

Vermont Climate Council Meeting

December 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Microsoft Teams meeting

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Council Members Present: Abbie Corse; Adam Knudsen; Anson Tebbetts; 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; Richard Cowart; Sean Brown; Sophia Clark; Sue Minter; Susanne Young

The meeting was recorded in two parts: [part 1](#) prior to the break; [part 2](#) after the break.

8:32 a.m. Convene/Welcome/Review and approval of the [minutes](#) from the November 20, 2020 meeting
Susanne Young, Secretary of Vermont Agency of Administration

- Motion made, and approved unanimously, to approve the November 20, 2020 minutes.

8:40 a.m. [Climate Change in Vermont: Impacts, Risks and Adaptation](#)
Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Professor and State Climatologist, UVM
Vermont Climate Council Member

9:39 a.m. [Vermont's Current Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions Profile](#)
Peter Walke, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Collin Smythe, Environmental Analyst, Air Quality and Climate Division, DEC

10:35 a.m. Break

10:50 a.m. [Inventory of Existing Programs that Impact GHG Emissions \(§591\(b\)\(1\)\(A\) of Act 153 \(2020\)\)](#)
Dr. Heidi Hales, Director, Air Quality and Climate Division, DEC
TJ Poor, Director, Efficiency and Energy Services Division, Vermont Department of Public Service

11:50 a.m. Organizational Updates/Discussion
Council discussion

- Next meeting: January 4, 2021; agenda preview
 - Future agenda and subcommittee topics for consideration may be sent to ADM.Secretary@vermont.gov.
 - Secretary Moore presented an overview of the next two draft agendas to include: the importance of equity in developing Vermont's Climate Action Plan; inventory of existing programs to build resilience; climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience on natural working lands; organizational updates and needs; thoughts and insights from similar efforts; and Council organizational structure.
 - Several members indicated interest in a presentation from EAN on their *Annual Progress Report for Vermont*

- Establish regular meeting date/time: Proposed 4th Monday of the month, beginning 01/25/21
 - If Council members cannot accommodate this schedule, please send an email to ADM.Secretary@vermont.gov. This item can be added to the 1/4/21 agenda for discussion if necessary.
- Update on staff recruitment provided by Secretary Moore
 - Global Solutions Project Act Manager is one of three positions ultimately being added in ANR.
 - Received more than 30 applications and conducted initial round of 10 interviews over the past week. Hoping to select finalists the week of 1/4/21 with the goal of new hire being onboard by the end of January.
 - Two other positions included in the Global Solutions Act are:
 - Program Technician
 - Expected to be posted early in the new year and hope to have the Project Manager in place to select final candidates.
 - Legal Resource with expected hire date of late spring 2021.
 - Potential role for a facilitator
 - Develop robust public outreach program.
 - Work with Council on process design work and the structure of tasks assumed by subcommittees vs the role of the Council itself. Help plan and organize outreach and communications strategy.
 - DRAFT Request for Information (RFI) for Technical Support Service
 - Detail technical analysis and scenario building to look at different approaches for types of policy measures, how to implement and at what level.
- Subcommittee overview
 - Subcommittees listed in statute include the: Rural Resilience Subcommittee; Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee; Just Transitions Subcommittee; and Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee. Other subcommittees may also be formed to advise the council.
 - Secretary Moore specifically noted that Maine had added a “Science and Data Subcommittee” to focus on model development and scenario building.
 - The Chair asked Council members to consider their time constraints and availability to engage in subcommittee and Council work. Members were also asked to think creatively about considering ways to allow for greatest participation and engagement by Council members, such as webinars that could be viewed when a member had time and scheduling meetings outside of normal business hours.
 - Secretary Moore reminded Council members that there is an opportunity to appoint individuals who are not members of the Council to serve as members of subcommittees.

12:17 p.m. Public comment

- Four members of the public spoke. Their full comments may be viewed in part two of the video links above.
 - Robert Lehmert questioned when the results from the work being done to have a 26% reduction by 2025 will be available. Secretary Julie Moore commented that there is currently a 2-3- year lag in many of the datasets that will be used to evaluate progress.

- Bill Bender, President of Solaflect Energy, commented on how electrification is part of solving climate change and how solar facilitates reduce carbon. Urged Council to look at some of the assumptions about the electricity sector, and in particular hydropower.
- Matt Cota, Executive Director of the Vermont Fuel Dealers Association stated various fuel options that members of his organization provide to Vermonters. He thanked Speaker of the House for appointing a member for the fuel sector.
- Donna Leban, private citizen representing building architects and design portion of the industry, commented on the efforts of the legislature to support climate actions.

12:34 p.m. Adjourn

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