Legacy Soil & Stone

— a working name —

Master Proposal

An Educational Walkthrough of the Business We're Building

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A Note Before You Read

This document is an educational walkthrough of a business idea that is still being shaped. It explains what we are trying to build, the science behind it, the commitments we are making, and the operational choices we are considering. It is not a final plan.

Everything inside is a working draft. Names, numbers, product counts, facility sizes, branding, and company structure are all placeholders that will be refined as research comes back and decisions get made. Financial detail lives in a separate companion document so this proposal can stay focused on explanation.

> *Nothing in this document is final. It exists to make the thinking legible — not to lock anything in.*

Contents

This document is organized in five parts. Each part stands on its own.

Part I — Vision & Framing

1. What This Document Is

This is an educational document written in the shape of a proposal. The purpose is to explain — clearly and honestly — what Legacy Soil & Stone is trying to do, why, how the science works, and what decisions are still open. It is not a pitch and not a finished plan.

Readers who want financial detail — unit pricing, cost of goods, startup capital, and three-year projections — should look at the companion document, Legacy Soil & Stone — Financial Model & Narrative.

How to read this document

- Read Part II (Service Lines) for the clearest answer to "what are you actually offering?"
- Read Part III (The Science) to understand the Marble Method and the composting side.
- Read Part V (Path Forward) for what happens next and what we still don't know.

2. Celebrate the Life, Respect the Grief

A pet is family. When that family member dies, what happens next should honor the life that was lived and give the people who loved them somewhere meaningful to put their grief.

Legacy Soil & Stone exists to make that possible. We take the natural cycle that returns a body to the earth and hold it gently in a form a grieving family can keep, touch, plant into, and sit with. A stone that carries the weight of a good life. A planter of dark, living soil that grows into the first bloom of the season.

That is the whole thesis. Celebrate the life. Respect the grief. Let something new grow.

> *Celebrate the life. Respect the grief. Out of that celebration, something new can grow.*

3. The Opportunity

Pet ownership in the United States has grown steadily for two decades. The way people think about the animals in their homes has changed with it — a pet that used to be "the dog" is now a name in the family group text. What hasn't kept up is the set of options people have when that family member dies.

We want to offer something that feels like it was made on purpose — designed for the love people bring to it, not retrofitted from a process built for something else.

In one sentence

A small, regional, North Georgia business that turns the loss of a companion animal into something a family can hold, plant, and watch grow — done with care, done with science, done in the open.

4. Our Commitments

These are the constraints every operational decision has to satisfy.

Care first

Every animal that passes through our facility is treated with the same care we would want for our own. That applies equally to a private family's beloved companion and to an unnamed shelter animal.

Transparent work

We do the work in the open. Calm, thoughtful documentation of every step. A family who wants to understand can. A family who would rather not watch can rest easy.

Real science

We make claims we can back up. If a stone is described as made from cremains, the chemistry will hold. If a soil is described as composted to pathogen-reduction standards, the temperature log will show it. If a research partnership is described, it will be a real partnership.

Honest about what we don't know

Throughout this document you will find places where we say "we don't know yet." That is deliberate. A proposal that pretends to certainty where none exists is hiding its risk.

Part II — The Four Service Lines

Legacy Soil & Stone has four service lines. Two serve private families, one serves the community through a shelter partnership, and one serves the scientific community through academic research. They share equipment, facilities, and know-how, but each has a distinct purpose.

5. Service Line 1 — Marbled Memorial Stones

What it is

Cremains are transformed into a finished memorial stone — a hand-cast cement piece in which the cremains themselves are the structural aggregate that gives the stone its weight and strength. The finished object can be a garden stone, a worry-stone set, a candle holder, or a memorial bundle.

The Marble Method is the process that makes this work. The short version: cremation ash does not behave well in cement on its own — it soaks up the cement paste and the result is weak. The Marble Method solves that by first pearling the ash into rounded aggregate using a binder and a pan granulator, then mixing that aggregate into cement the way a stonemason mixes gravel. The finished stone is real cement with real mineral aggregate inside — and that aggregate is the cremains.

What the family receives

- A finished cement memorial piece in their chosen form.
- A documentation card describing what the piece is made from and how it was made.
- Photographs of the piece during and after creation.
- Peace of mind that the full mass of the cremains went into the piece — not a pinch of ash in a factory-cast blank.

Why this is different

Most commercial memorial stones use only a small fraction of ash — enough to be symbolic but not enough to be structural. In the Marble Method, the cremains are the rock inside the cement. The mass of the finished piece carries the mass of the life it memorializes.

The shapes we are planning

A small, intentional catalog: garden stones, worry-stone sets for handheld keeping, and candle holders. Additional shapes may emerge from the first production runs; shapes that don't earn their place will come out.

What still needs to be figured out

- Final binder chemistry and cement mix ratios for the aggregate.
- Pan granulator equipment and capacity at production scale.

- IP protection — the Marble Method is a candidate for process IP protection.
- The final shape catalog and pricing (see financial document).

6. Service Line 2 — Memorial Soil (Private Natural Organic Reduction)

What it is

Natural Organic Reduction (NOR) — also called mortality composting — is a controlled biological process that transforms an animal's body into finished, stable soil over a period of weeks. It uses high temperatures, managed airflow, and carbon-rich bulking materials to produce soil that is biologically safe, fertile, and ready to grow something.

A private family ships or delivers their companion animal. We process the body through a commercial small-animal composting unit and return finished memorial soil — typically presented in a cedar planter with a starter plant appropriate for North Georgia.

What the family receives

- A cedar planter filled with finished memorial soil.
- A starter plant or seed pack.
- A documentation card and photograph record from the cycle.

Weight range and cycle

Line 2 is sized for companion animals in the small-to-medium range. A full cycle takes approximately sixty to ninety days: an active thermophilic phase of three to six weeks followed by a curing phase of similar length. Weight tiers and cycle parameters will be finalized once the composter model is selected.

What still needs to be figured out

- Final composter selection — brand, model, capacity, and cost.
- Carbon-to-nitrogen recipe tuned for small companion animals in that unit.
- Cedar planter dimensions for each weight tier.
- Intake logistics — the shipping side of Line 2 is still being worked out.

7. Service Line 3 — Community Service: The Shelter Program

What it is

Line 3 is a local community service. A significant number of euthanized shelter animals in North Georgia are currently sent to landfill — not because anyone prefers that outcome, but because shelters don't have a better option that fits their budget. Line 3 is the other option.

We partner with area shelters to receive those animals and compost them through a mass-composting operation — the same NOR science as Line 2, scaled to a bay or windrow format. The finished soil becomes a community product available to the public.

Community service and revenue in one line

Line 3 does two things at the same time. It rescues animals from the landfill pathway and returns them to the earth in a living form. And it generates revenue through the public sale of the finished community soil. A family who buys a bag of this soil is buying something real — good, clean, fertile soil — and also supporting the program that produced it.

What the community is receiving is unconditional love, given form. The soil carries the mass of animals who were loved enough by the community to be rescued, cared for, and — when nothing else could be done — returned to the earth through a process that respects them. That is a real offering with a real purpose behind it.

What the shelter gets

- A reliable, permitted alternative to landfill disposal.
- A story the shelter can tell its donors about where those animals go.
- Documentation the shelter can keep for its own records.

What the community gets

- High-quality finished community soil, available for pickup or in bags.
- A public story about where the soil came from and what it means.

What still needs to be figured out

- Which shelters to approach first, and what intake cadence looks like month over month.
- Whether the community soil is sold retail (bags), in bulk (by the scoop), or both.
- Whether the community soil needs its own name and identity.

8. Service Line 4 — Academic Research Partnerships

What it is

Line 4 is built on top of Line 3. The mass composting operation is, in effect, a large, instrumented, controlled environment running live data every day. That is exactly what universities and extension programs need to study small-animal NOR, nutrient cycling, or pathogen reduction — and it is exactly what is currently missing in the literature.

What research partners receive

- Access to an operating facility and its temperature, moisture, and throughput logs.

- The ability to run protocols — instrumentation, sampling, timed interventions — under a formal agreement.
- Clean records on a cadence the partner defines.
- Co-authorship and acknowledgement opportunities on published work.

Why this is a service line, not a side project

It provides institutional validation no amount of marketing can substitute for. It generates revenue through partnership fees or grant sub-awards. It feeds back into Lines 1 and 2 — the research tightens the science, and the science tightens the product.

Research partner targets

We have identified four institutions for initial outreach, each with established programs relevant to this work:

- **University of Georgia Cooperative Extension** — UGA Extension maintains the most extensive published guidance on mortality composting in the Southeast, including publications on container composters and PFRP-standard temperature protocols for poultry and livestock. (extension.uga.edu)
- **Auburn University, Department of Poultry Science** — Auburn's poultry science faculty have published extensively on mortality composting and carcass disposal, including work by Dr. John P. Blake on disposal options and containment during the 2004 avian influenza outbreak. (agriculture.auburn.edu)
- **Appalachian State University, Dept. of Sustainable Development** — App State's Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture program includes a teaching-research farm and a curriculum focused on soil carbon cycling and composting science. (sd.appstate.edu)
- **Berry College, Dept. of Animal Science** — Located in Mount Berry, Georgia, Berry's animal science program has strong pre-vet and production tracks and an 80% vet school acceptance rate, making it a natural partner for companion-animal composting research. (berry.edu/academics/fs/departments/animal-science)

What still needs to be figured out

- Which institution to approach first and the specific project to pitch.
- Partnership structure — fee-for-access, grant-funded, or contract research.
- Consent language where private families' cycles feed research data.
- Publication and IP terms.

Service Line Comparison at a Glance

	Line 1 Marbled Stones	Line 2 Private Soil	Line 3 Shelter Program	Line 4 Research

What comes back	Cement memorial piece	Planter of finished soil	Community soil + a story	Publications, validation
Core process	Marble Method (pearling + cement)	Commercial composter (NOR)	Mass composting (bay/windrow)	Instrumented study on Lines 2–3
Primary input	Cremains	Companion animal	Shelter intake, at volume	Data from the operation
Who it serves	Private families	Private families	Shelters + community	Universities, extension
How it earns	Retail product	Retail service	Intake fee + soil sales	Partnership / grant

The four lines reinforce each other. Lines 1 and 2 serve private families. Line 3 provides the scale that makes Line 4 possible. Line 4 validates the science that makes Lines 1 and 2 credible.

Part III — The Science

This section explains the two core processes in enough detail to follow without a chemistry background, but with enough specificity that someone with one can see what we're claiming.

9. The Marble Method — Cremains as Aggregate

The starting problem

Cremation ash is mostly calcium phosphate — the mineral family that makes up bone. Fine calcium-phosphate powder behaves in a cement mix the way dry sawdust behaves in cake batter: it soaks up liquid, starves the surrounding material, and the finished piece is weaker than it should be. That is why most commercial memorial stones use only a small pinch of ash — a token fraction is all a standard cement mix can structurally absorb.

The Marble Method solves that problem. It lets us put the full mass of cremains into a finished cement piece, and it produces a piece that is stronger, not weaker, than a conventional memorial stone.

Step one: pearling — turning ash into aggregate

The first step is to convert the cremains from an unusable powder into a usable aggregate. The technique we use is a form of wet agglomeration called pan granulation — a well-documented process in materials science in which fine powder is tumbled on a tilted rotating disc with a liquid binder, and the rotation causes the wetted particles to layer onto each other and grow into dense, rounded pellets.

In industrial literature this layering mechanism is described as successive shell deposition — each pass adds material to the outside of the growing granule, the way a pearl grows around a grain of sand. We call this step *pearling*: the creation of rounded, layered aggregate from cremains powder using sodium silicate (water glass) as the binder. Sodium silicate is a non-toxic industrial binder and sealant with over a century of use. The result is marble-sized pieces of real, bound mineral content — dense, rounded, and structurally sound.

The pearled aggregate is not the product. It is a preparation step — converting unusable powder into usable aggregate for the next stage.

Step two: aggregate goes into cement

The pearled aggregate is mixed into cement the way a stonemason mixes gravel — as the rock inside the matrix. The physics now work correctly: the aggregate is rounded, dense, and pre-bound, so it does not soak up the cement paste. The cement cures around the aggregate the way it cures around stone in a driveway, and the finished piece is as strong as the cement's native strength.

The finished object is a cement memorial piece — a stone, a holder, a garden element — with pearled cremains aggregate throughout. When a family holds the finished piece, they are holding the mass of the life it memorializes, bound into a form that will last.

In plain language

- Aggregate behaves like real rock inside the cement.
- The finished piece is stronger than a conventional cremains-in-cement stone.
- The process is non-toxic — the sodium silicate binder is food-safe once cured.
- The finished piece is weather-stable, water-safe, and suitable for outdoor or indoor placement.

What we still have to prove

- Final binder ratio, granulation time, and cure time for the pearling stage.
- Cement mix design optimized around the pearled aggregate.
- Strength testing on finished pieces at bench scale.
- Color and surface finish control.
- Pan granulator equipment spec and cost at our scale.

> *The cremains are not filler in a cement product. Pearled into aggregate, they are the rock inside the cement.*

10. Natural Organic Reduction — The Composting Science

What composting actually does

Composting is a controlled microbial process that runs at high temperatures for weeks. Aerobic bacteria and fungi break organic material down into stable humus. The high-temperature phase — typically 131°F to 149°F — is what separates composting from rotting. At those temperatures, pathogens and parasites are eliminated and the finished material is biologically safe.

The US EPA defines these conditions as “Process to Further Reduce Pathogens” (PFRP). The specific temperature-and-duration thresholds are publicly documented and routinely met by farm and municipal composting operations. (EPA 40 CFR § 503)

Why animals, specifically

Livestock mortality composting is a mature practice. State extension programs teach it as a standard alternative for cattle, poultry, and hog mortality. UGA Extension alone maintains multiple published guides on the subject. (UGA B-1408: Mortality Composting Basics) The underlying science — C:N ratio, moisture, bulking, pile geometry, turning schedule — is the same whether the animal is a cow or a cat. The difference is scale, not principle.

Applying the same process to companion animals at a service scale is newer and less formalized. That gap is one reason Service Line 4 matters — it exists to bring academic rigor to the documentation of exactly this work.

The vessel: commercial composter for Line 2

A commercial small-animal composting unit insulates well, holds temperature evenly across the cycle, and is engineered for mortality composting specifically. The thermophilic phase hits PFRP targets cleanly and the operator is not fighting the equipment. The vessel is also the natural upper bound on animal size for Line 2.

The specific make and model is under research. UGA Extension's work on container composters for poultry mortality provides a useful reference for the thermal profiles these units achieve. (UGA B-1550: Container Composters)

The bay/windrow format: Line 3 at scale

Mass composting uses a bay or windrow format: a controlled pile held in place by walls, managed for airflow and moisture, turned on schedule, and instrumented for temperature. The same PFRP targets apply. Windrow composting of livestock mortality is extensively documented; the bay approach is more contained, which fits better on a small facility footprint.

The recipe

In simplified form: the body (nitrogen source) is layered with carbon-rich bulking (wood chips, straw, sawdust) at a C:N ratio the literature puts in the 25:1 to 30:1 range. Moisture is maintained around 50 percent. Airflow is managed. Within 24–72 hours, thermophilic bacteria drive temperatures into the 130–150°F band and hold there for the required duration. Total cycle for Line 2: roughly sixty to ninety days.

What we still have to prove

- A full instrumented run on the selected composter, from intake to cure, with complete temperature logging.
- Pathogen reduction verification on the finished product.
- Odor management in a residential-adjacent setting.
- Winter operation during North Georgia cold snaps.
- Bay or windrow design for the mass operation and how it scales with shelter volume.

11. Regulatory & Compliance Context

Georgia EPD — Class 2 Permit-by-Rule

Georgia's Environmental Protection Division offers a Permit-by-Rule track for composting operations below a size threshold that meet temperature, setback, and recordkeeping requirements. This is the regulatory home for both Line 2 and Line 3.

O.C.G.A. § 4-5-5 — Dead Animal Handling

Georgia statute requires dead animals to be handled, transported, and processed within 24 hours. Our intake kits and shelter protocols are built to keep each body inside this window.

Patent & IP

The Marble Method is a candidate for process IP protection. A custom composting vessel design, if developed, would be a second candidate. Both will be reviewed for patentability after the first successful bench-scale runs.

LLC and Insurance

The business will operate under a single Georgia LLC with general liability insurance and a composting-specific rider. The working name is not yet locked.

Requirement	Applies to	Our plan
GA EPD Class 2 PBR	Lines 2 and 3	Register before first commercial run; follow temperature / setback / recordkeeping standards.
O.C.G.A. § 4-5-5 (24-hr handling)	All intake	Insulated cold chain; documented intake times on every body.
Liability insurance	Whole operation	General liability + composting rider before public launch.
LLC formation	Whole operation	Single-member GA LLC; final name TBD.
Patent IP review	Marble Method + vessel	Review after first successful bench-scale runs.
GATE ag tax exemption	Equipment	Apply once LLC is formed; reduces GA sales tax on qualifying equipment.

Part IV — How It All Works

This part walks through what actually happens, end to end, for each service line.

12. Process Walkthroughs

Line 1 — Marbled Memorial Stones

1. Inquiry & intake
A family reaches out through the website or by phone. If they choose Line 1, we send intake information. The family ships or delivers cremains; we confirm receipt with chain-of-custody documentation and log weight and photographs.

2. Pearling
The cremains are loaded into the pan granulator with sodium silicate binder. The pan rotates, the material forms into rounded aggregate, and the aggregate is set aside to cure.

3. Casting & finishing
The cured aggregate is mixed into cement at a tuned ratio and cast into the chosen shape. The piece cures under controlled conditions, is de-molded, finished, and photographed.

4. Return to family
The finished piece ships or is hand-delivered with a documentation card, photographs, and a handwritten note.

Line 2 — Memorial Soil

1. Inquiry & intake
The family chooses Line 2 (or combines with Line 1). For remote families, we ship an insulated intake kit with cold-chain element, liner, labels, and chain-of-custody form. Local families schedule a pickup. On arrival, the body is weighed, photographed, and logged.

2. Composting
The commercial composter is pre-charged with carbon bulking. The body is placed in, surrounded, and topped to the documented C:N ratio. The unit is sealed, aeration starts, and temperature is logged through the full thermophilic phase.

3. Cure & return
After the active phase, the material cures. Finished soil is screened, portioned into a cedar planter, and returned to the family with a starter plant and the photo record.

Line 3 — Shelter Program

1. Shelter intake

Partner shelters deliver or we pick up on an agreed cadence. Chain-of-custody documentation travels with each delivery. Bodies are staged in cold storage until the next active load.

2. Mass composting

A prepared bay is layered with carbon bulking and loaded. Temperature is logged, moisture managed, and the pile turned on schedule through the full thermophilic phase.

3. Cure & community sale

Finished soil is screened, stabilized, and offered for community pickup — bagged, in bulk, or both. The product carries a story card explaining where it came from and what it means.

Line 4 — Research Partnerships

1. Agreement

A research partner agrees on a protocol and scope — what to measure, over what period, with what sampling, and under what publication terms.

2. Instrumented run

The protocol is integrated into the regular Line 2 or Line 3 operation. Sampling points, sensors, and data capture are added to the cycle.

3. Delivery

The partner receives data, samples, and documentation per the agreement terms.

13. Two Facility Paths: Solid vs. Dream

The Solid Path

A single greenhouse or converted outbuilding on accessible land. One commercial composting unit for Line 2. A starter bay for Line 3. One Marble Method bench for Line 1. Clean intake area. Minimum viable compliance. Functional, legal, and it produces finished work across all four service lines.

The Dream Path

The Dream path starts with the land. A beautiful piece of property — meeting the forest, the landscape, the kind of setting that feels right for what happens here. The facility is purpose-built: multiple composting units, a finished mass-composting bay, a walk-in cure room, a public-facing intake area, a dedicated Marble Method studio, a research-partner workroom, and a memorial forest on the surrounding acreage.

The Dream path is about aesthetics at scale. The land is chosen for its beauty, not just its zoning. The facility is designed to feel intentional — the kind of place where every detail matters because the families who come here are trusting us with something that matters.

The Solid path is the starting floor. The Dream path is the ceiling. The first year will live somewhere between them.

14. Intake & Logistics

Local pickup
For families within a defined radius: a scheduled visit, a cooler with cold-chain element, and a quiet conversation. The body is logged on-site; chain of custody starts at the door.

Shipped intake kit
For families outside pickup range: an insulated container pre-sized for the weight range, cold-chain element, food-grade liner, labels, and a one-page form. The 24-hour window under § 4-5-5 is managed through shipping choice. The exact carrier and service level are still being finalized.

Shelter intake
Scheduled deliveries or pickups on a cadence agreed with each partner shelter, with volume-appropriate cold staging and chain-of-custody documentation per load.

Part V — Path Forward

15. Brand & Identity

Branding is open and actively being developed. Name candidates, taglines, and visual directions are in progress across multiple avenues. The working concept follows three principles: honest, quiet, and natural — earth-and-cedar aesthetic, calm typography, real photography of the real work.

There is significant opportunity in the brand. The voice, the visual identity, the community-facing language — these will be shaped by the work itself as it develops. The business leads; the brand follows.

16. Phase Plan

Each phase has an exit gate that must pass before the next begins.

Phase 0 — Research & specification

Where we are now. Finalize the Marble Method chemistry, select the composter, design the Line 3 bay, complete the financial model, form the LLC. Exit gate: the first bench-scale run is ready to attempt and the composter is ready to order.

Phase 1 — First bench-scale Marble Method run

A single successful run producing a real finished cement piece with pearled aggregate. Exit gate: a finished piece exists that meets the strength, stability, and aesthetic we wrote down in Phase 0.

Phase 2 — First instrumented Line 2 run

The composter is purchased, sited, and commissioned. A surrogate load runs a full cycle with complete temperature logging. Exit gate: finished, pathogen-reduced soil and the temperature log to prove it.

Phase 3 — Compliance and quiet launch

Register the Permit-by-Rule. Get the insurance rider. Finalize intake forms and consent language. Accept the first real client — quietly, through personal referral. Exit gate: that first experience goes well end to end.

Phase 4 — Shelter partnership pilot

Approach the first shelter partner. Run Line 3 at smallest useful scale: one bay, one cycle. The community soil from this pilot is the first public Line 3 product. Exit gate: finished community soil exists and the first community buyer has picked up a bag.

Phase 5 — Research outreach and public launch

Approach the first research partner (UGA Extension is the default first conversation). Launch the website. Open ordering for all four service lines. Growth decisions from here — Solid vs. Dream — depend on what the first months teach us.

17. Open Questions

These are the questions we are deliberately tracking.

Technical

- Final binder ratio, granulation time, and cure time for the pearling stage.
- Cement mix design optimized around the pearled aggregate.
- Pan granulator model and capacity.
- Commercial composter model and thermal profile.
- Bay/windrow design for Line 3.

Operational

- Pickup radius and cost curve of local vs. shipped intake.
- Shipping carrier and container spec for the Line 2 intake kit.
- Winter operation during North Georgia cold snaps.
- Cold storage capacity for bodies awaiting processing.

Shelter & Research

- Which shelters to approach first and intake cadence.
- Community soil packaging, pricing, and naming.
- Which institution to approach first for Line 4 and the shape of the first conversation.
- Partnership structure, consent language, and publication terms.

Brand

- LLC name.
- Service-line product names.
- Community soil story and voice — the language around unconditional love.

18. Risks & Guardrails

Risks we know about

- Regulatory risk — a change in GA EPD rules or local zoning could force a facility move.
- Technical risk — the Marble Method may require more precise equipment than a bootstrap budget carries.

- Operator risk — this is meaningful work that asks a lot of the people who do it.
- Reputational risk — one mismanaged intake can end a business like this before it starts.
- Capacity risk — demand can exceed a small shop faster than it can responsibly scale.

Guardrails

- The commitments in Section 4 are non-negotiable.
- Nothing launches publicly until Phases 1 and 2 are both passed.
- Financial projections are conservative placeholders until real actuals replace them.
- The founder reserves the right to say no to any growth path that compromises the quality of the work.

19. Supporting Documents

Legacy Soil & Stone — Financial Model & Narrative

A separate workbook and companion narrative carrying pricing, startup capital, and three-year projections across all four service lines.

Marble Method Technical Brief (planned)

A short spec of the binder chemistry, pearling process, cement mix, and equipment — written after the first bench-scale run.

NOR Operations Manual (planned)

The run book for the composting side — recipes, temperature targets, logging procedures, permit compliance. Written against the Phase 2 and Phase 4 runs.

Intake & Consent Forms (planned)

Chain-of-custody, consent, shelter agreements, and research consent. Drafted in Phase 3.

Research Partnership Outreach Deck (planned)

A short document introducing the business to university and extension contacts. Written in Phase 5.

20. Closing Note

The single most important thing to understand about this document is that it is a draft. Numbers are placeholders. Names are working labels. Equipment choices depend on research we have not yet done.

What is not a draft is the intention. The intention is to build a small, honest, regional business that treats the death of a companion animal the way the family would treat it if they could do it all themselves — with care, with science, and with a return to the earth that is real rather than symbolic. Unconditional love, given form, given back to the earth, and allowed to grow.

> *Celebrate the life. Respect the grief. The intention is not negotiable — everything else is.*

— end of master proposal —