

Vermont Climate Council - May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 24, 2021, 8:30 AM

Location: [Zoom Meeting](#); Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).

Vermont Climate Council

Members Present: Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Campany, 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

Subcommittee Co-chairs Present: Sarah Philips, TJ Poor, Peter Walke, Billy Coster

Staff and Support Present: Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Cameron Hager

Minutes By: David Plumb, Cameron Hager

8:30 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda

Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration

- Agenda approved as drafted.

8:35 AM Review and Approval of [April 26, 2021 Minutes](#)

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Minutes Approved as drafted.

8:40 AM Just Transitions and Equity in the Climate Council Work

Facilitated by David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Inspiration – Dr. Bindu Pannikar, Assistant Professor at the Environmental Program, Rubenstein School for Environment and Natural Resources, UVM.
- Just Transitions overview – Just Transitions Co-chairs described what subcommittees will receive in the coming days – draft principles; definition of frontline/impacted communities; guiding questions.
- The Council’s work on equity going forward - Jane Lazorchak.
- Reflections – David Plumb led a brief discussion.
- Dr. Pannikar
 - Presentation on [Characterizing Environmental Justice in Vermont](#)
 - Discussion/Questions:
 - Question on “The White Savior Complex”
 - Sometimes you need to let the people who are most impacted to be the ones that lead, as well as have their voices prioritized.
 - You have to let the minority population speak no matter how small they are.
 - Push/Pull between schedule and the desire for participation. Schedule undermines community engagement to a certain extent.
 - Push back against speed culture.
 - Slowing down helps involve the very communities that you’re trying to help.

- Might lose a lot if you rush.
 - Question regarding experts and those with lived experiences:
 - Scholarly expertise is one kind to consider, but there are others that need to be listened to.
 - Why is it that VT is monocultural?
 - There is diversity to be celebrated that isn't celebrated enough.
 - Create more spaces for people to bring diversity forward (Migrant justice as an example).
- Just Transitions Subcommittee
 - [Presentation](#) by co-chair Sarah Phillips about body of work from Just Transitions Subcommittee in coming days.
 - Clarifying questions/discussion:
 - What should the council expect from the Rowan Institute about organization processes and structure?
 - Early in discussions. Please stay tuned.
 - Request to add a land acknowledgement to Council meetings.
- What are you taking away from this morning's conversation on equity and justice that will impact how you do the work of the council and the subcommittees?
 - Participants noted the shared feeling of the push/pull around the timeline.
 - The planet needs immediate attention, which is reflected in the legislation.
 - There is also an importance to dialogue and listening.

10:00 AM Public Comment (specific to these topics)

- Steve Crowley spoke, and comments may be viewed in the video.

10:15 AM Break

10:25 AM [Public and Stakeholder Engagement](#) – Update and Immediate Next Steps
Climate Access / Rise Consulting
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- How does this consultant-led process connect with the subcommittees and council decision-making? When does “co-creation” happen?
 - The engagement plan will describe this process and be shared in draft with the council.
 - There also will be surveys and other tools to provide input.
- When can we engage directed with impacted/frontline communities? Can we sit in on the June roundtables?
 - In this first phase, the priority is building trust, so it's not appropriate to have observers.
 - Climate Access/Rise appreciate the feedback about the desire to engage directly and will incorporate it in the engagement plan.

10:50 AM Update on the Legislative Session
Secretary Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources

- [Legislative updates](#) on funding for climate actions.

- 11:00 AM Review of [Milestones](#) for Subcommittees and the Council
Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act
- We should aim to design an engagement process to be implemented on an ongoing basis, focusing on this work as iterative.
 - Some members expressed concern about the capacity to deliver the work by December 1.
 - We should take stock of the consultant support that we will have, and any potential gaps.
 - Suggestion to draft a letter to the Legislature describing these concerns and how the Council plans to address them.
- 11:30 AM Public Comment
- Amanda Carlson spoke, and comments may be viewed in the video.
- 11:40 AM Next Steps
Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration
- Acknowledgment of Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux stepping down as co-chair and member of the Science and Data Subcommittee and appreciation for her work.
 - Request to streamline the per diem system for council and subcommittee members.
 - Mention that a GWSA coordinator is being hired to work with Jane Lazorchak.
 - Will take steps to ensure everyone feels comfortable with the resources and the capacity.
- 11:45 AM Adjourn

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