

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council April 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8, 2021 at 4:00 PM:
Meeting recorded and [posted online](#).

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

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Liz Shields, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, David Plumb, Ross MacDonald

- 4:00 PM Welcome & Check In
- Nadia will facilitate meeting today
 - Icebreaker for Subcommittee– what’s the best piece of advice you have ever received?
 - See video recording for Subcommittee members response
- 4:15 PM Review and Approval of Agenda and [4/1/2021 Minutes](#)
- Approved, no changes
- Additional Announcements & Subcommittee Business
- Sue touched on Environmental Justice workshop hosted by UVM/VT Law School, we will discuss further later in meeting
- Updates from Director Lazorchak
- Per diem – all Councilors for each Subcommittee are eligible, \$50/meeting
 - Technical analysis RFP almost finished, other subcommittees have been highly involved in this proposal
 - Draft outline of climate action plan is being formed - to be finished by April full Council meeting
 - Public engagement contract almost finished – subcontractor will be at this meeting next week
- 4:30 PM Sharing Personal Stories in the Energy/Climate Action Space
- Danielle Bombardier shared her professional and personal story
- 4:42 PM Public Comment
- No comment
- 4:43 PM Public Engagement – Talk Facilitated by David Plumb
- Two streams of work for our Subcommittee:
 - Building tool for other subcommittees to rate the equality and fairness of their policy recommendations
 - Come up with public engagement strategy incorporating core ideas for what an equity and justice lens looks like
 - Subcommittee members discussed takeaways from Environmental Justice (EJ) workshop
 - Key takeaways:

- Compensating people for their time
- Ensure compensation
- Going to the people that we want to engage vs. asking them to come to us
- Methods for listening that really work
- Provide affinity spaces
- Accessibility- translation services
- Educational component to engage people
- Organizing focus groups for those who are not tech savvy – making people feel that they belong
- Hear all the issues people are facing - not having an extractive mindset
- Our starting place is including communities not usually at the table- multigenerational engagement, historical context, visioning a different/better future
- What needs to happen soon/now?

- 5:14 PM Community Listen – Hearing and Centering the Voices of Marginalized Communities,
- Beverly Little Thunder spoke
 - She knows people who are dealing with day-to-day necessities: reliable transportation, heating their home – people who don’t have the time to think about climate change – BIPOC community, the elderly, low-income communities
 - Consideration of different cultural practices during meetings – creating an open space for all voices to be heard
 - Reminder to consider people that live in far reaches or rural areas
 - Concern about really connecting to BIPOC communities – she communicated having discomfort fitting into our meeting space
 - Subcommittee members responded by thanking her for speaking her truth and acknowledgement that what she shared is not an easy thing to share

5:45 PM Public Comment

- Madi Tiedt spoke and comments may be viewed in the video recording.

5:48 PM Final Reflections

- Member spoke about defining our success, and how we have to constantly check back in and re-assess, avoiding echo chamber
- Member shared that we need to keep in mind vulnerable populations – those at risk of natural disasters
- Bring lens to policy work of grounding facts about low income people
- Iris sat in on Ag and Ecosystems Subcommittee – they are moving into small working groups and have requested draft guidelines – our Subcommittee will form small working groups soon, while prioritizing our draft guidelines.

5: 53 PM Adjourn