

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council May 21, 2021 Meeting - Minutes

Date/Time: May 21, 2021 10:00 AM
Location: Zoom: Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)
Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Ryan Patch, Iris Hsiang, Alissa White, John Roberts, David Mears, Judy Dow, Lauren Oates, Charlie Hancock, Jake Claro
State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Ali Kosiba, Judson Peck, Alex DePillis

- 10:00 AM Greeting, Review, and Approval of the [Agenda](#) and [5/14/21 Minutes](#)
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 10:05 AM Presentation topics for upcoming meetings
- Subcommittee supported the idea of having some topical exterior presentations in upcoming meetings and compiled a spreadsheet of possible topics and dates. If other presentations/topics would be valuable, email Billy Coster to suggest.
- 10:15 AM Update on Climate Access/RISE Stakeholder outreach
- Just Transition subcommittee will primarily inform this work, results of initial and ongoing discussions will be relayed to various subcommittees.
 - Goal is for initial meetings with stakeholders to occur throughout June, public engagement plan to be completed by July, and then additional public engagement to continue in an ongoing manner.
- 10:25 AM Discussion of timeline, tools, strategies and templates to integrate task groups
- Jane Lazorchak shared timeline of planned major milestones in the VCC
 - Request of Subcommittee to share suggested strategies on July 26th, then public will react to strategies during the summer. Subcommittee will share final recommendations, including results of engagement and economic modelling with VCC by October 11 to support December 1 deadline on Initial Comprehensive Climate Action Plan.
 - Overview of upcoming goals and gaps and discussion of additional technical analyses that the Subcommittee would support.
 - Discussion of next steps, including consistency in templating and strategy prioritization across Subcommittees – already many similarities between different subcommittee approaches. CBI facilitators may be brought in to discuss upcoming workplan and collaboration.
- 10:55 AM Public Comment #1
- Public comments were received by Jennifer Ramstetter and can be viewed in the video recording of the meeting.
- 11:00 AM Brief Report-Outs from Task Leads/Just Transition Liaison

- 11:05 AM Big Idea Brainstorm/Unstructured Group Chat
- David Mears encouraged the group to focus on identifying overarching goals for the work of the Subcommittee, to explicitly identify inherent conflicts in the work of each task group, and to outline ways to specifically show other Subcommittees that investment in working lands is important. Discussion ensued, with Subcommittee supporting idea that natural and working lands as essential to climate solutions.
 - Abbie Corse shared an example of a climate conflict on her family's farm, relating to the tradeoff inherent to solar developments being installed on rented farmland. Discussion ensued on different opportunities to support climate solutions within land ownership and land management.
- 12:00 PM Set Assignments and Agenda for 5/28/2021 Meeting
- 12:02 PM Public Comment #2
- Public comments were received by Zack Porter and can be viewed in the video recording of the meeting.
- 12:05 PM Meeting Adjourned

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