

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee and Subcommittee Co-Chairs Meeting  
August 9, 2021 – Minutes**

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<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Virtual Meeting – Meeting was recorded and <a href="#">posted online</a>
<b>Physical Location to Attend in Person:</b>	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount Room L D215
<b>Steering Committee Members Present:</b>	Lauren Oates, Julie Moore, Chris Company, Liz Miller, Jared Duval, Susanne Young
<b>Subcommittee Members Present:</b>	Billy Coster, Abbie Corse, Sarah Phillips, Kiah Morris, TJ Poor, Joe Segale (standing in for Rural Resilience and Adaptaiton subcommitte co-chairs), Bronwyn Cooke (standing in for Rural Resilience and Adaptaiton subcommitte co-chairs)
<b>Staff Members Present:</b>	Catherine Morris (CBI), Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz
<b>Minutes By:</b>	Marian Wolz

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- 11:02 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda  
*Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration & Catherine Morris, Consensus Building Institute*
- Review/ Approval of [July 22 minutes](#) will be moved to the next Steering Committee meeting.
  - Overview of Steering Committee Agenda
- 11:05 AM General Business  
*Jane Lazorchak, Director Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA)*
- Review of proposed [revised council meeting schedule](#).
  - The proposed time that works for all Councilors is every other Tuesdays from 1:30pm – 5:30pm with the intent is to be finished by 4:30pm most days. Revised schedule would begin on September 14th.
  - Based on that schedule, the proposal is for the Steering Committee to meet on the alternating weeks – starting September 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Steering Committee members noted that meeting on Tuesdays from 3:00-4:30pm would be best.

- Jane Lazorchak clarified that the August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Vermont Climate Council would take place, and the new schedule would begin for the next meeting (September 14<sup>th</sup>).

#### Subcommittee Membership Update

- Secretary Kurrle has appointed Chris Cochran as her designee for the Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee.
- Nadia Marquez Pabst has stepped down as co-chair of the Just Transitions Subcommittee.
- Just Transitions Subcommittee co-chairs would like to recommend Mona Tolba for appointment to the Just Transitions Subcommittee.
- Iris Hsiang should replace Sophie Clark on the Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee. This was approved at a previous Steering Committee meeting but should be reflected in the membership document listed on the website.
- The Steering Committee approved the membership updates.

11:10 AM Subcommittee coordination and updates  
*Jane Lazorchak and Subcommittee co-chairs*

#### Review of Climate Action Plan (CAP) draft

- Jane Lazorchak provided a review of the [CAP draft](#) and noted the key changes made from the version approved by the Steering Committee in April.

#### Discussion of the draft and its implications for Subcommittee work

- Steering Committee members noted some components they thought were missing from the draft outline:
  - A section articulating the relationship between the Climate Action Plan and the Comprehensive Energy Plan.
  - A section explaining the implications of continuing in business as usual.
  - An expanded section that explains the big picture for why a climate action plan is needed, and what data and larger ideas are needed.
  - Noted the importance for a similar structure and voice throughout the plan and that there may be programs and funding sources (such as adaptation funding) coming from the Federal government that Vermont should be poised to take advantage of – this should be built into the Plan, so the framework exists when the program is announced.
- Steering Committee members noted questions and key points that came to mind when reviewing the CAP outline:
  - The letter at the beginning of the Plan should be from the entire Climate Council, not just the Chair and co-chairs of the subcommittees.

- Under the Effects of Climate Change in Vermont section, will there be a discussion of just past and current trends, or forward thinking and forecasting as well?
  - Discussion around a section that sets the context for not only climate change hazards, but the context around the factor driving climate change, the economy, health impacts, etc.
- Under the scientific decision-making tool section, it should be noted that there are other tools, objectives, and goals that need to be weighed as strategies and actions are considered.
- Use call-out boxes or icons to indicate where mitigation strategies serve resilience and sequestration benefits as well.
- Acknowledgement that 1-2 pages will not be enough to review the Global Warming Solutions Act requirements.
- Question around where cost and funding fit into the feasibility conversation and component of the Plan.
- Request that the order in which sectors and pathways are presented in the plan be considered – transportation and buildings may need to be listed before energy and non-energy sectors.
- Request that the full Council understand that actions requiring immediate implementation may need to be included in the plan before all the questions around foundational criteria have been answered.
- Several members voiced concern about only presenting a handful of strategies that would not get Vermont to the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) mitigation requirements.
  - Jane Lazorchak responded that the mitigation actions proposed will have to be a full package that meet the GHG reduction requirements and that there will be technical analysis to support that package.
  - For sequestration, adaptation, and resilience, that work will be more difficult, but the hope is that the exercise to set measurable goals will inform the selection of actions to be included.
- Acknowledgement that prioritization is important but that the CAP is meant to be a multi-stakeholder plan; the Climate Council should come to consensus on what feasibility means for all partners that will be implementing the plan. The Council should be defining what cost effectiveness and feasibility mean.

Lauren Oates, Chris Company and Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux outlined a [proposal for a group of Councilors to assist in writing the CAP](#)

- Proposal is for a group of Councilors who would help staff and subcommittees write and review the CAP.
- This group would help incorporate larger components, as well as set a process for writing that draws on expertise of Councilors.
- A question arose from steering committee members around if this proposal needs to be formalized.
- Steering Committee members requested that the CAP Drafting Proposal be further refined and brought back for presentation and discussion at the August 19th Steering Committee meeting.

Review of [key milestones](#)

- Jane Lazorchak reviewed the key milestones for subcommittees and encourage steering committee members and co-chairs to review.
- Concern was expressed around the timeline to develop measurable goals for adaptation and resilience.

Co-chairs speak briefly about how well the proposed process aligns with subcommittee planned next steps

- No co-chairs voiced concerns with the milestones as outlined.

Final reflections

- Further discussion ensued on the proposal for a group of Councilors that would assist in drafting and reviewing the CAP.
- Subcommittee members expressed support for the idea that Councilors need to be involved in the drafting of the CAP, but noted that more conversation needs to happen around the specific process outlined in the proposal, and how that fits in to the timeline identified for writing the CAP.

12:35 PM      Public Comment

Charlie Hancock offered public comment.

12:41 PM      Adjourn

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