

Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting

April 26, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: April 26, 2021, 8:30 AM

Location: [Zoom Meeting](#) was recorded and [posted publicly](#)

Vermont Climate Council Members Present:

Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Erica Bornemann, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lindsay Kurrle, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter, Susanne Young, TJ Poor

Subcommittee Co-chairs Present:

Billy Coster, Peter Walke, Kiah Morris, Sarah Philips

Staff and Support Present:

Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Cameron Hager

Minutes By: David Plumb, Cameron Hager

- 8:30 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [March 22, 2021 Minutes](#)
- Minutes approved.
- 8:40 AM Clarifying the December 1 goal: A draft outline of the Council’s Climate Action Plan
- Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act*
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute
- Focus
 - Look at not only 2025, but also 2030
 - Open ended conversation
 - Climate Action Plan Outline
 - Three broad requirements (Mitigation, Sequestration, Resiliency)
 - Economic analysis probably won’t be available till September/October
 - Open Discussion on Outline
 - Will there be a section for “Business as usual”?
 - There more than likely will be in some sense
 - How are people feeling? Does this provide clarity we need to see where we are getting to by December 1st?
 - This is a solid roadmap and we need to move forward
 - December 1st could be a DRAFT full climate plan
 - Idea has been floated around, no decision yet
 - Comments from Council
 - Focus on doing this well and doing this right
 - Will be a need to get more public comment
 - Acknowledgement that it’s a complicated landscape
 - Hoping for further outreach and engagement after December 1st

- If citizenry doesn't feel adequate outreach, deadlines become superfluous
- We have to engage people in the process
- Structure doesn't have to be in line with subcommittees

9:30 AM

Public and stakeholder engagement

Sue Minter, Sarah Philips, Kiah Morris, Nadia Pabst - Just Transitions

Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Cara Pike & Meredith Herr, Climate Access

Sarika Tandon, RISE Consulting

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Sarah Phillips
 - Engagement Opportunities
 - Member spotlight opportunity
 - Respectful Deep Public Engagement
- Kiah Morris
 - Equity/Just Transition
 - Understanding how many communities are harmed
 - Providing an acknowledgment
 - Thinking about a thriving future
 - How to build trust?
 - Letter to the council
 - <https://aoa.vermont.gov/sites/aoa/files/Boards/VCC/Renew%20BIPOC%20Council%20Letter%20Apr%202021.pdf>
 - Responses
 - Welcome more engagement with Just Transitions
 - Where does the corrective need begin?
 - Majority of the groups are led by white people and no members of BIPOC communities
 - Inclusion
 - Looking to this process as a way to revolutionize across the board in terms of public policy and policy implementation
 - Don't make this letter just a letter
 - Consultants (Sarika Tandon, Cara Pike, and Meredith Herr)
 - Co-Creation
 - Integration of multiple perspectives and expertise
 - Practices
 - Evidence based approaches
 - Multiple pathways for engagement
 - Going at the right pace
 - Work broke into four phases
 - Timeline is flexible
 - Quick Reflections
 - Main points: Early engagement, tease out potential strategies,

full draft action plan, communication strategy about how you want to send it off

- Timeline
 - Ambitious and we need a better understanding of how everything is going to come together
- Budget
 - Subcommittees may need to address budget in a different way from a full council

10:55 AM Public comment (specific to these topics)

- Questions: What are the entities responsible for the plan? Most about the what and not about the who?
 - Response: This is an important part about the initial process. We will focus on the specifics to clarify.

11:00 AM Vermont's American Recovery Plan Act funding proposal regarding climate initiatives

Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

- House energy and technology committee meeting
 - Overview of council to date
 - There was an understanding of the sense of urgency and need for action. Also, supportive of work done thus far
- American Recovery Plan (ARPA)
 - One billion dollars of federal money being directed to Vermont
 - Governor proposed \$200 million for climate change/action
 - Electric vehicle infrastructure
 - Weatherization
 - Electrification Incentives
 - Hazard Mitigation Buy-out
 - \$100 million reserved for initial implementation of the Climate Action Plan
 - Comments
 - Buy-out program
 - Program would provide funding for buildings outside of the special flood hazard area, but are still in the corridor
 - Intent is to build in a focus on area especially economic inequalities to help lift themselves out of situations with repetitive loss
 - Appropriations in these buckets
 - Given through calendar year 2024
 - No official federal guidance yet
 - Is this a community focus approach?
 - Haven't gotten to that level yet

- 11:30 AM Role and function of the Council in coming months
Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute
- Jane
 - Once a month meetings with possible touch point every two weeks to coordinate action
 - Look to adjust meeting times in the future to flow with deadlines and action items
 - More routine updates on a monthly basis for legislature
 - Proposal Feedback
 - We need to be more intentional about scheduling time so co-chairs can be there
 - The structure makes sense, but people need to be able to participate
 - Need more polling on this
 - Further discussion will happen regarding this schedule and roles moving forward

- 11:50 AM Public comment
- No further comments

- 11:50 AM Next Steps
- Solution to meeting structure
 - Waiting on Just Transition to incorporate principles into everyone else's work
 - Further reflections on equity as well for our internal functioning

11:55 AM Adjourn

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