

Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting February 25, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, February 25, 2021, 1:00 PM
Location: Meeting was recorded and [posted publicly](#)
Members Present: Peter Walke, Richard Cowart, Liz Miller, Johanna Miller, Jared Duval, Ed McNamara, Adam Knudsen
Members Absent: None

1:00 PM Subcommittee Membership

- Chair Cowart proposes that we add to the Committee the consensus picks from the list of candidates:
 - David Farnsworth
 - Gina Campoli
 - Christine Donovan
 - Representative from Building Green (two candidates were presented)
 - Jared Duval will reach out to Christine Donovan.
 - Richard Cowart will reach out to David Farnsworth and Building Green to determine which candidate should be appointed.
 - Johanna Miller will reach out to Gina Campoli.
- Two people who ranked high in this Subcommittee's rankings also ranked high in the Science & Data Subcommittee and we will need to discuss how to handle when two Subcommittees would like to invite the same applicants:
 - Lou Cestari - VELCO
 - Linda McGinnis – Economist
- We can always add people later if needed, but since this is an already large committee, should stick to no more than 4 additional members.
- Do we know from other Subcommittee chairs or Jane Lazorchak as to whether we will have liaisons from other Subcommittees?
 - Jared Duval sits on both this Subcommittee and the Science & Data Subcommittee so he can be that bridge.
 - Just Transition Subcommittee is still working on their role.
 - Peter Walke would request that a liaison of the Just Transition Subcommittee sits on this Subcommittee.
- We will leave space to bring in additional views as needed.
 - We will utilize a roster of advisors rather than add as Subcommittee member.
 - Can we sort list of interested parties by sector? Richard Cowart will ask Jane Lazorchak to provide that information.
 - Johanna Miller would like to have an open discussion about whether we should consider officially adding a practitioner to the Subcommittee.
 - Jared Duval recommends inviting Peter Bourne.
 - Ed McNamara is less concerned about whether this Peter is a Subcommittee member or an advisor as we move through this process.
 - Peter Walke has concerns over the size of the Subcommittee and the ability to hold effective meetings. With that said, he would be supportive of adding Peter Bourne to the list.

- Jared Duval will reach out to Peter Bourne.

1:30 PM Task Lead Assignments

- Transportation, Buildings, Power & Non-Energy Emissions
 - Transportation – Johanna Miller
 - Power – Liz Miller/Ed McNamara
 - Buildings – Richard Cowart
 - Non-Energy Emissions: Peter Walke
 - Science & Data: Jared Duval
 - Financial Aspects of Various Proposals: Adam Knudsen
- Peter Walke: we have identified a certain number of state staff that can be supportive at this point but there are a lot more with expertise who can assist and provide work – we have tried to manage the amount of staff time committed to it until we knew what the tasks would look like.
- Peter Walke: Since there are several policies that are inter-related. For example, the top of our list for discussion from last meeting was TCI and that has a policy component that is inter-related to the funding component so I think that we should encourage all the sectoral leads to be in communication with Jared & Adam to have those conversations.

Expectation of task leaders & Subcommittee members

- We should view ourselves as a continuing entity; not just tasked with one responsibility.
- We have the obligation of coming up with a plan that meets the statutory standards in a relatively short time frame.
- Richard Cowart presented the following questions to the group for discussion:
 - Given the time frame we are operating under, how do you think we should chart our path? Should we try to design 25-30 different elements, or should we focus our attention on the 5 or 6 target areas where we can achieve the greatest emission reductions, particularly in the near term and bear down on those recognizing that there is a broader slate of actions that we could take but we cannot do everything at the same level of detail?
 - What criteria would we set for ourselves in assessing that a policy proposal is ready for primetime and should be taken to the public or to the legislature or the administration for serious analysis and action.
 - Discussion:
 - We would like task leaders to organize their work to come back to us with actionable proposals that are realistic.
 - The proposals would need to be ready to be communicated to the public in a way that we could get meaningful feedback.
 - The proposals need to be refined to a point of detail so that the hired cost/benefit assessors can understand what it is they are assessing.

- We should focus on the largest savings that are most cost effectively achieved, and equity components must be built into the design.
- We need a little of both with focus on the short term.
 - Friendly amendment: Given the legal requirements in the Global Warming Solutions Act that we focus foremost on a 10- and 5-year timeframe and not on the areas of focus we think we may need in 2050 as there will be so much change, I would hate to see us make decisions that then get hindered.
- Part of our report out to ourselves will be how much can be done administratively under current authority and how much would require return to legislature with recommendations.
- We have some things that seem ready to roll. For example, TCI – that could play into our mission’s targets.
- We need to consider how we utilize those concentric rings of engagement – that is a bit of a placeholder discussion because of the work of the Just Transition Subcommittee – regardless of what we evaluate, we need to be mindful of how we evaluate it.

2:10 PM Questions/Next Steps/Future Agenda Items

- Approval of Draft 2/25/2021 Minutes
- Review Subcommittee charter and criteria to guide focus to ensure consistency.
- Review Vermont Climate Action Commission Report and work
- Review EAN pathways analysis
- Discussion of subcommittee coordination
- Report from Task Leads

2:20 PM Public Comment

- Jeff Forward
- Cheryl Hogan

2:30 PM Adjourn

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