

Vermont Climate Council - June 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time:	June 28, 2021, 8:30 AM
Location:	Zoom Meeting ; Meeting was recorded and posted online .
Physical Location to Attend in Person:	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount NL D215
Vermont Climate Council Members Present:	Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Joe Flynn, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lindsay Kurrle, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter, Susanne Young
Subcommittee Co-chairs Present:	Billy Coster, Peter Walke, Sarah Philips, TJ Poor
Staff and Support Present:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Cameron Hager, Marian Wolz
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 [May 24, 2021 Minutes](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute
- Minutes Approved by Council
- 8:40 AM Just Transitions and Equity in the Climate Council Work
Facilitated by David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute
- Invited Speaker Amy Laura Cahn, Director, Environmental Justice Clinic, Vermont Law School
 - Amy Laura Cahn Presenting
 - [Presentation on Putting EJ Principles into Policy](#)
 - Some key points of discussion
 - The impact of state legislatures requiring regulators to consider climate and EJ principles.
 - How the history of the EJ movement informs current decisions – particularly around the importance of including all actors early in the process. To this point, it could be beneficial to slow down.

- How to be transparent with communities around impacts and policy decisions.

9:25 AM

[Options for Supporting Sub-Committees with Just Transition Analysis](#)

Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act

- Agreement from the Council to move forward with a plan to bring in consultant support to help subcommittees apply the draft Just Transition Guiding Principles and questions.
- Key points of discussion:
 - The support will be available in August-September, as subcommittees are receiving public input. In the meantime, subcommittees will need to use the principles and questions themselves in the coming weeks.
 - The rubric of questions is to spark thinking and analysis, not create quantitative rankings at this stage.
 - There could be some challenges to bringing a whole new consultant into the process. If there are people who have familiarity with the work to date, this can be helpful
 - Some suggestions may go beyond what the statute asks of the council. That’s OK, as long as the Council meets its obligations under the statute.

9: 55 AM

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

10:05 AM

Break

10:15 AM

Assembling the Climate Action Plan

Jane Lazorchak and David Plumb

- [Presentation](#) given by Jane and David
- Key points of discussion:
 - Overall, the description of the climate action plan is helpful and looks on track
 - Criteria appear to be the right ones, but visually show them to be of equal weight.
 - Recommendations for immediate implementation include ideas that require legislative action
 - Where is the evaluation of existing programs and strategies represented here?
 - That evaluation should lead to recommendations – potential changes to current programs or identification of gaps.
 - The science and data subcommittee is putting together a framework with an equity-based lens – can be a helpful framework.
 - The Rural Resilience and Ag & Ecosystem Subcommittees need to propose a vision and performance metrics for resilience and sequestration.

- Where does funding fall into the plan?
- Funding considerations are particularly important for recommendations ready for immediate implementation
- Funding discussion should probably follow discussion of the suggested recommendations

- 11:00 AM Reminder of upcoming milestones and workplan
Jane Lazorchak
- Brief update given by Jane Lazorchak
- 11:10 AM Orientation to Work of Technical Consultant, Cadmus
Jane Lazorchak and Cadmus
- [Presentation](#) by Liz Hanson, David Hill, Gillian Galford, Megan Lynch, and Chad Laurent
 - No Questions/Comments by VCC
- 12:00 PM Public Comment
- In chat:
 - *I realize there were problems with the Zoom this morning, but in general please set up the Zoom so that all participants can be seen. If we were in the room in person we would be able to see everyone. It feels uninviting to not know who is present.*
 - No further comment
- 12:10 PM Next steps
Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration
- Next Steering Committee Meeting July 12
 - Includes Presentation of Public Engagement Plan
 - Presentations will also be made to Subcommittees
 - GHG Inventory Critique Presented to Subcommittees mid-July
 - Next Climate Council meeting July 26
- 12:15 PM Adjourn

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