

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council May 28, 2021 Meeting - Minutes

Date/Time: May 28, 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, Pat Field (CBI)

- 10:00 AM Greeting, Review, and Approval of the [Agenda](#) and [5/21/21](#) Minutes
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 10:05 AM Brief Report-Outs from Task Leads/Just Transition Liaison
- Specific strategies are being compiled by subgroups, Subcommittee identified a need for an initial collective visioning process.
- 10:15 AM Overview of VCC Timeline, Jane Lazorchak
- 10:20 AM Role of MCA, Equity, and VCC Templates/Matrices
- Jane Lazorchak shared the current draft of the VCC Template, an Excel spreadsheet which is required as the format for strategy recommendations shared with the Steering Committee. Subcommittee will eventually pull the top strategies into a Word narrative. Template columns/implications and the incorporation of MCA Analysis into this tool were discussed.
- 10:45 AM Draft May-June TG & SC Timeline and Milestones
- Pat Field (CBI) led group through discussion of potential workplans and timelines, to address questions of role and timing of MCA analysis in strategy planning. Task group comments on Workplan Draft should be shared with Pat Field by Wednesday June 2.
 - Billy Coster shared upcoming timeline of trainings and group discussed ways to prioritize effort with respect to upcoming deadlines.
- 11:15 AM Decision-Making process
- Discussion of Subcommittee around shared meaning of “consensus” and how to reconcile and/or record any differences of opinion. Subcommittee identified importance of developing complete understanding of where others are coming from.

- 11:30 AM Quick Big Idea Brainstorm/Unstructured Group Chat
- Group shared list of potential tensions and discussed the importance and difficulty of finding the balance between viewpoints. Examples of tensions brainstormed include:
 - Agricultural practices, types and management intensity
 - Forestry management practices, types and intensity
 - Land Use Changes: growth/loss/siting of forestry, agriculture, wetlands, developments, renewable power projects, etc.
 - Choices of tool: Regulatory, education/outreach, incentives, etc
 - Sources, limitations, and use of funding
 - Scale of efforts: landscape-scale vs regional vs local
 - Emission reductions vs sequestration
- 11:52 AM Public Comment
- Public comments were received by Annette Smith, Zack Porter, Graham Unangst-Rufenacht, which can be viewed in the video recording.
- 12:05 AM Next steps, Co-Chair Review
- 12:06 PM Meeting Adjourned

###