

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council March 24, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date & Time:	March 24, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location:	Microsoft Teams . Meeting was recorded to be posted online .
Subcommittee Members Present:	Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux (co-chair); TJ Poor (co-chair); Julie Moore; Brian Gray; Jared Duval, Richard Hopkins, Jay Shafer, Lou Cecere
State Agency Staff Present:	Jane Lazorchak (GWSA Director, ANR), Bennet Leon (ANR); Collin Smythe (ANR); Claire McIlvennie (PSD); John Adams (VCGI), Andrea Wright (AOT), Megan O’Toole (ANR), Brian Woods (ANR)
Minutes Recorded By:	Bennet Leon

1:32 PM Welcome/Agenda Approval

- TJ Poor said that the co-chairs meeting update would be removed from the agenda because no co-chair meetings were held.
- TJ Poor proposed to add an agenda item: update on subcommittee membership. No objections were made.

1:35 PM Approval of [3.17.21 Meeting Minutes](#)

- Corrections to the minutes:
 - i. Add to the members present: Richard Hopkins, Lou Cecere, and Jay Shafer
 - ii. Remove from state staff present: Claire McIlvennie
 - iii. Correct the spelling of Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux’s name.
- The minutes were approved as amended with the corrections above.

1:39 PM Update on Subcommittee Membership (added to the agenda)

- Jane Lazorchak said that two other committees’ memberships are also in flux.
- There was some discussion of including another member with an economics background.
- Jared Duval mentioned Ken Jones (Public Service Department) and Steve Letendre (Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.).
- Julie Moore said that certain expertise may be held by contractors later; this subcommittee needs someone to be sure that we are getting the outputs and outcomes that we need from contractors. Some in state government may play that role and have the expertise to review contracts without having to do the work themselves.

- TJ Poor mentioned Riley Allen (PSD) as an example of one state staff member who is a trained economist.
- TJ Poor said the next step is to reach out to Riley Allen and Ken Jones and others in state government to see if they can review certain elements of the RFP when that time comes. Hearing no objections to that approach, we'll do that. No objections were made.

1:50 PM Discussion: Request for Input Summary & Request for Proposals

- Richard Hopkins, Jay Shafer, and Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux recused themselves from the discussion of the RFP by turning off their microphones and video feeds to listen only.
- Jared Duval presented a summary of responses to the RFI.
 - See document titled, "Feedback on RFIs and Recommendations on RFP Design"
 - Julie Moore said there were overlapping charges and that emissions inventory pieces were being looked at in multiple subcommittees.
 - TJ Poor said that part in B is new. The priority for near term reductions is emerging, but there have been no votes on it and it is not necessarily in the statute or elsewhere.
 - Julie Moore said that whatever we get back should not commit us to a single contractor by use of proprietary tools so that we set ourselves up for success not only this year but also four years from now in the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan.
- Lou Cecere in regards to identifying technology gaps that it is impossible to predict what will be possible in 30 years.
- Julie Moore proposed adding language towards public accessibility and that consultants should only be taking direction from the GWSA Director, Jane Lazorchak.
- Jared Duval clarified that this document is a mix of some pieces that could almost be transferred directly to an RFP and other pieces that were written as items the subcommittee could use as considerations in the drafting of the RFP.
- Jane Lazorchak requested member input on the RFP by Monday morning, March 29, so that she could work on a draft RFP and share it by the end of the same day. Input on the tasks and deliverables as well as how we would rank and review proposals would be the most useful.

2:53 PM Discussion: Work Plan

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

2:53 PM Next Meeting

- TJ Poor proposed that the subcommittee transition to a biweekly meeting with longer duration. Members decided to remain on the current schedule.
- Agenda items: Discussion of RFP, Subcommittee Work Plan

2:56 PM Public Comment

Public comments may be viewed in the [video recording](#) of the meeting.

Commenters:

- Mark Whitworth
- Steve Crowley

3:02 PM Adjourn

###