

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council 10:00 AM April 2, 2021 Meeting - Minutes

Date/Time: April 2, 2021 10:00 AM
Location: Microsoft Teams: Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)
Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Ryan Patch, Sophia Clark, Alissa White, Jake Claro, John Roberts, David Mears, Judy Dow, Lauren Oates, Charlie Hancock
State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Bob Popp, Alex DiPillis, Ali Kosiba, Marli Rupe, Judson Peck

- 10:00 AM Approval of the [Agenda](#) and [3/19/21 Minutes](#)
- Minutes and Agenda were approved
 - Discussion of IT issues – continue to use work emails until resolved
 - Program Coordinator approved – coming soon (Jane)
- 10:15 AM Updates from 4/1/21 Vermont Climate Council Meeting by Jane Lazorchak
- VCC is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Technical Services
 - Agree to subcommittee leads, approved charges
 - Subcommittees interested in draft outline of paper
 - Specificity to three requirements of GHG reductions
 - Discuss how sequestration fits into plan (CA – separate, ME – combined) – leaning towards including sequestration and resiliency
 - Outline will direct subcommittee strategies
 - Role of council – advisory board to subcommittees
- 10:45 AM Review and Discuss Draft Technical Assistance RFP (Jane)
- First RFP focus on scientific analysis – not comprehensive yet (start)
 - RFP draft – vetted by science and data (comments included) and cross-sector (comments forthcoming)
 - Deadline due next week – anticipate services starting mid-May
 - Looking for input on:
 - GHG Inventory (although DEC lead)
 - Carbon Budget – refine detail, Ally Kosiba lead; Charlie, Alissa, Ryan, John, Lauren interested; Jane will share updated draft
 - Final draft will be shared before next week’s meeting
- 10:55 AM Finalize Task Coordination and Member Focus Areas
- Final version reviewed and approved – no changes
- 11:00 AM Build Out Tasks 5A-E in More Detail, Discuss Next Steps for Substantive Work
- Final version shared with members via email prior to meeting

- Equity assessment by Just Transitions – run subcommittee recommendations through JT group/assessment to ensure equity in implementation
- Carbon budget – largely through RFP contractor
- Coordinator Leads to meet with subgroups – reach out separately, discuss individual tasks and how tasks will be accomplished
- State staff support welcome to get involved (5 staff)
- Sophia Clark leaving VCC, new appointee, may also serve on this subcommittee to maintain 5 votes; Sophia remain member of subcommittee

11:15 AM Initial Discussion of Ranking Matrix

- Recommend many strategies/policies to meet GWSA – will need to be ranked
- Ranking Tool draft (Lauren) reference to other states, include:
- Co-benefits, Just Transition principles, equity considerations (+/-), key partners, impact (scale of success), feasibility (ability to implement) (cost and technical separate), type (policy, rules, markets), tradeoffs, interconnectedness (with regional, national programs)
- Lauren welcomes feedback, draft to be shared

11:45 AM Inventory of Existing Programs Update

- No progress – postponed till next meeting

11:45 AM Set Assignments and Agenda for 4/9/21 meeting

- Review existing program inventory
- Review RFP
- Review Ranking Matrix
- Update from Coordinators on subgroups

11:50 AM Public Comment

- Three members from the public spoke and their comments may be viewed in the video recording:
 - Mark Whitworth
 - Cheryl Joy Lipton
 - Jennifer Ramstetter

11:55 AM Meeting adjourned

###