

Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

June 11, 2021 Meeting Minutes

1:06 PM Meeting came to order

Co-Chair Erica Bornemann

Co-Chair Catherine Dimitruk (Absent)

Date/Time: June 11, 2021 1:00 PM

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

Welcome and Rollcall

Subcommittee Members Present: Chad Farrell, Joe Segale, Mike Burke, Jake Hemmerick, Ann Lawless

Others Present: Ian Hitchcock, Chris Cochran, Anne Margolis, Jay Shafer, Marissa Yanez, Sarah Wolfe

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Stephanie Smith, Sue Sharbino, Jens Hilke, Ben Rose, Matt Pritchard

Review and Approval of Agenda and [6/4/21 Minutes](#)

Accepted, no changes

Guest Introductions

Sub-Committee Liaison and Member Updates

- Jay Shafer – Science and Data subcommittee met and identified past leads and looked at the Stockholm (SCI Institute) modeling. Looking for a committee member to work with them around the rural resiliency work and help identify data in modeling climate actions, using the vulnerability index tool. Jens Hilke volunteered to assist. Brahman Cook, sustainability planner in Massachusetts, starts on July 12th and could help as well.
- Jane Lazorchak defined the SCI modeling what our emissions would look like between now and 2050. Projections show it would go down, with the current policies in place.
- Chad Farrell – Cross Sector Subcommittee did summer work planning, had a presentation from Stockholm and transportation.
- Jane Lazorchak – Steering Subcommittee meeting at VCC with co-chairs on the workplan looked at any challenges to the timeline. Just Transitions Subcommittee produced a draft on guiding principles and definitions, a scoring rubric, and a training on those documents will be offered next Thursday night and will be recorded.
As our State of Emergency gets lifted, it affects the open meeting law, all subcommittees have to have an in-person meeting offer that will be staffed by a committee member. Rooms are reserved at ANR for those meetings. Can't post the location of the rooms until the state of emergency is lifted. The SEOC will be available for an in-person RRA VCC Subcommittee meeting in the future.

- Erica and Catherine are out on the 25th, an updated workplan and an adjusted meeting schedule will be forthcoming. Will verify quorum attendees.

Presentation on Policy and Program Inventory Tasks 1 + 2 by Joe Segale

- Jane Lazorchak - Equity and Inclusion has a 3-prong approach; how we engage with the public, conduct trainings, and an organizational review.
- Joe Segale – Discussed equity and how it's applicable to the Climate Action Plan.
- Chad Farrell – Where are these documents? Are they posted to the website? Yes, on the Climate Council website, but is difficult to find as they are not under the subcommittee. A new website will be coming with a place for documents. For those that have a state issued email address there is a SharePoint folder for RRA VCC that is accessible for the most in process and recently revised documents.
- Erica Bornemann gave an overview of the gaps and overlay on recommendations between task groups on subcommittees.

Critical Infrastructure Definition by Matt Pritchard

Discussion involved green infrastructure and whether it is included in the definition of critical infrastructure.

Public Comment

Ian Hitchcock – comment may be viewed in the video recording.

Typed in the chat from Anne Margolis

From an energy perspective, we have been thinking of resilience in terms of continued delivery of electrons in the face of a low probability, high-impact climate change-related event. In this sense, either the poles and wires that deliver that electricity or the storage that backs up buildings/communities is arguably more important than the generators that deliver that electricity, which are highly distributed and to a significant degree lie outside Vermont's borders. Not really sure how large/small generators are defined but I would also say in VT nearly all our generators are small but cumulatively could be a threat if they all went down at once (again mitigated by being highly distributed). In some senses from an energy perspective it's more important, with today's energy technologies, to focus on those facilities Ben is discussing in terms of "how will we keep them powered" in the event of a black sky event. That lends itself to a focus on poles, wires, and storage, not necessarily supply so much.

In next meeting there will be presentations on task 4 the hazard list and drafts prepared on transportation and electrical and communications.

2:37 PM Adjourn