesota. The four varieties of honey that Bolton Bees is currently supplying to stores have been well received.

The addition of a honey house to Bolton Bees' business would ensure that they be able to meet market demand for their unique, location-specific honey. Please also consider the value added in the increased pollination from the addition of hives to Minnesota farms. It will positively affect crop production yields of Minnesota agriculture for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mike Reineck

President

Market Distributing

## University of Minnesota

Twin Cities Campus

Department of Entomology

College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences 219 Hodson Hall 1980 Folwell Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108-6125

612-624-3636 Fax: 612-625-5299

March 3, 2017

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

I am in strong support of the application from Chiara and Travis, Bolton Bees, to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Value Added Grant. I have served as an informal advisor and colleague as they have grown their bee business in MN.

They are requesting funds to help build a "honey house" or place to extract and bottle honey from their colonies. This facility will provide the space that the company needs to expand its operations keep up supply with increasing demand. Beekeeping is intricately tied to agriculture through honey production and pollination. Bolton Bees have been breeding and selling MN-Hardy honey bee stocks, which are in high demand by beekeepers. In turn, the bees provide essential pollination services to Minnesota plants throughout the state. Beekeeping provides a critical value to our state's economy and ecosystem services.

Sincerely,

Marla Spivak

Distinguished McKnight Professor, Entomology University of Minnesota

spiva001@umn.edu www.beelab.umn.edu 612 624-4798



# patient safety is our passion

March 1, 2017

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for Bolton Bees' request for the MDA Value Added Grant. I have been working with Bolton Bees' as an attorney and advisor since they first launched their business, and I look forward to helping them for years to come. In my opinion, they have a sound business plan. They bring both creativity and hard work to their projects.

The addition of a honey house will allow Bolton Bees to meet the increasing demand for their existing products-- as well as to expand into new honey-related ventures like the "solar honey" project that they just launched.

For a young business, they have already enjoyed significant success. They honey house will allow them to maintain and increase this trajectory.

J. Randall Benham

General Counsel Augustine Temperature Management LLC 6581 City West Parkway Eden Prairie, MN 55127

+1-612-414-8785

RBenham@augbiomed.com

March 6, 2017

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically endorse and support Bolton Bees' request for the Minnesota Value Added Grant from your agency. Throughout my dealings with Chiara and Travis Bolton, they have demonstrated an acute attention to detail, quality, and expertise as well as a commitment to the public good. The way they approach their work is a model to other beekeepers and other entrepreneurs.

A professional colleague first mentioned Bolton Bees to me when I was working on a solar site building permit issue in Washington County. My organization works on renewable energy policy issues and was a lead coordinator establishing a vegetation standard for solar sites, resulting in the majority of solar in sites throughout Minnesota planting low-growing native grasses and flowers instead of shallow-rooted turfgrass.

Solar sites planted to Minnesota's "pollinator-friendly solar" standard provide abundant beneficial foraging habitat for bees. Travis and Chiara instantly recognized the business opportunity in producing and marketing honey harvested from solar sites and are working to grow their business. Bolton Bees has secured the first contract in Minnesota, possibly in the nation, to produce honey on the state's first and most-established pollinator-friendly solar site.

The growth potential in this market is great — over the next three years more than 5,000 acres of pollinator-friendly solar sites will be established in Minnesota. By generating agricultural revenue from solar sites, Bolton Bees is demonstrating one of the ways to stack multiple benefits and make productive use of land commonly used for farming.

As landowners increasingly choose to use a portion of their land for solar, Bolton Bees is adding to the productivity of these sites and demonstrating a best practice for other solar sites.

Please consider the value Bolton Bees is adding to the community and to the environment when reviewing the application. Awarding a Minnesota Value Added Grant to Bolton Bees this year significantly increases the chances that pollinator habitat, and honey production, on solar sites becomes a common practice throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Rob Davis
Director, Media & Innovation Lab
Fresh Energy

March 6, 2017

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Value Added Grant Committee 625 North Robert Street St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of Big River Farms (BRF) I am happy to support Bolton Bees' request of the MDA grant. Bolton Bees has been keeping bees on our farm since 2015. It has been a positive addition to our operation—even beyond the pollinator community that it supports. BRF runs an incubator farm and a training program in organic farming, and Bolton Bees inspires farmers in our program to learn more about beekeeping and pollinator habitats. We also are writing a pollinator habitat plan and will be installing perennial plantings to better support the pollinator habitat that Bolton Bees has helped to establish at our farm.

We are excited for Bolton Bees' upcoming honey house project giving them the opportunity to expand their current business model. MDA's Value-Added Grant will benefit their business and will positively affect the businesses where Bolton Bees supplies honey and the other agricultural areas where Bolton Bees keeps bees.

Please consider both the supply of local product as well as the benefits of Bolton Bees' pollination of crops for the grant application. The growth of Bolton Bees' operation will positively affect more than the company itself.

Sincerely,

#### **Molly Schaus**

Farm Director Minnesota Food Association Big River Farms 651-433-3676 x17 mnfoodassociation.org



#### February 2017 Statement

Open Date: 01/04/2017 Closing Date: 02/01/2017



**U.S. Bank Business Edge Platinum Card** BOLTON BEES LLC

TRAVIS W BOLTON

|     | <br> |                    | * - * - * - * - * - * - * - * - * | <br> | <br>    |
|-----|------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|---------|
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Redacted per Minn. Stat. 13.37

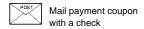
Page 1 of 2

Cardmember Service BUS 30 USB

1-866-485-4545

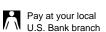
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|---|---|---|
| Previous Balance Payments Other Credits Purchases Balance Transfers Advances Other Debits Fees Charged Interest Charged | + | \$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$27.09<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00 |
| New Balance<br>Past Due<br>Minimum Payment Due  | = | \$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00  |
| Credit Line<br>Available Credit<br>Days in Billing Period   |   | \$23,000.00<br>\$23,000.00<br>29  |

Payment Options:









This is not a bill, do not remit payment.



24-Hour Cardmember Service: 1-866-485-4545

to pay by phone to change your address

#### THIS IS NOT A BILL.

This memo statement only reflects the current activity on your account. An invoice has been sent to the applicable central billing account for the company.

Thank you.

Redacted per Minn. Stat. 13.37

#### What To Do If You Think You Find A Mistake On Your Statement

If you think there is an error on your statement, please call us at the telephone number on the front of this statement, or write to us at: Cardmember Service, P.O. Box 6335, Fargo, ND 58125-6335.

In your letter or call, give us the following information:

- Account information: Your name and account number.
- Dollar amount: The dollar amount of the suspected error.
- Description of Problem: If you think there is an error on your bill, describe what you believe is wrong and why you believe it is a mistake. You must contact us within 60 days after the error appeared on your statement. While we investigate whether or not there has been an error, the following are true:
- We cannot try to collect the amount in question, or report you as delinquent on that amount.
- ▶ The charge in question may remain on your statement, and we may continue to charge you interest on that amount. But, if we determine that we made a mistake, you will not have to pay the amount in question or any interest or other fees related to that amount.
- While you do not have to pay the amount in question, you are responsible for the remainder of your balance.

# ▶ We can apply any unpaid amount against your credit limit. Your Rights If You Are Dissatisfied With Your Credit Card Purchases

If you are dissatisfied with the goods or services that you have purchased with your credit card, and you have tried in good faith to correct the problem with the merchant, you may have the right not to pay the remaining amount due on the purchase. To use this right, all of the following must be true:

- 1. The purchase must have been made in your home state or within 100 miles of your current mailing address, and the purchase price must have been more than \$50. (Note: Neither of these are necessary if your purchase was based on an advertisement we mailed to you, or if we own the company that sold you the goods or services.)
- 2. You must have used your credit card for the purchase. Purchases made with cash advances from an ATM or with a check that accesses your credit card account do not qualify.
- 3. You must not yet have fully paid for the purchase.

If all of the criteria above are met and you are still dissatisfied with the purchase, contact us in writing at: Cardmember Service, P.O. Box 6335, Fargo, ND 58125-6335

While we investigate, the same rules apply to the disputed amount as discussed above. After we finish our investigation, we will tell you our decision. At that point, if we think you owe an amount and you do not pay we may report you as delinguent.

- Important Information Regarding Your Account

  1. INTEREST CHARGE: Method of Computing Balance Subject to Interest Rate: We calculate the periodic rate or interest portion of the INTEREST CHARGE by multiplying the applicable Daily Periodic Rate ("DPR") by the Average Daily Balance ("ADB") (including new transactions) of the Purchase, Advance and Balance Transfer categories subject to interest, and then adding together the resulting interest from each category. We determine the ADB separately for the Purchases, Advances and Balance Transfer categories. To get the ADB in each category, we add together the daily balances in those categories for the billing cycle and divide the result by the number of days in the billing cycle. We determine the daily balances each day by taking the beginning balance of those Account categories (including any billed but unpaid interest, fees, credit insurance and other charges), adding any new interest, fees, and charges, and subtracting any payments or credits applied against your Account balances that day. We add a Purchase, Advance or Balance Transfer to the appropriate balances for those categories on the later of the transaction date or the first day of the statement period. Billed but unpaid interest on Purchases, Advances and Balance Transfers is added to the appropriate balances for those categories each month on the statement date. Billed but unpaid Advance Transaction Fees are added to the Advance balance of your Account on the date they are charged to your Account. Any billed but unpaid fees on Purchases, credit insurance charges, and other charges are added to the Purchase balance of the Account on the date they are charged to the Account. Billed but unpaid fees on Balance Transfers are added to the Balance Transfer balance of the Account on the date they are charged to the Account. In other words, billed and unpaid interest, fees, and charges will be included in the ADB of your Account that accrues interest and will reduce the amount of credit available to you. Credit insurance charges are not included in the ADB calculation for Purchases until the first day of the billing cycle following the date the credit insurance premium is charged to the Account. Prior statement balances subject to an interest-free period that have been paid on or before the payment due date in the current billing cycle are not included in the ADB calculation.
- 2. Payment Information: You must pay us in U.S. Dollars with checks or similar payment instruments drawn on a financial institution located in the United States. We will also accept payment in U.S. Dollars via the Internet or phone or previously established automatic payment transaction. We may, at our option, choose to accept a payment drawn on a foreign financial institution. However, you will be charged and agree to pay any collection fees required in connection with such a transaction. The date you mail a payment is different than the date we receive that payment. The payment date is the day we receive your check or money order at U.S. Bank National Association, P.O. Box 790408, St. Louis, MO 63179-0408 or the day we receive your electronic or phone payment. All payments by check or money order accompanied by a payment coupon and received at this payment address will be credited to your Account on the day of receipt if received by 5:00 p.m. CT on any banking day. Mailed payments that do not include the payment coupon and/or are mailed to a different address will be processed within 5 banking days of receipt and credited to your Account on the day of receipt. In addition, if you mail your payment without a payment coupon or to an incorrect address, it may result in a delayed credit to your Account, additional INTEREST CHARGES, fees, and possible suspension of your Account. Internet and telephone payment options are available, and crediting times vary (but generally must be made before 5:00 p.m. CT to 8 p.m. CT depending on what day and how the payment is made). If you are making an internet or telephone payment, please contact Cardmember Service for times specific to your Account and your payment option. Banking days are all calendar days except Saturday, Sunday and federal holidays. Payments due on a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday and received on those days will be credited on the day of receipt. There is no prepayment penalty if you pay your balance at any time prior to your payment due date.

  3. Credit Reporting: We may report information on your Account to Credit Bureaus. Late payments, missed payments or other defaults on your
- Account may be reflected in your credit report.





#### February 2017 Statement 01/04/2017 - 02/01/2017

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**Cardmember Service** 

1-866-485-4545





#### Important Messages

Paying Interest: You have a 24 to 30 day interest-free period for Purchases provided you have paid your previous balance in full by the Payment Due Date shown on your monthly Account statement. In order to avoid additional INTEREST CHARGES on Purchases, you must pay your new balance in full by the Payment Due Date shown on the front of your monthly Account statement.

There is no interest-free period for transactions that post to the Account as Advances or Balance Transfers except as provided in any Offer Materials. Those transactions are subject to interest from the date they post to the Account until the date they are paid in full.

#### Transactions **Purchases and Other Debits Post Trans** Date Date Ref# **Transaction Description** Amount **Notation** 01/18 01/17 0701 UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC 866-576-1039 CA \$9.46 UBER TECHNOLOGIES INC 866-576-1039 CA 01/19 01/18 5554 \$17.63 **TOTAL THIS PERIOD** \$27.09 2017 Totals Year-to-Date Total Fees Charged in 2017 \$0.00 Total Interest Charged in 2017 \$0.00 **Company Approval** (This area for use by your company) Signature/Approval: Accounting Code: \_ Interest Charge Calculation

Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annual interest rate on your account.

<sup>\*\*</sup>APR for current and future transactions.

| Balance Type                              | Balance<br>By Type         | Balance<br>Subject to<br>Interest Rate | Variable          | Interest<br>Charge         | Annual<br>Percentage<br>Rate | Expires<br>with<br>Statement |
|---|----------------------------|--|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| **BALANCE TRANSFER **PURCHASES **ADVANCES | \$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00 | \$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00             | YES<br>YES<br>YES | \$0.00<br>\$0.00<br>\$0.00 | 0.00%<br>0.00%<br>0.00%      |                              |



#### **EQUILINE**

U.S. BANK HIGHLAND PARK PO BOX 790179 ST. LOUIS MO 63179-0179 0300

Redacted per Minn Stat 13.37

#### լՈլհոլիմոմվորդիՈնվիինկՈրուրկիՈներդՈկոդՈ

TRAVIS W BOLTON 1631 DAYTON AVE SAINT PAUL MN 55104-7477

Statement Continues on Next Page

## Account Summary Feb. 04, 2017

Account Number:
End of Draw Date:
Maturity Date:
Approved Credit Line:
Principal Balance\*:
Available Credit:
Feb. 24, 2024
Feb. 24, 2044
Feb. 27,000.00
\$27,000.00
\$18,681.89

Total Minimum Amt. Due: \$33.10 Payment Due Date: Feb. 24, 2017

If you do not pay the Total Minimum Amount Due by the Payment Due Date, you may be subject to late charges which will appear on your next statement.

\* The Principal Balance is not the final payoff amount. Contact 24-Hour Banking at 1-800-USBANKS for payoff amount.



Equal Housing Lender



Redacted per Minn Stat 13.37

| Page 2 of 4   |
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|               |
| Feb. 04, 2017 |

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We are changing our current policy which does not require a monthly payment if the amount due is \$5.00 or less on our line of credit product. Effective with monthly statements produced on or after January 23, 2017, the statement will reflect the exact amount due. If you do not pay the total amount due by the payment due date you may be subject to late charges which will appear on your next statement.

View and pay your account online or with your mobile device.
Make principal payments on your home equity line of credit or fixed rate option.

Making a payment? Visit www.usbank.com. Pay by Phone? Existing U.S. Bank checking account customers, call 800.USBANKS (872-2657). Non-U.S. Bank checking account customers call 800.374.6460.

#### Interest paid in 2016

#### \$486.52

The interest and taxes paid amounts on the statement is provided only as a courtesy. If your account qualifies for 1098 reporting you should have received an official 1098 form in January. Year-end interest adjustments could result in a variance in the amount shown above and the actual amount on the 1098. The amount listed above should only be considered an estimate of interest and taxes paid.

Your payment will satisfy the current minimum payment amount due. If you would like to make an additional principal payment or have other questions about your account, call the number listed below.

Payments received before 5:00 p.m. Central Time at our Payment Processing Center will be applied to your account effective the same business day. Payments received after the cutoff time, or on weekends or legal holidays, will be applied to your account the next business day.

If you were eligible for, and chose the Interest Only payment option for your U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit, the minimum monthly payment amount will not reduce the principal balance owed. At the time your line of credit reaches the End of Draw Date, the minimum monthly payment amount due will increase to include both principal and interest in order to pay off the balance owed by the Maturity Date. The increase in the new monthly payment amount may be substantial compared to the Interest Only amount.

Borrowers have certain rights under Federal law related to resolving errors and requesting information about their mortgage account. Notices of Error and Requests For Information must be directed to U.S. Bank, Attention: Escalation Center, 17500 Rockside Road, Bedford, OH 44146. Your submission must be in writing and include the name of each borrower, the loan number and a description of the error you believe has occurred OR a request for specific information regarding your mortgage loan.

After a payment has been made, we reserve the right to withhold available advances in the amount of the principal portion of the payment up to 7 business days from the date we receive the payment. Any credit available before the payment is received will continue to be available for advances during this time.

Equal Housing Lender

#### TO CONTACT U.S. BANK

Account Questions? Contact U.S. Bank 24-Hour Banking at (612) USBANKS (612-872-2657) in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Metro area or toll free at 800-USBANKS (872-2657). For TDD access, call 800-685-5065.

For billing inquiries, write to us at: U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 2188, Oshkosh WI 54903-2188. Please note, calling us will not preserve your billing rights. To prohibit us from sharing information about you with our affiliates please send a written notice with your name, address, and last four digits of your social security number to: U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 1800, St. Paul MN 55101.

**Our Complaint Process:** Please submit any mortgage loan foreclosure or foreclosure alternative process related complaint to: U.S. Bank, Attention: Escalation Center, 17500 Rockside Road, Bedford, OH 44146; or you may contact us directly Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm ET at 855-211-4872. Your submission should include the name of each borrower and the loan number. Notices of error and requests for information must be directed to this address.

Consumer Report Disputes
We may report information about negative account activity to Consumer Reporting Agencies (CRA). If you believe we have inaccurately reported information to a CRA, you may submit a dispute by calling 844.624.8230 or by writing to:
U.S. Bank Attn: CRA Management, P.O. Box 3447, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3447. In order for us to assist you with your dispute, you must provide: your name, address, and phone number; the account number; the specific information you are disputing; the explanation of why it is incorrect; and any supporting documentation (e.g., affidavit of identity theft), if applicable.

| VARIABLE RA            | ATE LINE    | : CURRENT RATE: 4.4                           | 1900 % AS (  | OF FEB 4, 2017 |            |       |
|------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|----------------|------------|-------|
| <b>Maturity Date</b>   | February    | 24, 2044                                      | Current Prin | cipal Balance  | \$8,681.89 |       |
| Transaction<br>Summary | <u>Date</u> | Transaction Description                       |              | Principal      | Interest   | Other |
| ,                      |             | Beginning Balance                             |              | \$8,681.89     | \$32.52 -  |       |
|                        |             | \$32.52 Payment - Thank You<br>Ending Balance |              | \$8,681.89     | \$3Z.3Z -  |       |

#### FINANCE CHARGE CALCULATION

Your Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the annual interest rate on your account.

| Finance Charge | Annual Percentage | Daily Periodic | Balance Subject  | Number of | Finance |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------|---------|
| Summary        | Rate (APR)        | Rate           | to Interest Rate | Days      | Charge  |
|                | 4.490%            | 0.01230%       | \$8,681.89       | 31        | \$33.10 |

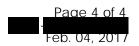
Balance Subject to Interest Rate means the average daily balance used to calculate the Finance Charge. We compute your Finance Charge by applying the Daily Periodic Rate to your ending daily balance. To get the ending balance, we take the beginning daily balance, then add any new advances and subtract any payments or credits posted that day. To verify the Finance Charge for this statement, multiply each of the disclosed Average Daily Balances by the number of days the applicable Daily Periodic Rate was in effect, then multiply each of these results by the applicable Daily Periodic Rate and add these totals together. When using the calculation, the Finance Charge may be slightly lesser or greater than stated due to rounding. The Daily Periodic Rate may vary if this is a variable rate account.

Equal Housing Lender

Statement Continues on Next Page



#### **EQUILINE**



**CURRENT MINIMUM AMOUNT DUE** 

Amount Due Summary **Payment Due Date** Feb. 24, 2017

**VARIABLE RATE LINE:** 

Principal Due \$0.00 Interest Due \$33.10

**Total Due VARIABLE RATE LINE:** \$33.10

**Total Minimum Amount Due** \$33.10

