

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 24, 2021 4:00 - 5:00 PM

Location:	Microsoft Teams . Meeting was recorded to be posted online .
Subcommittee Members Present:	Dr. Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux (co-chair); TJ Poor (cochair); Julie Moore; Brian Gray; Jared Duval
State Agency Staff Present:	Bennet Leon (ANR); Collin Smythe (ANR); Claire McIlvennie (PSD); John Adams (VCGI)
Members of the Public Present:	George Gross, Mark Whitworth, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Darren Benoit

Welcome and Agenda Overview

TJ Poor welcomed members to the second meeting of the science & data subcommittee. He noted that the meeting would be recorded and posted online and that the agenda for the meeting had been posted in advanced. He provided an overview of the proposed agenda and ask if anyone had suggested additions or changes? None were offered.

Discussion of Subcommittee Membership Nominations

TJ Poor started by giving subcommittee members time to give general thoughts on nominees and opened the floor to other members to comment first:

- To guide the conversation Dr. Dupigny-Giroux shared a few slides on affirmative recruiting and diversity.
- There was discussion and agreement amongst subcommittee members that the limited amount of information available on nominees was a challenging aspect of the review process (ex. a lot of expertise in the group but limited information to compare them on). Jared Duval noted that there was not a consistent depth of information on nominees and Brian Gray highlighted it was hard to review nominees without full information on the skills the group will require.
- TJ Poor raised that question of what would be possible if the subcommittee still has gaps in skillsets after making membership selections (ex. technical expertise, bringing in for presentations, can we bring in folks who are not nominated?)
 - Secretary Moore noted that the subcommittee should be strategic and narrow in adding additional members and tapping into expertise on an as needed basis; ex. adding folks to the subcommittee mailing list so they are aware of proceedings; She noted it was not required to add anyone but that the subcommittee might benefit from geographic diversity to be able to speak to all of Vermont.
- Jared Duval highlighted the subcommittee might start with identifying key expertise and layering on other criteria, ex. climate science, emissions inventory, someone with deep experience and expertise in modeling and scenario design, someone with familiarity with economic analysis / a trained economist. He noted he did not see any economists in the Science and Data nominations specifically but did see them on the Cross Sector Mitigation subcommittee nomination list (ex. Linda McGinnis, Steve Letendre)

- Dr. Dupigny-Giroux noted she had a similar approach to Jared with regards to criteria, plus someone with experience working with big data, human health as a piece of climate resilience (ex. epidemiology expertise), focusing on the people and their health and wellbeing. She noted that Richard Hopkins (one of the nominees) had such experience.
 - Jared Duval noted he knew Richard and that he has been working in Addison County - first county level emissions inventory. Would be an additionally valuable skillset.
 - Dr. Dupigny-Giroux noted nominees with cross cutting skillsets would be beneficial.
- Jared Duval highlighted there were two highest ranking nominees that the committee might want to address first and foremost: Lou Cecere from VELCO, works on the long-range transmission plan with the Vermont system planning committee - his awareness of the grid is beneficial, and he lives in Rutland - geographic diversity (southern Vermont)
 - TJ Poor: Second what Jared said, would be thoughtful for this committee.
- Dr. Dupigny-Giroux noted the other highest-ranking nominee - Jason Shaefer from Lyndon State - expertise in climate science, big data (atmospheric science)
 - TJ Poor noted he also brings geographic diversity from Barton.
- TJ Poor asked if there were any objections to Jay Shaefer / Lou Cecere? (*None were given*)
- TJ Poor said the subcommittee did not have to add anyone else but there was a general target of 8-12 for each subcommittee with the goal of most members being council members.
 - Secretary Moore noted those targets were more so the committees remain a manageable size.
- TJ Poor noted the subcommittee had discussed Richard Hopkins - seems like Richard would check a lot of boxes.
 - Secretary Moore agreed and noted he also brought geographic diversity from Addison county.
- TJ Poor highlighted that it was uncertain people know they were nominated.
 - Secretary Moore said the hope was the subcommittee could have a shortlist of folks to reach out to regarding interest/participation.
- TJ Poor commented the discussion had hit many of the boxes previously discussed, although not an economist. Anyone else on the list a committee member would like to discuss?
 - Dr. Dupigny-Giroux asked about nominee Lisa Ryan, who was a nominee “at large”
 - Secretary Moore said nominations for that category either did not provide indication for a specific subcommittee to serve on and/or said would serve where helpful.
 - Dr. Dupigny-Giroux said she was intrigued by her nomination due to her work on the Rutland board, also work on restorative justice. Could serve dual roles on the committees and could help connect work on rural/marginalized communities. Seems like someone who could span both Data and Science & Just Transitions committees
 - Secretary Moore noted she was not sure how Just Transitions subcommittee would be structured, similar to data and science in that they will serve other subcommittees. Had initially thought Just Transitions would set some principles and then spread out to other committees to support - not sure that will happen.
- Jared Duval noted he had reached out to Jeff Merrill, who was previously lead on the Vermont emissions inventory, he was happy to be available as a technical resource.
 - Secretary Moore and Dr. Dupigny-Giroux both noted that would be good.
- Jared Duval noted the subcommittee was currently at five members, maybe looking to at four additions and might want to consider gender equity - especially considering lack of women in science and data. He proposed Linda McGinnis to fill the need for economic expertise.
 - Brian Gray seconded the thought.
- Dr. Dupigny-Giroux asked if TJ Poor could remind the members of the list of nominees considering.
 - TJ Poor: Jay Shaefer, Lou Cecere, Richard Hopkins, Lisa Ryan, Linda McGinnis.
- TJ Poor noted the next step would be to divide and conquer and confirm they know they were nominated and want to participate (est. 4-6 hours work a week), TJ Poor offered to reach out to Lou. Dr. Dupigny-Giroux will reach out to Jay Shaefer, Brian to Linda McGinnis, Jared to Richard Hopkins, Secretary Moore to Lisa Ryan.
- TJ Poor asked if there were any gaps missing? *No comments*

Discussion regarding next meeting (date and agenda) and recurring meeting time

- TJ Poor asked whether March 5th at 10am would work for the next meeting, raised the question of how long committee meetings should be going forward, and highlighted that it would be helpful to find a default time for meetings. He further inquired about frequency of meetings and noted they should avoid overlapping with other subcommittee meeting times.
- TJ Poor noted that at least in the early stages the committee should likely meet weekly (Secretary Moore and Jared Duval agreed)
- TJ Poor suggested the subcommittee may want to extend the meeting time to 90 minutes or two hours.
 - The subcommittee decided the next meeting would be March 5th, 9:30-11am.
- For the recurring meeting time, TJ Poor noted some subcommittees meeting on Thursdays and suggested Wednesdays as a possible day.
 - The subcommittee members compared schedules and decided on recurring subcommittee meetings on Wednesdays from 1pm-2:30pm beginning March 10th
- TJ Poor moved to set the agenda for the next meeting (March 5th). After discussion, the subcommittee landed on two topics: Further discussion of the subcommittee scope and beginning the discussion of the workplan.
 - TJ Poor noted that if members provide him redline edits to the scope by next Tuesday, he could combine and circulate to subcommittee members for review in advance.
 - Jared Duval also asked about discussion of the RFP. Secretary Moore noted she had spoken with Jane Lazorchak on that process and it would be an appropriate agenda item for the March 10th meeting.
 - Dr. Dupigny-Giroux raised the issue of the need to have the co-chairs in active conversations for sharing of subcommittee conversations. Jared Duval said the steering committee would help support that. Secretary Moore noted the possibility for a monthly, 15 min standing meeting (off cycle with the Climate Council) to flag overlapping items. She also noted Jane Lazorchak and the program technician will be in subcommittee meetings and could help flag overlap/underlap where necessary.

Opportunity for Public Comment

TJ Poor opened the floor for members of the public to comment. Those comments can be viewed in the video recording to be [posted online](#).

Meeting Adjourned