

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council June 4, 2021 Meeting - Minutes

Date/Time: June 4, 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, Charlie Hancock, Jake Claro
State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Ali Kosiba, Judson Peck, Alex DePillis, Pat Field (CBI)

- 10:05 AM Greeting, Review, and Approval of the [Agenda](#) and [5/28/21](#) Minutes
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 10:07 AM Update on VCC Staffing, Contracts, and other Updates (Jane Lazorchak)
- 10:15 AM Brief Report-Outs from Task Leads/Just Transition Liaison
- Task work progressing, groups discussing high level meta-questions, feel that deadlines are ambitious but doable. Just Transition materials coming together, presentation/workshop planned for June 17th, 4-5pm.
 - Subcommittee concerned with when to incorporate MCA tool and full group review of strategies coming out of each Task Group.
- 10:35 AM Discuss Edits and Finalize Agriculture and Ecosystems [Strategies Template](#)
- Alissa White identified a need to incorporate a new column for tradeoffs/unintended consequences, including those that are pushed to outside of VT.
- 10:57 AM Public Comment #1
- Public comments were received by Jennifer Ramstetter.
- 11:00 AM Discuss Edits and Finalize [Agriculture and Ecosystems Summer Work Plan](#)
- Pat Field (CBI) led group through an overview of the Summer Work Plan. Subcommittee pushed back against the idea that the Subcommittee would only be providing high-level recommendations and expressed a desire to take this opportunity to provide a more robust suite of strategies.
- 11:15 AM Discuss and Finalize Presentation Topics/Format for Upcoming Meetings
- Pat Field (CBI) led group through planning process for upcoming presentations. Subcommittee decided to incorporate presentations into beginning of meetings to allow for discussion and incorporate most deeply into the Subcommittee work. The potential to start earlier to support presentations was identified.

- 11:35 AM Quick Big Idea Brainstorm/Unstructured Group Chat
- Subcommittee discussed importance of prioritizing strategies that reduce conversion of agriculture and forest lands to other land uses, and of recommending economic supports and technical assistance, not just regulatory measures. Some overlap identified with Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group.
- 11:45 AM Set Assignments and Agenda for 6/11/21 Meeting
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge discussions planned with Judy Dow, discuss granularity of recommendations, explore discussions reported by each Task Group.
- 11:52 AM Public Comment #2
- Public comments were received by Gordon Merrick, Virginia Clarke, and Zack Porter
- 11:56 PM Meeting Adjourned

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