

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: March 18, 2021 4:00PM

Location: [Microsoft Teams](#): Meeting recorded and [posted online](#).

Subcommittee Members Present: Sue Minter, Aris Garcia, Iris Hsiang, Chris Campany, Nadia Marquez Pabst, Sarah Phillips, Kelly Klein, Virginie Diambou, Danielle Bombardier, Beverly Little Thunder, Kiah Morris, Jennifer Myka

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Matt Chapman, Ross MacDonald, Abbey Willard, Liz Shields

- 4:02 PM Review and Approval of Agenda and [3/11/21 Minutes](#)
- No objections or changes to agenda proposed.
 - No comment to minutes from last meeting—agreed on minutes.
 - Migrant Justice Representative not able to join as member to subcommittee but will remain involved with the public engagement process.
- 4:07 Introductions
- Danielle Bombardier—new subcommittee member as Labor representative; All other present subcommittee members and staff persons shared brief introduction and “weather report” to describe how they are feeling today.
- 4:26 David Plumb Introduction
- David Plumb of CBI as Climate Council facilitator and point person for this subcommittee in relation to other subcommittees.
 - Available to support some of the needs/asks of Just Transitions Subcommittee.
 - Assistance with designing engagement—thought-partners for public engagement strategies, relaying suggestions up the chain to larger committee.
 - Experience with Maine’s GWSA process and focus on Just Transitions.
- 4:30 PM Updates from Director Lazorchak
- Contractual services discussion with clear front runner being Climate Access.
 - Goal to finalize contract by end of next week.
 - Will be meeting with this subcommittee weekly.
 - Will create support system for engagement plans and other goals.
 - Elle O’Casey from ANR will be an additional resource on this contract and beyond.
 - Public Portal for public comment and input has been developed
 - Eases ability to share documents, give space to collect public comment and opinion.
 - Climate Council meeting testing Zoom on Monday as new preferred platform; subcommittees will be considered for this transition of platforms thereafter.
 - Climate Council meetings are open to subcommittee members.

- 4:36 PM Open Meeting Law Discussion with Matt Chapman, General Counsel for Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)
- Explained Open Meeting Law as ethical standards that apply to government bodies.
 - Most important things to know moving forward as subcommittee members listed.
 - Rules on emailing, notebooks, chat windows, including business from personal devices are discoverable.
 - Clarification of quorum number.
 - 50% of subcommittee is the limit, cannot merge with greater council or other subcommittees, etc.; would be subject to Open Meetings Law.
 - Inquiry about taking attendance for everyone present and how to sufficiently account for members of the public present at each meeting.
 - attendance is captured so formal attendance taking is not likely necessary, no legal requirement.
 - Notification of attendance in minutes as well as naming members of the public who provide comments.
- 4:55 PM Finalize Subcommittee Charter
- Sarah Phillips talking through draft of charter presented via screenshare; highlights Nadia’s work on making edits highlighted last meeting.
 - Changes shown for simple grammatical updates; rearticulation of wording on Environmental Justice (EJ) and integration of input from all Vermonters.
 - Sarah mentions other changes to the charter:
 - Looking at data across New England and mapping strategy that exists.
- 5:31 PM Discuss Scan of Just Transitions Work from Neighboring States
- Explanation of the purpose of this reflection activity.
 - Jane and David to share suggested “milestones” and where the subcommittee hopes to go between now and November—screensharing table visualizing this timeline.
 - July: time for recommendations to the full council before drafting and public engagement components:
 - encourages members of this subcommittee to keep EJ at forefront of its work and suggestions to other subcommittees;
 - opportunities to engage individuals and communities that have historically not been part of the conversation, regardless of the December timeline; opportunity now to build framework and then later in a few months to implement the framework.
 - Clarifying role of the subcommittee in guiding the practices, decisions, etc. within and as a result of the Climate Action Plan.
 - Jane shared Maine’s Equity Assessment as an example to reference; suggests all subcommittee members look it over before next meeting.
 - Discussion around takeaways for directing our next steps?
 - Recognition that members may feel lost in scope and nuances of this work and that our collective learning will help us feel more comfortable and confident moving forward.

- Concern expressed about the inequality to access to state and federal programs; communities that need the resources typically don't have capacity to complete steps to apply/receive help.

5:52 PM

Public Comment

- Pat Sagui from Westfield, VT spoke – comments may be viewed in the video recording posted online.

5:58

Next Meeting Goals

- Co-chairs identify that leadership is currently homogeneous and invites other members to take a leadership role; invites emails of interest to be sent to Sarah and Sue.
- Homework for subcommittee will be sent out covering Maine Equity Assessment Tool before next meeting.
- Two main ideas for next two weeks' meetings: principles and equity assessment tools:
 - Invites other members to share any other examples they know of to share with the group and share those publicly so it's known what we are looking at.
- Request for ideas/exercises (i.e. icebreakers) to make our principles known
 - What are our goals, vision, what do we need as a group to get started on this work? How can we best organize within to get work done moving forward?

6:00 PM

Adjourn

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