

Vermont Climate Council

March 22, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: March 22, 2021, 8:30 AM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting - Recorded and [Posted Online](#)
Vermont Council Members Present: Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lindsay Kurrle, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sophia Clark, Sue Minter, Susanne Young
Subcommittee Co-chairs Present: Billy Coster, Peter Walke, Sarah Philips
Staff and Support Present: Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Cameron Hager
Minutes By: David Plumb, Cameron Hager

- 8:32 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [February 22, 2021 Minutes](#)
- Minutes approved.
- 8:37 AM Update on [Subcommittee](#) Work/Finalize Subcommittee Charges
- Overall, there is a need to flag overlapping issues and clarify which subcommittee will take the lead.
 - Jane will work with co-chairs to clarify this week, get a document to the Steering Committee next week.
 - Setting a lead doesn't preclude other subcommittees on having an opinion.
 - Will be taken up again when workplans are complete.
 - Comments on specific subcommittee charges:
 - Cross Sector Mitigation
 - Change noted: Put in language from statute: "...that will result in the largest possible greenhouse gas emission reductions in the most cost-effective manner."
 - Rural Resilience and Adaption
 - Nature-based solutions, especially for inventories and proposals, is an overlapping area, as is land use planning.
 - Just Transitions
 - Important to review existing policy in addition to new recommendations - to not make good policy on top of bad existing policy.
 - Eager to put liaisons on every committee, but hard to commit time.
 - Science and Data
 - Important to pull in labor economics expertise.
 - Mapping: Important to have an equity lens. Also, the existing flood analysis could be a great springboard.

- 9:40 AM Reflections on Subcommittee Timeline and Tasks
- Discussion Timeline and December 1 Deliverable
 - The statute has outcomes that are expected. A framework of what the Climate Action Plan will incorporate is needed ASAP.
 - Need Table of Contents now. And division of responsibilities among subcommittees based on that.
 - Will need to make some compromises; timeline is challenging.
 - Time: The degree of predictability that we can assign to 2050 is much less. So, we need to be tactical about 2025 and a more comprehensive look at 2030.
 - Scale: Do we want to focus the “top 10” strategies? Prioritize those? OR, comprehensive menu? May not have time to analyze and model all of them. Focus on policies where Just Transitions or Resilience needs are very high?
 - Priorities: Public engagement – important for equity and justice.
 - Minimize re-inventing wheels: Start with identifying what we already have.
 - What about the areas that cut across all subcommittees? Should the Council just do that? Can the Steering Committee take some of this on?
 - Iterative process: December 1 is a significant target, but think about this first plan as Phase 1, most focused on 2025 goals. Then ‘on or before” four years thereafter. If we identify that there is additional analysis, we can put forward a phase two that is before four years.
 - Commonality in Terminology, Framework, and Clear Data
 - How to bring the most recent information to the table?
 - Evaluation, monitoring.
 - What’s the end goal?
 - Are the right people at the table?
- 10:26 AM Break
- 10:40 AM [Process Roadmap](#) – Confirm Approach
- Process roadmap approved with the following changes:
 - Change to ‘open governance’ regarding the mention of open meeting laws.
 - Add a line about co-chair responsibility to ensure understanding/training on consensus model by all subcommittee members.
- 10:50 AM Vermont Climate Council and the [Comprehensive Energy Plan](#) - Understanding Boundaries and Overlap
- Presentation by TJ Poor
 - Comments and Questions
 - What about proportional sector reductions in GWSA - is that part of CEP too?
 - Could pull on that when looking at non-energy sectors.

- Twin goals won't always align – cost-effective vs proportional reductions.
- Modeling non energy sectors. Would CEP pull from work of subcommittees?
 - This is an area where the energy plan could really leverage subcommittees, and subcommittees could leverage the modeling.
- Public engagement process and equity – how we understand the timing?
 - Will be challenging for the public to be receiving signals that aren't aligned. It's going to get confusing.
- On the Cross-Sector Subcommittee: Ed McNamara can channel requests for input from other members of the Department of Public Service team and make sure the right person comes in.
 - Jane Lazorchak is compiling technical resources on the request of co-chairs. Will include key people from the Department of Public Service.

11:40 AM Prioritize Technical Analysis Requiring an [RFP](#)

- Presentation and Discussion on RFP
 - We don't need to replicate energy sector modeling.
 - On cost of carbon – a lit review is sufficient.
- Initial RFP from Council will focus on emissions reduction.
- A second RFP can do difference types of analysis:
 - Would be helpful to have the consultant provide an assessment of the regional plans and strategies and implementation. Will inform us whether we have regional paths to achieve reductions.
 - Mapping: Should look at disproportionate burdens that low-income and other vulnerable groups carry.
 - Will also be related to the EJ work at Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

12:11 PM Discussion of Zoom as a Platform in Future Meetings

- All members who commented in the chat or verbally preferred Zoom.
- Jane to discuss with David on future use for subcommittees as well.

12:15 PM Public Comment

- Three members of the public spoke. Their comments can be heard in full on the recording.
 - Donna Leban
 - Ian Hitchcock
 - George Gross

12:29 PM Next Steps

- Jane will work with co-chairs this week to clarify subcommittee leads and will get a document to the Steering Committee, together with a draft Table of Contents for the December 1 Climate Action Plan.

12:31 PM Adjourn

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