

**Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**April 7, 2021 Meeting – Minutes**

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Date & Time: April 7, 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), Matt Chapman (ANR), Ken Jones (ACCD)

Minutes Recorded By: Brian Woods (ANR)

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1:31\_ PM Welcome/Agenda Approval

- Agenda review – no comments

1:36 PM Approval of [3.24.21](#) and [3.31.21 Meeting Minutes](#)

- 3.24 minutes:
  - i. Correct – spelling of Riley Allen

The minutes were approved as amended with the correction above.

- 3.31 minutes  
The minutes were approved as posted with no corrections.

1:33 PM Miscellaneous Administrative Updates

- Discussion of public comment format. For this meeting subcommittee agreed to pilot an opportunity for public comment at each decision point.

1:37 PM Around the Council: Updates from other subcommittees

- Just Transitions is hosting a webinar tonight (6-8PM) on EJ issues. It will also be available to stream on-demand.
- Cross Sector – Discussion of RFP draft. Question regarding identification of strategies/policies – to what extent are policies to be identified by VCC for contractor evaluation versus a broad policy/strategy review performed by the contractor?

- Director report: Subcommittee discussions are ongoing regarding GHG inventory methodology review, carbon budget, and monitoring and assessment framework. Steering committee working on outline for CAP.

1:44 PM Discussion: Request for Proposals

- Since last iteration, draft RFP has been shared with/reviewed by Ag/Ecosystems and Cross Sector subcommittees. Revised RFP is intended to provide more clarity, streamline scope to 5 services. Latest revision also includes first draft of deliverables. After today's review, proposal for volunteer group review this week for final edits. Comments requested by end of Friday from subcommittee. Steering committee has delegated approval of RFP to this subcommittee.
- Issues addressed in this version (JL): Clarified relationship of ANR and VCC to consultants. Ensure process has a "home" at ANR. Ensure clarity of products for long term use by ANR. Task 1 (Inventory review and recommendations for improvement) to focus on aspects of existing inventory that could be easily changed, and on consideration and development of a consumption-based and/or life cycle inventory. Task 2 (carbon budget development) has been more fully developed with DEC and FPR input. Additional review with Ag/Ecosystems group is planned. Task 3 (identify and analyze emission reduction pathways) was revised to provide more detail on GWSA targets and to clarify that analysis includes comparison of business-as-usual case to scenarios. Task 4 (Recommend strategies for achieving reduction targets) now includes description of varying level of detail required for 2025, 2030, 2050 pathways. Comment to clarify that Cross Sector Mitigation will be providing policy sets for evaluation; contractor suggestions will also be solicited. Task 5 (emissions tracking/reporting framework and tool) - this tool is intended to be a complement to inventory. RFP draft now also includes performance measures and a schedule for deliverables.
- Discussion on Task 3 Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) deliverable – change "Development of the appropriate SCC..." to "frame up options for a choice of SCC based on literature review."
- Additional discussion of Task 1 GHG inventory – potential lack of clarity/consistency with current inventory approach, statutory text (10 VSA 582) regarding GHG inventory, and GWSA. Agreement that RFP text should be revised to further clarify role of ANR in participating in inventory review process with contractor in order to address potentially conflicting/confusing text in statute.
- Public comment:
  - George Gross – comment supporting use of lifecycle inventory methodology
  - Steve Crowley – comment on inventory methodologies
  - Mark Whitworth – comment on inventory methodologies
- No objection to review by a S&D volunteer group to finalize RFP by Friday; comments are invited from all other subcommittee members by Friday. Review volunteers – J Duval, B Gray, TJ Poor

2:40 Discussion: Draft Work Plan

- Insufficient time for substantive discussion today
- Overview – last week TJ circulated work plan outline with questions.
- Discussion –Introduction of IdeaFlip tool to facilitate development of the work plan. Categories – science and data, sources, stakeholders. Discussion regarding tying this exercise/tool to the group’s work plan. Counsel advised subcommittee that use of this platform needs to be limited to use during a warned meeting. Members are invited to consider ideas to enter into IdeaFlip during the next meeting.

. 2:58 PM Next Meeting (4/14)

- Draft Work Plan development - Co-Chair Poor will circulate comments he has already received on work plan outline in advance of next week’s meeting

3:03 PM Public Comment

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

Commenters:

- George Gross – comment on social cost of carbon

3:06 PM Comments from subcommittee members

R Hopkins: comment on inventory methodology; suggestion that consumption-based inventory may not be useful if policies/programs to address consumption -based emissions are not under consideration.

3:08 PM Adjourn

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