

Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting
February 17, 2021 Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, February 17, 2021, 12:00 PM
Location: Meeting was recorded and [posted publicly](#)
Members Present: Peter Walke, Richard Cowart, Liz Miller, Johanna Miller, Jared Duval, Ed McNamara
Members Absent: Adam Knudsen

*Due to technical difficulties, the start of the meeting was delayed.

12:17 PM Welcome by Chair, Co-Chair & GWSA Director
Richard Cowart, Chair
Commissioner Peter Walke, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Jane Lazorchak, Director, Global Warming Solutions Act

12:27 PM Subcommittee Charge

- Reviewed individual charge to the Subcommittee as well as the milestones noted by Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) Director Jane Lazorchak.
- Tasked with developing a full slate of policy recommendations for consideration by the full Council to reduce emissions from all sectors of our economy. One open question with the Agriculture and Ecosystem Services piece: We assume that sequestration policies will be developed by the Ag-Ecosystems Subcommittee. But what about emission reduction opportunities? Should this work be with Ag-Ecosystems or with us? Will most likely overlap but the overall responsibility to integrate solutions into the overall mix falls with us.
- Need to come up with a slate of policy recommendations that meet the enormity of the task in front of us which are the requirements of the Global Warming Solutions Act.
- We may recommend a slate of policies that goes beyond the requirements to provide options to the full Council, but we cannot fall short of that requirement. We may offer options within a sector for the Council to choose among, rather than a single solution for a particular issue area.
- Reminder that drafts framework and strategies for representation to the Council will be due at their May meeting including policy options, and cost and equity considerations.

1:03 PM Subcommittee Membership/Circles of Engagement

- Think about the five major topic areas and determine which one or two topics you would like to work on and if you are willing to lead or co-lead; send that information to Peter Walke and Richard Cowart via email.
 - Five Major Topic areas are:
 1. Power production, distribution, and use
 2. Buildings & heat
 3. Transportation
 4. Non-energy sector emissions
 5. Finance, funding, access to capital

- 1:07 PM Subcommittee Process/Logistics
- Given the time frame we have, we will need to meet regularly to stay on task.
 - Bi-weekly meetings were agreed upon.
 - Note taking – will detailed notes be available to track progress?
 - Subcommittee membership prioritization process
 - First round of surveys went out via GWSA Council targeted outreach; 95 nominations received.
 - Second round of surveys where both councilors and subcommittee members made nominations and did outreach; 255 nominations received.
 - Total of 350 nominations.
 - There are 15-20 available seats on subcommittees currently.
 - A tool will be available to Subcommittees to rank all nominations pertaining to this Subcommittee.
 - The goal is to complete the ranking via tool by Monday of next week; meet next week and finalize the list of nominees by the end of the week.
 - Subcommittee will meet Thursday, February 25, 2021 to finalize.

1:10 PM Break

1:15 PM [Facilitated Policy Idea Generation](#): In a “lightning round” of quick responses, the Committee members suggested the following topics for review as emission-reducing policies or programs to meet the state’s climate goals:

- TCI
- Weatherization.
- Policies to encourage telecommuting.
- Efficiency price adjustments at the point of purchase of equipment.
- Infrastructure enabling – how do we enable a comprehensive transition in both fleet and individual?
- Holistic energy efficiency/energy counseling for residents as well as funding and financing.
- Clean heat standard for all providers of fossil heat in Vermont.
- Financing strategies for electrification rate.
- Better training for DIY weatherization.
- Change out and scrappage programs for old equipment.
- Help municipalities make transitions – especially in rural communities – expand resiliency zone concept.
- Comprehensive review of the future of natural gas including a consideration of disinvesting in the existing natural gas infrastructure or ensure that it transitions to low carbon fuels.
- Workforce development strategy – clean energy economy; weatherization jobs.
- Increased load management strategies to try and minimize electric infrastructure costs.
- Broadly performance standards in consumer protection.
- Looking at clean peak standard and how that could meld/mesh with Tier 3.
- How we use some of the work that Efficiency Vermont has done to change some of the market in terms of availability of equipment as a huge factor of what we are capable of.

- Specific policies to address high-impact gases: leakage and usage.
- Affordable housing options: Community hubs and relating to the land use component – feel we’ll see far greater numbers moving to Vermont and we need to be thoughtful about land use and the efficient housing.
- Greater coordination of renewable policy with the New England states.
- Conducting economic impact analysis of each of these pathways as we have not done it comprehensively.
- Non-economic electric vehicle charging locations.

1:35 PM Questions/Next Steps/Future Agenda Items. Committee members suggested the following topics be considered for inclusion in future Committee meetings:

- Hearing a report on the last Climate Action Commission.
- Pathways – what is it we need to achieve?
- The framework on how we evaluate policies.
 - What are the appropriate metrics?
 - What do we want to ask the Science and Data Subcommittee to do for us?
 - What do we want to ask the Just Transitions Subcommittee to do for us?
 - How would we vet ideas through those committees?
- Bi-weekly meetings will be scheduled for 3-hours starting the week of March 3, 2021.

1:45 PM Public Comment

- Comments from the public may be viewed in the video to be [posted online](#).

1:58 PM Adjourn

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