

**VCC Rural Resilience Sub-Committee Meeting  
Minutes 2/18/21**

Meeting came to order 3:00 p.m.

Erica Bornemann, Subcommittee Co-Chair

Catherine Diminuk, Subcommittee Co-Chair

In attendance: (G) Guest

Erica Bornemann

Catherine Diminuk

Bill Labarge

Catherine Dimitruk (G)

Joe Segale

Jane Lazorchak

Geoff Wilcox

Jeff Forward (G)

Secretary Lindsay Curly (ACCD)

Cheryl Hogan (G)

Catherine Lowther (G)

Steve Crowley (G)

Chad Farrell

Leah (G)

Phil Laberge (G)

Anet Smith (G)

**Convene/Brief Introductions/Overview of Agenda**

Agenda review

Review Subcommittee Charge and Scope as Defined in GWSA

Roles and responsibilities, admin support, next mtg date, setup next mtg's agenda

Any Amendments or clarifications to the agenda? None

**Review Subcommittee Charge and Scope as Defined in GWSA SC Desc & Major Milestones – on screen**

Suggestions, clarifications or is our charge clear?

Jane Lazorchak – Much came from the statute but doesn't preclude us from adding or deleting.

Joe Segale – Very challenging charge and will take a lot of work. ACCD did a Municipality Vulnerability Index, maybe that's a starting point. 4-5 staff are identified to go out there, look at what's available, and come back with ideas. Practically speaking, how do we accomplish this?

Jane Lazorchak – Agency Staff will support with technical expertise, administrative support and work. Will also have contractual services, the RFI is out. In the next week, 1-4 RFPs will go out for contractual technical services. Subcommittee members identify and prioritize what they will need to do for you.

Erica Bornemann – This topic area we will need to discuss how we should develop this. Will it have the same timeline as the Climate action plan? Considering time restraints, we may not have a full vulnerability index, which normally takes years. May need to chart how that will go moving forward.

Jane Lazorchak – See what explicitly is required in the plan for this fall. Building a table of contents with the statutory comments, for the steering committee, next week. Understanding what has to be done versus what can go to others. Setting a seed and building around what needs to be done and bring in public conversation.

Catherine Diminuk – Nature based solutions, interested to know if our subcommittees will take a lead in that or not.

Jane Lazorchak – Will need to have a conversation to better define who is taking the lead on it.

Erica Bornemann – Numbers 1-6 do not appear as action steps or deliverables. The committee needs to incorporate in our workplan the deliverables, as the climate action plan will be the priority of the council. Put together a work plan, define what the council wants to see as input into the climate action plan and start the ball rolling on statutory requirements.

Catherine Diminuk - #5 (greenhouse gasses), would have to be a part of the action plan.

Joe Segale – Develop best possible recommendations for all deliverables (except #6) that would all feed into actions and strategies that go into the climate action plan.

Jane Lazorchak – Inventory and access existing efforts, some done in a presentation to the climate council, needs to be information to go on the website and other means of communications. An RFP is out for media and outreach support which will be available to all subcommittees.

Joe Segale – What is this committee's role in public outreach? Are we having separate meetings on resilience in rural communities or is that in another joint meeting? (Unknown)

Erica Bornemann – The charge of the subcommittee... Do we need revisions to the charge? (No necessary revisions) Erica and Catherine will give the presentation on Monday. (Chad offered to help)

Work plan does not have to be done before Monday.

Jane Lazorchak – The discussions we are having, and the questions raised as far as what's deliverable and what's been started will be important to the full council.

Erica Bornemann – Major milestones for subcommittees, we encourage feedback and please give it to Jane.

### **Discussion of Additional Subcommittee Members**

Catherine Diminuk Co-Chair – It would be helpful to clarify how we got subcommittee members.

Joe has contributed a lot, designees will all get correspondence of the climate council meetings and are encouraged to attend.

With 5 statutory subcommittees we recognized the need to staff them with counselors and reach out to others to fill in the areas of expertise you're missing. A targeted survey went to specifically nominated people for 95 counselors. Then we cast the net broader, with another survey to counselors, the general public and nominees. We now have 350 nominees. We are aiming for 8-10 members for each subcommittee. Secretary Moore, Secretary Young and myself have proposed a process for nominations.

If no preference, proposed them to a specific subcommittee based on their background, request and experience. A subset is assigned to 2 subcommittees, as they may be able to serve on more than one. You will get a sheet with nominees' information, geographic, and mapping so you can pick people around the state, and their relevant experience. Each will have about 50 folks, it will be in a Google form, with a ranking tool using 1, 2, 3 (1 lowest, 3 best) with specific criteria on how you should rank people. Referencing technical expertise and diversity, whether it's geographic or economic. After a cursory run down, you will all get a document on the highest nominees that you all agree on. Next week you will come back with a smaller set and with recommendations (On 2/26) to appoint to your subcommittee. By Monday you will have information to digest. Many nominees may not know they were nominated. Some may not have the time to serve. Should find out if they want to serve on a subcommittee.

Erica – Does each subcommittee need to focus on specific criteria?

Jane – With your professional knowledge, look at what's missing in the subcommittee, relative to the charge, and identify gaps.

Erica – We need to do that now. What are we looking for?

Represented: Transportation, infrastructure, private sector, community level planning with the RPC representation, and on the economic side we have commerce and community development represented. Possibly housing vulnerability.

Lindsay – May already have information we can build off of on the vulnerability index.

Erica – Communications structure, electricity infrastructure – someone from that sector, not immediately represented, or nominations from Emergency Services, and we could ask for input from them.

Catherine – We will have Anne Margo from the Dept. of Public Service.

Joe – Somebody at the municipal level (officials, or serving on...)

Catherine – Geographic – possibly the NE Kingdom... no one on the council itself.

Chad – Need for finance or economics expertise? Financial capacity, prioritizing investments... Economic benefit but need analysis.

Erica – Rural Resistance, the ability to recover from a disaster is an important piece – financial stability.

Joe – Human side – resilience of people – someone from Human Services; Jared, Sue Minter...

Erica – Our charge is (easy to talk about the human resilience) not specified... discuss whether we want that in there or not. It broadens scope of this subcommittee if we do.

Jane – If Jared or Sue Minter can't staff, possibly someone from VDH but they're super busy... Rob Evans runs the river corridor program. Jens brings conservation planning resilience and natural infrastructure.

Erica – Human impact – Community action agencies, people who provide on the ground services.

Joe – Cross section mitigation, only mitigation or cross cutting issue – the human factor?

Catherine – recognize that is something other subcommittees are addressing more specifically.

Erica – Staff – asking Stephanie Smith, Ben Rose and Marian Wolz, to participate and provide support as VEM is in disaster recovery and mitigation.

Joe – is there a limit?

Jane – Goal was 8-10 members but can add folks to provide technical assistance.

Erica – Recap: Looking for areas of expertise in natural systems and their role in climate adaptation, economy or finance (local and state), municipal level, community resilience (human piece)

This is what we are looking for as we look at subcommittee nominations and rank them. Will get the tool and updated list tomorrow and provide them to all by Monday.

No motions made

### **Identify Necessary Subcommittee Member Roles and Responsibilities**

Admin support – agenda, minutes, warnings...

Jane – Secretary Young's administrative assistant, Melissa Mazza-Paquette will post the agenda. Have a template and she can take topic items and put them in. Must have the agenda items 48 hours before the meeting.

Minutes posted 5 days after met and given to Melissa to post.

ANR is hiring a program tech that will have administrative ability but have not posted the position yet.

Minutes will be done by VEM, Sue Sharbino.

No motions made

Next meeting – Wednesday 2/24/21 9-10 a.m. Calendar invite/Teams mtg invite will go out.

Will talk about next steps on the agenda

Public Comment:

None

Chat comments were received

Teams Mtg link: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MmU3OwM4ZTktMjU0OS00N2FILWE4ZGMtNjZmZDZhOTlhMDEz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f9d1a40c-ec33-4d18-9418-cb74be53b8fd%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MmU3OwM4ZTktMjU0OS00N2FILWE4ZGMtNjZmZDZhOTlhMDEz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2220b4933b-baad-433c-9c02-70edcc7559c6%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22f9d1a40c-ec33-4d18-9418-cb74be53b8fd%22%7d)

4:02 Mtg Adjourned