

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council Meeting 1:30 PM September 1, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: Wednesday, September 1, 2021; 1:30 – 3:25pm

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

Subcommittee Members Present: Richard Hopkins, Jay Shafer, TJ Poor, Jared Duval, Lou Cecere, Julie Moore, Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux

State Agency Staff Present: Claire McIlvennie, Megan O'Toole, Karen Blakelock, Marian Wolz, Jane Lazorchak, Ken Jones, Collin Smythe, Brian Woods

Consultants Present: David Hill, Catherine Morris

1:30 Welcome/ Agenda Overview (S&D Co-Chair(s))

- To accommodate new fall schedules for several members the subcommittee agreed to circulation of an online poll (from co-chair Poor) to facilitate identification of a new meeting time.
- August 18 minutes approval

The committee approved the August 18 meeting minutes with no objections.

1:35 Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) – Update on presentation to Climate Council and Next Steps (Jared Duval)

The SCC recommendation memo from the S&D subcommittee was presented to and discussed by the full VCC on 8/23. Final version of memo, expected shortly, will include SCC tables for methane and nitrous oxide as well as carbon dioxide. Identification of SCC for other substances is ongoing in other processes and the memo may be updated as that information become available. There will be sensitivity analysis on SCC discount rate, noting that the discount rate for the planned economic modeling may be different (a future discussion for subcommittee).

1:45 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Review

- Modifications to Task Group Recommendation (Jared Duval)

Revised draft recommendations letter was reviewed. Recommendation for issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for designing and conducting an upstream and/or life cycle analysis was replaced with review of responses to Request for Information (RFI) by the subcommittee and ANR to identify next steps. While a supplemental upstream/life cycle

analysis will not be completed prior to the due date for the Climate Action Plan, the letter recommends assessing mitigation pathways and strategies via sensitivity analysis utilizing existing information.

The subcommittee took public comment on the revised letter.

- Recommendation to full Council prior to Sept 14 Council Meeting

The subcommittee agreed to presenting the EFG Greenhouse Gas Inventory Review report and revised letter to the full Council for consideration at the September 14 meeting without objection.

2:25 Cross Cutting Systems (Task Group Report & Discussion)

- Update on progress to-date

Presentation by Dr. Dupigny-Giroux summarized task group discussion to date. A revised version of the “Do No Harm – Peoples, Communities, The Environment” framework from June was presented, followed by introduction of four possible tasks to address cross-cutting themes. This includes developing pathways, strategies and actions for identified cross-cutting themes, and work to identify additional cross-cutting themes that have not yet been identified. Subcommittee comments focused on creating a process for identifying cross-cutting themes and information and ensuring they are addressed in the Climate Action Plan. Subcommittee comments will be shared with the task group for consideration. It was noted that a schedule for delivery of the CAP components to the full council is being developed. The plan calls for the council to have reviewed all the individual components of the CAP by the first week of November.

3:00 Monitoring and Assessment Strategy – Task Group Work Plan/Timeline (Committee Discussion)

DEC staff presented brief review of 10 VSA 592 which identifies seven goals the CAP need to achieve. Two of them (GHG emission reduction, net zero by 2050) have discrete, objective goals in the statute. The remainder do not. Committee member discussion noted that the existing technical services contract includes a provision for monitoring and assessment. The development of a carbon budget task includes establishment of a baseline and trajectory for sequestration for both business-as-usual and policy cases. For resilience and adaptation it is important to ensure that monitoring is aligned with the goals established by the relevant subcommittees. It remains to be determined how much detail regarding monitoring and assessment needs to be (or can be, due to time constraints) be included in the initial CAP versus how much can be in work plan for 2022.

Council Member Dupigny-Giroux requested the opportunity to take subcommittee comment back to the task group for review and response at next week’s subcommittee meeting.

By request, GWSA director Lazorchak provided an update on the carbon budget task. Deadline for the carbon budget is the end of September; a draft should be available in two to three weeks.

3:20 Next Steps

Items for next week's meeting – follow-up on climate modeling section of the plan and monitoring and assessment discussion

3:22 Public Comment

No additional public comments

3:25 Acknowledgements and Adjourn

DRAFT