

## Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council Meeting Wednesday April 21, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

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Date/Time: Wednesday April 21, 2021; 1:30pm-3:00pm  
Location: Zoom: Meeting recorded and [posted publicly](#)  
Subcommittee Members Present: TJ Poor, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Julie Moore, Brian Gray, Jared Duval, Jay Shafer, Lou Cecere  
State Agency Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Collin Smythe, Brian Woods, Andrea Wright, Claire McIlvennie, Meghan O'Toole

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*\*Note: Due to technical difficulty, the meeting began late and the recording did not begin until about 2:15pm.*

### **1:48 Welcome/Agenda Approval**

- TJ Poor reviewed the agenda and asked for revisions or objections. None were given.

### **1:49 Approval of [4-14-21 Minutes](#)**

- The subcommittee reviewed and approved the minutes from the 4-14-21 meeting.

### **1:50 Miscellaneous Administrative Updates**

- TJ Poor addressed the timing and frequency of meetings. The 90-minute slot rarely seems long enough and meeting weekly makes it difficult to work between meetings and circulate materials for review in advance. The subcommittee discussed potential paths forward, and decided that a longer meeting time, biweekly was a potential solution but that they should finalize the workplan and then revisit this discussion.

### **2:01 Around the Council: Updates from Other Subcommittees**

- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux mentioned she had shared the outputs of the IdeaFlip activity with one of the co-chairs from the Agriculture and Ecosystems subcommittee and they were providing some feedback for consideration.
- Jared Duval provided an update on the Cross Sector Mitigation subcommittee. Task leads from the transportation and building sectors have shared initial thinking about potential policy recommendations. Next, the subcommittee will discuss the power, agriculture, and non-energy sectors.
- Jay Shaefer said he would be connecting with one of the Rural Resilience co-chairs this week.

## **2:10 Department of Environmental Conservation: 10 V.S.A. §582 and GWSA Requirements**

- Megan O’Toole, counsel for the Department of Environmental Conservation, provided an [informational overview](#) on how greenhouse gas emissions reductions and inventory methods are considered in Vermont statute.
- The subcommittee discussed the conflicts in the language of different statutes, with a focus on the implications for how the subcommittee and Climate Council will account for lifecycle emissions related to energy and whether the Climate Council should recommend the legislature clarify the language.
- Jared Duval noted he did not believe it would be consistent with established GHG inventory methodologies (ex. from the EPA or IPCC) to include lifecycle emissions in the GHG inventory but that potentially a lifecycle assessment of energy-related emissions could occur separately as a comparison.

## **2:47 Discussion: Work Plan**

- TJ Poor reoriented the subcommittee to the structure of the [draft workplan](#), highlighting key changes made since the last version was circulated. In particular, he noted the need to 1) review the tasks to make sure the subcommittee is not missing anything and 2) flesh out the related discussion questions for each task, namely whether they were the right questions to ask and then how to develop a path to answer them.
- For the next meeting, small groups of subcommittee members will review each task and further flesh out the questions for consideration. The volunteers for each task include the following:
  - Task 3: TJ Poor, Lou Cecere, Jared Duval
  - Task 4: Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Jay Shaefer
  - Task 5: Brian Gray, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux (*Note: Richard Hopkins was not present, but it was highlighted he has expertise in this field*)
  - Task 6: Jared Duval, TJ Poor

## **3:00 Public Comment**

- Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux opened the floor for members of the public to comment. George Gross made comments and those comments can be viewed in the video recording [posted online](#).

## **3:10 Adjourn**

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