

Vermont Climate Council

January 4, 2021 Minutes

- Date/Time: Monday, January 4, 2021 8:30 AM
- Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting – Recorded and is [posted](#) publicly
[Video of 1st half of the meeting](#); [Video of 2nd half of the meeting](#)
- Council Members Present: Chair Susanne Young and Members 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, Lindsay Kurrle, Liz Miller, Sean Brown, Sophia Clark, Sue Minter
- Council Members Absent: Adam Knudsen, Richard Cowart
- 8:32 a.m. Convene, welcome, review and approval of the [minutes](#) from the December 21, 2020 meeting
Susanne Young, Secretary, Agency of Administration
- Introduction of new Council member Brian Gray, representing the fuel sector.
 - [Updated Council Member Biographies](#)
 - Motion made, seconded and approved to approve the December 21, 2020 minutes.
- 8:38 a.m. Review of Meeting [Etiquette](#)
Susanne Young, Secretary, Agency of Administration
- Etiquette [posted online](#) and will be included in future agendas.
- 8:44 a.m. Presentation: Importance of [Equity in Developing Vermont's Climate Action Plan](#)
Xusana Davis, State of Vermont Executive Director of Racial Equity
- 9:37 a.m. Presentation: [Inventory of Existing Programs to Build Resilience \(Act 153 \(2020\), §591\(b\)\(1\)\(E\)\)](#)
Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish & Wildlife
Jens Hilke, Conservation Planner, Department of Fish & Wildlife
- 10:43 a.m. Break
- 10:57 a.m. Presentation: [Climate Mitigation, Adaptation and Resilience on Natural Working Lands \(Act 153 \(2020\), §592\(b\)\(3\)\)](#)
Dr. Alexandra Kosiba, Climate Forester, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
Ryan Patch, Deputy Director of Water Quality, Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- 12:02 p.m. Organizational Updates/Needs
Julie Moore, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources/ Council discussion

- Staff Recruitment:
 - Project Manager down to three finalists with last round of interviews this week. Goal is still to have new hire onboard by end of the month.
 - Drafting Program Technician position: Goal to have posted by mid-month and have Project Manager onboard to take part in interviews.
 - Small, limited contract with Consensus Building Institute (CBI) that will assist with some of the pre-work support. CBI may reach out to Council members by phone. Council members should send their current phone number to [Melissa Mazza-Paquette](#). There are three representatives from CBI that may reach out: Pat Field, David Plumb and Catherine Morris.
 - RFI for technical (modeling) services to support evaluation of GHG emission reduction scenarios should be issued by mid-month. Any Council members interested in reviewing and providing input on the draft should email [Secretary Moore](#).
- Agenda for January 25, 2020 meeting presented by Secretary Moore:
 - Panel discussion with representatives from Maine, Massachusetts, New York and the Climate Alliance invited to discuss their experience in developing Climate Action Plans and share lessons learned.
 - Process Design/Organizational Structure. Working to establish roles and responsibilities for subcommittees; exploring Council members knowledge areas, expertise and interests, and capacity to take on specific tasks; develop timeline for preparing the Action Plan.
- Council Discussion:
 - Desire to have one location, such as the TEAMS platform, where Council members can share information in-between meetings. Concerns need to be vetted with legal counsel to ensure adherence to the open meeting law for public transparency.
 - Consider more ways to integrate public input. One thought is to inquire with the Agency of Digital Services about creating a public portal for comments on the Vermont Climate Council website.
 - Annual report is due to the General Assembly on January 15, 2021. The report will be brief and consist of the work completed to date from the Council including links to the various presentations that have taken place. A draft of the report will be circulated to Council members for comments prior to submission.

12:24 p.m.

Public comment: three members of the public spoke at the end of meeting. Their full comments may be viewed in [part two](#) of the Microsoft Teams video [linked online](#).

- Matt Cota: Spoke about how liquid fluids are still sold/used and follow environmental guidelines.
- Carl Bayer: Carl is a member of the Ryegate Energy Committee. He had questions regarding the State's position on changes in the federal rules governing logging on public lands. Mr. Bayer provided his email address and Secretary Moore will have someone within the Agency of Natural Resources follow up with him.

- Robert Lehmert: Comments on liquid fuel and how people in the construction and farming industries that rely on the liquid fuel feel they will be left out in the cold if it can no longer be used.

12:34 p.m. Motion to Adjourn made, seconded and approved.

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