

Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

April 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes

1:03 pm Meeting came to order

Co-Chair Erica Bornemann

Co-Chair Catherine Dimitruk

Date/Time: April 23, 2021 1:00 PM

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

Subcommittee Members Present: Chad Farrell, Joe Segale, Mike Burke

Others Present: Allison Ross, Luke Briccetti, Ian Hitchcock,
Catherine Lowe

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Rob Evans, Ben Rose, Stephanie Smith, Marian Wolz, Sue Sharbino, Jens Hilke, Anne Margolis

Welcome and Rollcall

Review and approval of the Agenda and [4/23/21 minutes](#)

No changes, minutes approved

Subcommittee Members Update and member announcements – Erica Bornemann

Support staff and members introduced themselves.

Mike Burke

Ben Rose

Chad Farrell

Chad Farrell – Attended Cross Sector subcommittee meeting, Liz Miller and Ed Macnamara gave an overview and made recommendations to policies.

- Share our workplan with the Cross Sector subcommittee at their next meeting
- Jane Lazorchak – Task Leads give an overview at each meeting with 2 areas covered at each meeting (The 4 areas are Transportation, Non-Energy, Building, Electricity)

Jay Shafer - Evaluating the existing resilience/adaptation activities

Evaluating risks regarding climate impacts, such as floods, or diseases and invasive species, our data covers a lot of different areas. The Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018) is all hazards but focused on flooding.

- Joe Segale – A timescale would be helpful, regarding reaction time.
- Jane Lazorchak – Technical analysis, as well as, science and data needs should be evaluated and shared between the subcommittees, what we know and what we need to subcontract out.

Joe Segale – Inventory (Priority 1 Tasks)

Making recommendations to the program and task allocations

Challenge – How do we do the analysis? What are the limitations in existing programs? What pieces are missing?

- Erica Bornemann – Methodology in assessing the inventory, objectively look at the existing programs and ask if they are addressing the needs, then evaluate the gaps.
- Catherine Dimitruk - Proactive versus reactive which requires a loss to take action.
- Jane Lazorchak – State statute has committees that meet resiliency goals, whether as a primary purpose or secondary. Subcommittees should reinvest in existing programs that address resiliency versus creating new programs.
- Jens Hilke – If we were to dramatically fund all of the existing programs, what would that resilient landscape look like? What would be the gaps? As we've been working with programs that have been underfunded for years, what would they look like if they were adequately funded?
- Ian Hitchcock – Focusing on rural gaps, identifying barriers on rural uptake or the lack of programs for that particular area.
- Catherine Dimitruk – Is our inventory assessment going to address the adaptation to climate change when we need adaptation to implement some of the recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Looking at gaps, I'd suggest putting them in categories.
- Ben Rose – Looking at the Hazard Mitigation Program, it is a well established, federally funded program that is not disaster specific and has BRIC, Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities that we can compete for and is not entirely reactive.
- Rob Evans – Thinking about barriers, what is missing entirely from inventory? What new programs do we need to hear from? Where are we lacking authorities? (Like building in areas known for flooding) We may need to look at statutory authority gaps, not just the funding gaps.
- Mike Burke – What is the resiliency program? Researched the private side of what is going on and started with communications. It's getting broadband services to people which is resiliency, economically, yet it wasn't considered a "resiliency project". Communications isn't called out in the workplan, but we do say community infrastructure.
- Erica Bornemann – Communications is in our charge but needs to be clear in our workplan as critical infrastructure. (Which is a task.) Resiliency for Vermont needs to be clearly defined with a working definition.
- Jane Lazorchak – Ensuring a more residence landscape, we need to look at short term goals and long-term vision.

Jane Lazorchak - Climate Action Plan (CAP)

CAP minor structuring (posted and will be emailed to members), look at the outline and if there are gaps, bring that information to the next meeting so we can develop a template.

Future Agendas

CAP template

Public Comment:

Dale Azaria spoke and can be viewed on posted video

Next week's agenda –

Friday 5/7 at 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Meeting adjourned 2:20 pm

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