

Vermont Climate Council Meeting January 25, 2021 Meeting – Minutes

Date/Time: Monday, January 25, 2021, 8:30 AM
Location: [Microsoft Teams](#) meeting - Meeting was recorded and [posted](#) publicly.
Council Members Present: Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Company, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Joe Flynn, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sophia Clark, Sue Minter, Susanne Young
Council Members Absent: Adam Knudsen, Lindsay Kurrle

8:32 AM Convene, welcome and introduction of meeting facilitator David Plumb with Consensus Building Institute and Jane Lazorchak as the newly hired Project Manager
Susanne Young, Secretary, Agency of Administration
Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources

8:40 AM Review agenda and introduction of four guest speakers to present similar efforts with their climate councils:
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Maureen Leddy, Director, Office of Climate Change, New York DEC
 - [Presentation](#)
- David Ismay, Undersecretary for Climate Change, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
- Hannah Pingree, Director, Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, State of Maine
 - [Presentation](#)
 - [Full report](#)
 - [More detail](#) on Maine's working groups, membership of working groups, and working group papers.
- Keri Enright-Kato, Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Climate Alliance
 - [Presentation](#)

10:02 AM Break

10:15 AM [Discussion of Process Roadmap](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Steering Committee (SC):
 - Preference from Council members for a six-member committee made up of two each from the Administration, House and Senate appointees.
 - SC will need to meet at least once prior to every Council meeting, and hold periodic coordination meetings with Subcommittee Co-Chairs, so requires capacity for several meetings per month, with estimated time of each meeting undeterminable.
 - SC will act in service to the Council, organizing as opposed to controlling its work/process.
 - Legislative appointees will select four Steering Committee members; Secretaries Young and Moore will serve on behalf of the Administration.
- Subcommittees:
 - There are four Subcommittees identified in the statute: Rural Resilience, Cross Sector Mitigation, Just Transitions, and Agriculture and Ecosystems.
 - Science and Data Subcommittee was discussed.
 - Subcommittees should be eight to 12 people and can include non-Council members.
 - Suggest one Co-Chair from the Administration and one Co-Chair from Legislature.
 - Co-Chair role is a significant amount of time – perhaps meeting weekly, with staff support from the Agency of Natural Resources and other agencies of State government.
 - Suggestion to schedule a brief organizational meeting of the Council on February 8, 2021 to review proposed Subcommittee assignments.
 - Compensation for non-Council members time on Subcommittees would require a legislative change. Monetary gifts require a process of approval and spending through the Governor and Legislature.
 - A potential model to review would be after Hurricane Irene on how non-profit organizations and supporters could be involved.
 - Council members should be surveyed for first and second choices for Subcommittee involvement.
 - SC would propose Subcommittee membership for vetting by the full Council, without need to involve the Legislature.
 - Need to clarify how the Subcommittees would do their work while adhering to open meeting laws.

- Decision-making:
 - Need option of majority vote to continue moving process forward.
 - Consensus helps lift opinions.
 - Work needs to be archived.
- Public and Stakeholder Engagement:
 - Concerns with using the Microsoft Teams platform and interest in exploring if other platforms are available for use within the State of Vermont.
 - Need public engagement portal to solicit ideas and engage others.

11:58 AM

Next Steps

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Steering Committee Interest Poll:
 - June Tierney would not seek nomination due to the amount of involvement she already has as Commissioner of Public Service.
 - Willing to serve on the Steering Committee:
 - Lauren Oates (interested in Subcommittee work as well)
 - Jared Duval (interested in Subcommittee work as well)
 - Richard Cowart
 - Chris Campany
 - Nominated to serve on the Steering Committee:
 - Liz Miller (would like to focus her time on Subcommittee work)
 - Johanna Miller
- Will need Council members to serve Co-Chairs for each of the five Subcommittees.
- Subcommittee Involvement Interest:
 - A poll for Council member's interest in Subcommittees will be sent to Council members.
 - Subcommittees should expect to have an initial meeting in the coming week and a second meeting within two weeks.
 - Suggestions of public members interested are welcome.

12:27 PM

Other Business

Julie Moore, Agency of Natural Resources

- If Council members have interest in seeing the confidential facilitator RFP, please send an email to Julie Moore for a copy. Those who have any potential conflict of interest should not review.

12:30 PM Public Comment

- Three members of the public spoke. Their full comments may be viewed in the third Microsoft Teams video [posted online](#).

12:36 PM Adjourned

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