

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
February 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: February 16, 2021 4:30-6PM
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#) – Meeting was recorded and will be [posted online](#)
Council Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Sue Minter, Sarah Phillips, Chris Campany, Jennifer Myka on behalf of Sean Brown, Kelly Klein

4:30 PM Welcome/Agenda Approved as Drafted

4:37 PM Introductions

Subcommittee Members:

Sue Minter – Executive Director Capstone Community Action - Representing Vermont’s Community Action agencies to prioritize economic equity and empowerment.

Sarah Phillips – Director of Office of Economic Opportunity - Working to lift marginalized Vermonters out of poverty.

Chris Campany – Executive Director Windham Regional Planning Commission – Representing municipal sector – History of grassroots activism in LA & MS.

Kelly Klein- Founder/CEO Groennfell Meadery/Havoc Mead – Representative of small businesses.

Jennifer Myka – General Counsel DCF – Has worked as a lawyer for various agencies in the Agency of Human Services.

Climate Council Staff:

Jane Lazorchak – Director of Global Warming Solutions Act - History of land management projects, most recently working at Fish and Wildlife for many years.

Stage Agency Representatives:

Vt Dept of Health - David Grass – Sr. Environmental Health Program Manager –extensive work on the relationship of health and climate – more recently working on COVID -19 taskforce.

VTrans – Ross MacDonald – Public Transit Manager –Brings knowledge of public transportation and the equity lens learned from providing transit options to those who do not have a choice.

VT Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets - Abby Willard – Director of Agriculture Development Division - Work with the local food movement, focus on inclusivity of this movement – leading Diversity Equity Inclusion work at Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets.

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) - Carey Hengstenberg – Planning Manager – Background in hydrology, waste mgt – environmental justice coordinator for the DEC – strengths: project manager, implementer, process person.

5:07 PM Goal Setting for Subcommittee

Jane went over revised draft process road map. One of the main objectives is to create a set of principles that other Subcommittees can use as a test to make sure their recommendations are equitable – “equity impact tool”

- In service of other Subcommittees > encouraged members to join other committees sooner rather than later.
 - Big goal: engage community members that are not typically involved in the discussion or decision-making process (Sue)
 - Thinking about climate refugees, attracting new VT residents – heading off doubts and suspicion about these new residents (Chris)
 - Jane echoed how important robust public engagement is specifically to this Subcommittee, and keeping in mind the milestones
 - Sue concerned about feasibility of robust & inclusive public engagement process, but not to try to envision the process ending/ completing in a year, but rather continuing forward
 - Public engagement 1st step – identify community leaders/groups (de-facto leaders of respective areas)/community stakeholders.
 - Establish set of principles (Kelly)
 - Jane said that there is an RFP for marketing and communications about GWSA – she thinks public engagement will be a big part of this comm. push
 - Carey noted that there is an RFP out for communication about environmental justice going out at the DEC
 - Chris suggested we define relevant terms to Environmental Justice/Just Transitions work

5:32 PM Committee Membership

Roles, communities and perspectives for representation on Subcommittee

- Committee discussion to review nominations for Subcommittee.
 - Jane explained second survey for Subcommittee membership was meant to target broader audience statewide, over 300 applicants.
 - Ideal Subcommittee size of 12 members, nimble size
- Jane alerted us to look out for a Google form later this week to rank Subcommittee nominations (focus on geographic representation, BIPOC membership, relevant skills, try to limit membership redundancies).
- Jane set goal that by 2/26 Subcommittee membership will be finalized.

5:42 PM Leadership Role(s)

Diversifying the leadership / Co-chairs

- Committee discussion; potential nominations for additional co-chair.
 - Kelly noted that she backed a third co-chair, but to keep in mind that it is a big-time commitment.
 - Sue offered to give up her seat as a chair if the Subcommittee thought only two co-chairs were appropriate, Sue also offered Capstone staff per diem to newly appointed co-chair of Just Transition Subcommittee.

5:50 PM Meeting times

- Consider available times for regular meetings -?
- Set meeting for this week for review of potential members – **Meet Friday 2/19/21 3:30-5** – goal to assign members to reach out to nominees.

Council comments:

TASK before Friday: identify traits of potential Subcommittee members.

5:50 PM Public Comment – None

5:57 PM Adjourn

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