

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council Meeting 1:30 PM May 26, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time:	Wednesday, May 26, 2021; 1:30 – 4:00pm
Location:	Zoom: Meeting recorded and posted publicly
Subcommittee Members Present:	Richard Hopkins, Jay Shafer, TJ Poor, Jared Duval, Lou Cecere, Julie Moore (late attendee)
State Agency Staff Present:	Megan O’Toole, Collin Smythe, Jane Lazorchak, Ken Jones, Brian Woods, Claire McIlvennie, Andrea Wright

-:- Welcome

- Agenda Approval – no comments.
- Approval of [5-12-21 Minutes](#) – minutes did not reflect that Richard was in attendance, no other need for revisions or objections for approval.

0:00 Discussion: Subcommittee Composition

- Lesley-Ann needed to step away as co-chair which will leave a void for expertise, diversity, etc. Jane reviewed parameters of co-chairs. The vacancy left a legislatively appointed opening. The other two subcommittee members legislatively appointed are Jared Duval and Brian Gray. Brian was unable to attend the meeting. After further discussion and input from Jared on his capacity, Richard motioned to nominate Jared and Lou seconded that, Jared accepted the nomination and will serve in a formal capacity as the co-chair of the subcommittee.
- Further discussion regarding potential new members also ensued. Dr. Panikkar would be a great benefit for her work in community engagement and will be invited to observe the next subcommittee meeting and determine if she is able to commit as a member. Economic expertise may not be critical until late summer or into fall and will be put on hold for now.

0:19 Updates from Other Committees, Misc. Council Updates

- Rural Resilience Committee – GMP Resilience tool review and report out from State of Maine and their very similar work which could serve as a very good resource as VT moves forward regarding data, approaches, etc. Raises the question for the role of this subcommittee and the needs of technical analysis of other subcommittees. *Is there a need for data to fill gaps for resiliency? How does that play into this subcommittees Work Plan vs. Resiliency subcommittee work? What is the public*

health component of resiliency? Do we need further assistance from technical consultant on these topics?

- Cross Sector Mitigation – Template for reduction requirements is circulating – Four sectoral task groups looking at strategies and getting those into the common template - June 10 meeting will focus on Transportation and Agriculture and Non-Energy. The following meeting will be for Buildings and Power task groups.
- Just Transitions Committee – working on draft package for guiding principles for other subcommittees with finalization slated for 5/27. When this is complete Just Transitions will present to other subcommittees on these principles and should be ready to do so at the next subcommittee meeting. Solicited participation for smaller group from Just Transitions to provide feedback on this subcommittees Work Plan.
- Ag – working on 5 task groups strategies presentation in the coming week(s). Have lined up presentations for coming weeks from outside partners to provide greater detail on scientific data. This should give them a better idea of potential data gaps and help them provide recommendations on needs.
- Technical Consultant – negotiating draft contract – needs legal review; hope is to get it back to consultant by the end of the week which means that they could be on contract by the end of next week.

0:49 Discussion: Work Plan Revisions, Key Questions on Items 4 & 5 Comments on changes?

- Human Dimensions and Health is lacking in that it should include Human Migration; Richard to provide related edits. LEAP modeling can be translated to Human Health impacts also. Rural Resilience is considering human health resilience and coordination with RR may be an identified need for this subcommittee. Richard will reach out the Dr. Panikkar and/or the Dept of Health Jared Ulmer to understand the impact of climate change at large to the health of Vermonters - *what information is available and how do we bring that forward so that recommendations can be made as to what to do about it?*
- Climate data modeling and projections – our role is to prioritize the known risks and known threats, so we allocate our efforts appropriately over different time horizons. Need to consider how this relates to VT Climate Assessment.

1:17 Public Comment

George Goss and Steve Crowley provided comments and those comments can be viewed on the video recording [posted online](#).

1:30 Status Updates:

- Comprehensive Energy Plan Modeling, *TJ Poor* – LEAP Model expecting a summary of the reference case (near final) 5/26; will be shared with some members of VCC for

feedback and then have a final likely within 2 weeks. The next step is to create a mitigation pathway which is expected around the 3rd week of June. Throughout the month of June, the PSD in coordination with VCC are reaching out to RPCs and municipalities to get their input on their local energy planning.

- EAN Pathways Analysis, *Jared Duval* – Annual Report released 5/25. The report can be found on the EAN website and hard copies are available upon request. Have scheduled 2 webinars to go over the report. Of particular note: Pg 6-7 is a summary of the pathways model by sector; Pg 14 overview of different types of inventories. As it relates to data gaps, Jared recognized in compiling the report that a challenge of the sample sizes was that it was difficult to draw out data on race. We need to ensure that as we compile data we are collecting in a way that allows for an equity lens. We need to measure carefully so that we create policy that addresses what the data tells us needs to be addressed.

1:46 GHG Inventory and Definitional Consistency, Other jurisdictions

- GHG Inventory – Postponed so that more time could be dedicated to the discussion.
- Definitional Consistency, Other jurisdictions – suggestion for potential forum for this. This would take planning and should include the technical consultant; need to put more thought into this when the consultant is on board.

1:59 Next Meeting

- Fleshing out the two items on the work plan and propose how to move forward.
- A couple of weeks we could see PSD reference case and Just Transition training.
- Proposal is to meet again in two weeks.

2:05 Public Comment

- George Goss provided comment and those comments can be viewed on the video recording [posted online](#).

2:09 Adjourn

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