

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

February 17, 2021 – 11:00 AM Minutes: [Microsoft Teams](#) meeting

Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Ryan Patch, Sophia Clark, Lauren Oates

State Staffers Present: Jane Lazorchak, Alex DePillis, Marli Rupe, Eric Sorenson, Ali Kosiba

After introductions from Subcommittee members and state staffers, Jane Lazorchak (GWSA Program Manager) spoke to her role in the broader Climate Council efforts and offered help to this subcommittee, especially as we settle into this work.

Jane gave an overview of the proposed process for subcommittee membership selection, which will include a prioritization tool to be distributed to each subcommittee member for review and completion likely over the weekend. The Steering Committee met today and agreed to set a deadline of next Friday (2/26) for subcommittee membership, with the recognition that small changes may need to be made after that date.

Abbie recommended that each subcommittee member should document their existing expertise, knowledge, and lived experience as an opportunity to identify gaps and needs for additional subcommittee members to fill. The subcommittee agreed to complete this internal inventory and Lauren recommended that members also include what gaps, sectors, and/or needs they see as necessary in the subcommittee membership composition. This work should be completed over the next several days, and the information will be shared with the current subcommittee members for consideration as they individually prioritize nominations. Barring any discussion, submitting this information via email for logistical consideration would not require a public meeting.

The subcommittee will work to identify administrative needs and roles of members, as well as the state staffers, once full subcommittee membership has been determined and has the opportunity to meet. The full subcommittee will also identify a standing meeting time and assume that meeting weekly will be necessary to meet the deadlines of the Climate Action Plan.

The subcommittee then discussed the scope of work of the subcommittee. Subcommittee members agreed unanimously that initiatives/policies/projects that address the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the Agricultural and Forestry sectors should be created by this subcommittee and presented to the Cross-Sector Mitigation subcommittee for incorporation into their work. This would include emissions reductions from land conversion, as well. The subcommittee also agreed that the work of the subcommittee should not be solely carbon sequestration and storage, but should also incorporate nature-based solutions to addressing community, ecosystem, and economic resilience in Vermont, as well as advising other subcommittees on land use issues (e.g. siting of renewable energy generation).

The Steering Committee is responsible for creating work plan templates for each subcommittee, and after the 2/22 Council meeting, subcommittees should have a better understanding of their respective scopes of work, as well as the specificity and scale of recommendations for the Climate Action Plan.

The subcommittee will meet again next week to discuss subcommittee membership and debrief from the full Council meeting on Monday (2/22).

Public comment from Steve Crowley (VT Sierra Club) noted that this subcommittee should consider food security in its scope of work, with which the subcommittee agreed.

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