

Transcript

August 19, 2024, 5:04PM

□ **Barrett, Kim** started transcription



Karla Raimundi 0:04

Hopefully approving the core principles of community engagement, the meeting is recorded for everyone online and in the room, and I see several Advisory Council members and I see members.

Thank.

Thank you so.

So much for joining us.

U M Yeah, I think we're ready to start.

Then I'll pass it off to Kim and Juliet.

Who will be facilitating today's meeting?

Thank you so much for joining.

Yes.

Thank you.

Kim Barrett

Hi everyone. My name 's Kim.

Hi.

I'm Juliette.

To anyone who doesn't know, so we welcome you all of the Advisory Council members, the Interagency Committee members and also community members.

If we have anyone joining.

Umm, alright.

So real quickly we'd like to go over the community agreements.

And as we've done in the past, we'll have maybe five folks read each one and then we will approve each community agreement.

You'll either raise your hand or give us a thumbs up.

Would like to read the first one.

Feel free to just come come off me.

TM **Trey Martin** 1:23
I got it.

Kim Barrett 1:25
Great.

TM **Trey Martin** 1:26
Be present with yourself and one and another.
Be present with your body and feelings.
If you need to take a break to take care of yourself, please do be present for one another by listening deeply.

BM **Boomhower, Michele** 1:39
I'll take #2 calling in and calling out. Assume best intent, but attend to impact.
We can stop things that are being said that are hurtful and be curious, and Create space for learning tools include using.
"Oops"
"Ouch"
To indicate a pause is needed.

rich holschuh 2:01
I'll read #3.

rich holschuh 2:04
Expect and accept non closure.
We are unlikely to leave here feeling 100% ready to go or to have everything on our on our agenda wrapped up, especially if we are committed to moving at the speed of trust.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 2:22
Read #4. Center respect.
Be respectful, intentional, and work to build trust and create a safe and inviting space.



Claire McIlvennie 2:43

I can take the last one, sheriff verbal and other space mindfully.

Consider the balance of taking and making space. "Move up, move back." tools to do this include the acronym wait, Why am I talking?

And vocalizing support for another person 's.

And vocalizing support for another person 's comment, whatever.

Comment without repeating the same points that have already been made.

Kim Barrett

Wonderful.

So all who agreed to be held accountable to these Community agreement agreements, please raise your hand or give us a thumbs up.

Awesome.

That looks like everyone.

Thank you.

OK, so first, we're going to just.

Approve the meeting minutes from your last joint meeting, which was may twenty ninth. Umm.

All who approve, please raise your hand again.

Thumbs up if you can.

OK.

Perfect.

Great.

That's everyone.

Alright.

And so this is our quick overview of the agenda.

Umm.

First, we'll talk through the E J law updates.

Umm we'll hopefully move into a decision making peace around that.

Create some next steps.

We'll go into the core principles of community engagement.

We'll share some of what we've been working on from that.

We'll have a public comment period, a break, and then we'll come back to talk about

the mapping tool.

Perfect.



Kim Barrett 4:43

Umm, so from there we'll have another public comment.

A break.

And then we'll come back to talk about the environmental justice focus populations definitions, which I know is really something we need to talk about.

And then we'll wrap up with next steps.

Yeah.

OK, so our first little activity, we're gonna do an ice breaker.

We'd like you to finish the sentence.

"I create change by..."

You can use one word or a couple of words to finish the sentence, but we will give you a couple of minutes just to think and digest.

Who'd like to share first?



Ronis, Jenny 5:54

And I'll go first I I create change by listening.



Kim Barrett 6:01

Thanks.

Thank you.

You'd like to hear.



Trey Martin 6:03

I wanna-



6:05

Ohh go ahead.



Trey Martin 6:06

I wanna.

I would love to follow that because I create change by listening with my heart, not my head.

BM Boomhower, Michele 6:17

I will add I create change by supporting others.

DX Davis, Xusana 6:28

I create change by constructive and destructive means.

Kim Barrett 6:29

Yeah, we'd like to hear from everyone.

Rich Holschuh

Umm I create change by listening and responding and I just have to add that I don't really believe that I'm a creator.

Go ahead.

I am a maker.

Creation is already complete.

Claire McIlvennie

I can go next also.

This is Claire McIlvennie.

Unless it's not super obvious from who were in the room.

I create change by being open to new ways of doing things.

BW Brownridge, Walter 7:22

This is Walter.

I create change by asking the question I notice and I wonder.

Kim Barrett 7:49

Create change by holding myself accountable

Juliet Birch

I can go.

I like this theme of listening and I'll say I would say I create change by listening to

understand, not just listening to respond.

I can go next.

Karla Raimundi

This is Karla from the agency of Natural Resources and I love the listening and how it's been expanded.

But what resonates with me right now is I create change by caring.

Kim Barrett

Anyone else would like to go?

 Hoffman, Steph 8:44

This is Steph from the public utility Commission.

While I make change by communicating clearly.

 Sadowski, Lauren 9:01

This is Laura Sadowski from EPA Region 1.

Normally Kira and I would be in person, but we're online today and I wanna say I create change by being present.

 Kim Barrett 9:20

Should be everyone. Alright

Thank you for participating.

That was great.

Karla Raimundi

What do we do?

We know who's online because we can only see several people.

We have a list of those. Umm.

Juliet Birch

Yeah.

For those of you who are online, and if you have the ability, please turn on your camera so that we can see you in the room.

That is.

But if not, that's also OK.

Claire McIlvennie

There are more people.

They've videos on this, can't see them because we're screen share.

Yeah.

Not yet.

Yeah, it's OK.

They have.

We'll get who's participating, but yeah, there is a, umm all right.

Kim Barrett

So to move on here, one thing that we've heard time and time again is that we want to do the work right.

Folks are at the point where they want to get to know each other, but you wanna do the work.

So what we're hoping to get to today is understanding what two.

Doing the work actually means to you, uh, I think that'll be helpful if we can communicate that. Umm.

And whatever that looks like, whether you're an IC member, an AC member, what does that work look like to to you, who's involved with it and what's involved with doing the work well?

And whatever that looks like, whether you're an IC member, an AC member, what does that work look like to to you, who's involved with it and what's involved with doing the work well?

So does that mean are you working with community members?

Are you?

Are you?

You know what?

What does your actual work on the ground day-to-day look like?

Just.

OK.

Umm.

So we'll also give you a couple of minutes just to think about this.

There's no we're not looking for any specific answer.

We'd like for you to speak from the heart, honestly, and we'll build the the meeting from this place.

Karla Raimundi

I can go.

This is Karla from the agency of Natural Resources.

Umm, when I look at the prompt doing the work, what came to me is that doing the work means intentional collaboration around principles and values of environmental justice that are shared.

So it's a lot, you know, it's kind of a compounded answer.

Umm, but it's it's collaborating intentionally around shared interests.

Are we going to take them separately?

I however.

And then the second part, what's involved for me in the doing of this work that I frame as intentional collaboration around principles of environmental justice is making sure that the voices that need to be at the table are at the table and I'm are being heard and considered in an intentional fashion.

And so that permeates just my outlook generally.

What?

More specifically, when you know we're doing this work in environmental justice and civil rights.

Kim Barrett

We'll take a couple more folks.

Anyone.

Rich Holschuh

I I I would.

Oh yeah, go ahead.

I'm sorry, Trey.

Doing doing the work to me means to the degree possible to show up umm as the best and the best way that I can.

I'm I'm not always able to show up in the best way and I probably shouldn't be in the room at those moments.

But I try to show up in the best way and doing the work well is is that process of of a

you know knowing what you're getting into and responding.

Thank you.

TM **Trey Martin** 14:02

I was.

I was going to say that - this is Trey from housing and conservation Board - that I was thinking specifically about this work of of these two bodies and wanting to do the work of building bridges between public processes and decisions and appropriations and frameworks and administrative laws.

And then the people who are served by those, and I think doing the work well means not just building bridges that work for our public systems, but in the places that people need them.

14:43

Umm.

I'm just gonna hold space in case anyone else would like to share.

BM **Boomhower, Michele** 14:52

I'll chime in.

It's Michelle Boomhower from the Vermont Agency of Transportation.

What doing the work means for me and I and I'll say it for my organization cause we are whole as an entity committed to making sure that we are creating umm open accessible and?

Clear space.

Working to reach people where they are and in a manner that works for them to best deliver the transportation services that we are responsible for and what's involved with doing that work well is understanding.

Umm.

What-

What the needs of our constituency are on being grounded in past practices that prevented us from doing this work well or directly harm to other harmed people who, uh, existed in the framework of transportation projects and and system delivery. And umm, also working hard through each of our processes to to to make sure that we are communicating effectively that we are learning from our umm, past efforts where we may not have done as well and that we are using our civil rights framework

and our equity engagement framework and advancing those tools.
So we've spent a lot of time building tools and just making sure they are implemented.
That's what I would say.

 **Kim Barrett** 16:57

Appreciate that.

All right.

Thank you for participating.

We'll we'll kind of build on that.

I just wanted to name some of the things that I heard and rich, I really appreciated what you said about showing up, working to show up in the best way possible, but. And knowing how to respond and taking space with that, I also heard groundedness as an important aspect.

Space with that.

And so we're going to talk further more about how how to incorporate those things and also what that looks like in terms of the new timeline that we're gonna be.

How to make sure that that doing the work well is built into that process, so I'll pass it to Juliet.

Juliet Birch

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

So has Kim mentioned we do have a new timeline of based off of Act One, eighty one and so that's kind of one of the the the main update that we'd like to go into this little section of the agenda with as you all recall we had we've been working to have these recalibrated deadlines passed into into law and they were through Act one eighty one and so that means that the Act one fifty four timeline is extended by two years.

Umm.

So taking a look at what that means in terms of dates, this is just, you know, a a brief picture of some of the deliverables under the law.

Not everything is captured just because of the repetition of annual reporting etcetera, but this is what some of those dates really reflect.

And I just want to note that you know, for the core principles of community engagementtm for the environmental benefits spending guidance, and - as we'll talk

about more of - the ejfp definition, these are all things that we're already really doing the work on and we will likely be able to finish these items before some of these new recalibrated deadlines.

And So what the recalibration really means for us is a pillow where we're no longer kind of operating under survival mode where we're kind of up against these fast approaching deadlines.

But rather, we have a little bit of a buffer zone and more space, and so going back to that reflection that you all just shared with with us, you know, some of this new timeline does allow us some of that space for things like intentional collaboration, making connections, building bridges and really finding out the needs of the constituency that we represent.

And so yeah, just we just wanted to share with you some of the details of this new I recalibration.

And so I will pass it to Kim to talk a little bit more about what the, what this timeline could do for us in each of our positions.

Kim Barrett

Yeah.

Yeah, I think.

You so one thing I just wanna back up and say that today's meeting is gonna be really discussion heavy and just connective.

So we really wanna get in order for us to do this work right.

We we have to communicate and and get on the same page.

Uh.

So one thing that we're wanting to explore with you.

Umm is what are the ways that this timeline for?

Specifically for folks in the Advisory Council, some of you have mentioned before that, you know, you may have needs or or there may be things that we could support you with so that you can show up in the best way that you'd like.

So what?

What are ways that this timeline could accommodate some of those needs?

Are there things that you've already thought about that that you need support with?

How can we build that into this timeline?

And then how could this timeline allow you to deepen your leadership in this space and also in your communities?

And then for the IAC members, how could this timeline influence your legislative asks?

Because we know that that's an important thing that we're gonna need to be working towards and can also inform this process.

And then how could this timeline and form strategy building and development of guidance, you know one of the things that's come up before is yeah, possibly looking at inventory inventory investments for the environmental benefits spending guidance.

So what are the ways that that we could build some of that into this process?

So I just wanna give you all a few minutes to think about this.

I'm sure these are things that have already come up as we've been discussing the last few months, but now is really the time to start sharing with each other.

VG **Vinson, Grace** 22:06

Umm, this is Grace Benson from a CD.

Umm, I think we may have talked about this at past meetings, but I think it could be really helpful, at least from a CD perspective to have you, Juliet and Kim come present at a staff meeting just about what?

The act entails what the timeline is, especially with this updated timeline to make sure, like our, you know, leadership is still aware of this important work.

22:39

Thank you, umm, and I'll ask that we just take one more minute of silence.

Thank you for that.

Umm.

And then we'll, we'll get so that folks have a little more time to process.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 23:07

This is Walter from the member of the Advisory Council of Public.

Population designated population.

Umm I I I'm really glad to hear about them.

23:23

No, Walter.

You're your audio 's kind of cutting in and out.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 23:28
Sorry.

23:29
No problem.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 23:31
Umm.
Is it a better now?

23:34
Yeah, yeah.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 23:35
I've got a mic.
Thank you.
Umm, I just think that.
I mean, I think it it does accommodate our resource needs, I guess is the way I would describe it is because we'll have time I think to to you know, go out to the community.
I actually think in some ways Advisory Council members and staff.
Uh, and even, you know, like folks from IC to go, you know?
Be really, I know there are some members of the public here today, you know, dedicated who come to these meetings.
But I think this little enable us to maybe do some further outreach and I think that is really great for us to, you know, develop our resources as well as deepen our leadership.
So that's all I would comment right now.

Kim Barrett 24:28
Thank you.
That's awesome.
And also you know that's something that the we're all interested in, but also the community engagement task group.

Now there's more time and space for for those folks to work more intimately on this.

Thank you.

It's my hand up.

It might be the right.

Oh, go ahead. Sorry.

ZS **Zoraya she/her** 24:51

Great.

Yeah, I'm excited for this because I think it'll allow us to both have time to develop relationships with specific agencies so we can be thought partners, but then also bring stuff back to the group that maybe is more of a question mark or that isn't it as easy and things like that.

So I think it'll allow for more a staggered process both to us to have relationships between IC and AC members and then to come back to the group and figure stuff out. Thanks.

Kim Barrett 25:24

Thank you.

That's wonderful.

I think one thing that that you know we can keep in mind and maybe wanna talk through more I'm is what would you like our support specifically Juliet and I support with that is the relationship building between you all.

Is that something that you wanna kind of take ownership of or would you need our support?

Or.

You don't need to answer this now, but just wondering where would you want Juliet and I to to support it, if anything.

ZS **Zoraya she/her** 25:53

I mean I think because we don't really meet - if I can answer now - I think because we don't really meet like we don't really have, we don't really have strong relationships.

So I think it would be helpful if we just had some kind of process where.

AC members maybe like ranked their priority of like who, what agencies they'd like to work with, and then we come out with that of saying like, OK, great, this person's working with these agencies just so we can get that started.

So I don't think we need help.

Once we know who we're working with, but I think we haven't got there yet.



Kim Barrett 26:30

I think that's that's really helpful.

Thank you.

Karla Raimundi

If I may chime in really quickly, so I you had mentioned in a previous meeting.

Or suggested that idea around creating like a body system and I think what you mentioned right now perhaps is the same approach.

Of pairing Advisory Council members with IAC based on interest, that Advisory Council members may have expertise in the areas of work from the IAC.

I would like to explore this idea further and umm, why?

What Kim mentioned still remains.

You don't have to answer this question now, but I would be very interested in in how do you get that pairing done beyond just saying if this is an area where you have interest or expertise, are there any other?

Factors that should be considered in the pairing of the AC members with the IAC and I am asking because this is this is a space where now that we have more time we should really think about expanding the partnership.

This is.

I was, as was previously mentioned between IAC and AC so that we can all do our work better.

So just and you can, you know, take the time to think about it and then you can write to us if, with, with tangible ideas, on how, like, how to make this pairing occur in a way that resonates and captures what you have been conceiving for some time.

Is up next.

Ohh I have my hand up next and what I wanted to mention is.

I think it was Grace who mentioned having a Juliet and Kim come to agencies and I just wanna mention that we just did that with the PUC.

Around the community engagement plan deliverable, the Public Utility Commission organized a retreat and they invited us to.

Present on two sessions, each one hour, and then we stayed longer and had conversations with staff at the PUC about what the community engagement

deliverable and the content of a community engagement plan would look like based on each of their divisions work.

So I think it was a really successful.

Exercise and will organize, and if others are interested, we could come up with an approach.

Now that we have this buffer time to approach the other deliverables in the same fashion.

Umm.

So just sharing that we did something wrong.

VG

Vinson, Grace 30:02

Yes.

Thank you, Karla.

That would be great.



Kim Barrett 30:09

OK, great.

So we've got some workshopping and and trainings to do as well as part of the timeline.

We love to hear from someone in the Advisory Council.

Maybe if you have any thoughts on on these bullet points or maybe other things that are coming to mind.

OK.

We'll go to the IAC.

If there's anyone who has thoughts.

Karla Raimundi

I have a thought here.

Karla, from the agency of Natural Resources, and I've mentioned this.

I previous meetings when we were talking about whether requesting a recalibrated deadline was a viable option and the reasons why, and I think an important factor to consider for interagency committee members is foundational work that's needed to implement deliverables that are captured in the law.

I've used the example of language access because language access is a cornerstone of any community engagement, public participation approach, and the law goals for

the agencies to create a community engagement plan.
But does not, umm include us, a deliverable decoration of a language access plan.
So then having agencies think about what foundational steps they may need to engage in before we can all have some substantive conversations about the deliverables that are actually actually captured in the law.
So thinking through what those things are that the agencies may need to put in place before we get to actually start moving forward on the deliverables in the law is I think a great opportunity that we have now that we didn't have previously.

Kim Barrett

Thank you, Karla.
Will please face from one more person to share?

Claire McIlvennie

I was just going to say I think to the first bullet.
Yep, it would be really helpful if we could prioritize time, that IC meeting or an office hours to talk about a legislative ask around because I.
Speak.
Yeah, I hear what you're saying, Carla.
And I totally agree with you.
And I feel like I've heard lots of us mentioned that there is just this.
Incredible tension that we are in many of our agencies.
The point person for both, like advancing this work and like programs and policy development, while also helping advance deliverable specifically and that without more capacity in some way whether that's funding or staff said that is just really challenging barrier to overcome.
That.
So I know we talked about it last year and didn't end up making an ASK, but I think that.
If we could prioritize that conversation, would.
If is one of those foundational steps to doing this work well it.

Karla Raimundi

Claire, I was actually gonna mention that in that first bullet for the IC is strategizing on approach.

Umm.

Regarding joint asks for, the legislature is to allow us an opportunity to sort of like come up with an assessment of what each of the agencies are needing and where there is overlap.

Perhaps we can join efforts to present an approach and and ask for the legislature in support of the implementation of this law, and that's basically I am agreeing with with glare that that's perhaps the next step internally for the IAC is to think through what kind of legislative rotation we can engage in to allow us to, you know, ask for those things that we need to implement the law.

Because I agree this is a huge left for agencies.

Umm.

And we are under resourced as it is.

Claire McIlvennie

And I think, sorry, I see Michelle hand, but just to add, like, I don't think we're starting from scratch there either, right?

There was the joint fiscal note that was put together.

I think some of the agencies did a little bit of that reflective work before.

Active fifty four was sort of paved.

That's a good starting point.

Yeah.

And Michelle, if you could take just one minute to share, we I do wanna hold space for you.

And also we need to move on, so feel free to share.

BM

Boomhower, Michele 35:28

Thank you.

I'm.

I'm just thinking that typically, at least from my agency, our legislative asks are assembled and funneled through the governor's office. Obviously.

And, umm, if there were some way to have somebody from the IAC staff communicating with the agency of administration or some central body to better

understand how umm.

And this is on a main, you know more about this, but how how we should be framing this?

Ask umm so that we can best use our time most effectively.

That's all.



Kim Barrett 36:20

Thank you.

Speech.

Thank.

Alright, let's move on.

We're gonna go to the core principles of community engagement.

We're just going to talk about the the public comment period and kind of what ensued afterwards.

Alright so.

The core principles of community engagement.

Public comment period was something that the Advisory Council had asked us to do, so we facilitated our unit, facilitated two public meetings, one was hybrid, the other one was virtual.

Umm, there were well attended and then we conducted an in-depth public comment analysis.

So I looked at all of the the comments, did like a qualitative analysis and pulled common themes lessons, but really broke down each comment.

And then we applied and shared.

Specific proposed edits that came about to the document to the core principles of community engagement document, and I believe we shared those via e-mail a couple of times.

We also held office hours for the AC and the IC to come and share input on to review those documents. Umm.

And then.

Furthermore, I took those cross cutting insights and we're developing guidance right now where we develop the a report that kind of talks through some of the lessons learned and then the goal is that we're wanting to use the information from that for procedural guidance forward.

Or.

I just wanted to talk about the four major lessons learned.

And you know, I also wanna say that most of the folks who came to the public meetings were community leaders and environmental justice focus population communities, or they're heavily involved in organizing or experienced.

And.

No.

Some harm themselves, so I definitely took each comment very, you know, like held it in high regard.

The first lesson learned is foundation matters that came up because pretty much every single person you know, they they felt positively.

They felt like the core principles of community engagement is a strong document.

But they also feel that we need to look at the foundation, look at the systemic factors and and understand the foundation that we're standing on, because in order for us to actually integrate these, these principles will need to address some of the the foundational issues.

Bye.

The second is trust is essential, which the core principles document definitely talks about, but folks went.

Almost everyone went into detail about how important trust is, but also how important rebuilding trust is.

So one one of the edits and and some of the recommendations are around giving practical examples.

Of what?

Trust building looks like and then the third lesson learned is that leadership training is also necessary.

Sometimes we just say staff training or staff capacity building, but folks were really, really adamant that leadership training, especially if we're going to address systemic issues.

Stop.

An infrastructure change that leaders that the leadership needs to be.

You know need to have the skills as well.

Not only for themselves individually, but also to support their teams and programs in in, in driving this work.

And then the last one that came up a lot is practical examples.

Specificity drives change, so just basically the sections of the core principles

document that has, you know, like I think it's called examples or recommendations or something like that.

So.

Basically going through and adding more specific examples for clarity in that was those were the lessons there were more, but any thoughts real quickly?

That anyone has in just reflecting on this.

Jennifer, go ahead.

 **Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council** 41:10

Hi.

Jennifer Byrne on the Advisory Council.

I'm wondering about numbers like how many people actually participated and commented.

 **Juliet Birch** 41:21

I we I don't have those numbers, I don't think any of us have those numbers off the top of our heads.

But I think the first meeting was attended by roughly ten for ten members of the public.

I think like three or four in public or in person, and then the rest remote and then the second meeting was also probably attended by like ten to fifteen folks all remotely.

And then admittedly, we I think only received one written comment.

So that's something that our team can improve on is ways to get more written commentary in future public comment periods.

Kim Barrett

Yeah.

And I think just considering that we really drove the well in the ways that we could advertising and sharing and getting information out, we felt like that was a pretty good, you know, turn out just kind of relying on our team to do that, so.

Karla Raimundi

I also, if I may, this is Carla from the Agency of Natural Resources.

Chime in here really quickly.

I wanna bring and remind everyone that this was a a public comment period that was

umm, that was recommended by the Advisory Council and the IC agreed on on on. Engaging in this public comment period to hear from members of the community what they had to say regarding the the principles that were identified, but I also would like to mention here that the unit came and Juliet and to some extent, you know, I've also been contributed some of it.

But really, like the heavy lift has been done by Kim and Juliet. And Kim in particular has taken a deep, deep dive.

In analyzing and assessing what the members of the public provided and the intention is to.

Used this model for future engagements from our agency and what we have found is that in really listening, you know going back to that first opening question and really listening umm and with an open mind and not taking in the comments as criticisms, criticism of the work that the government and the agencies have been doing historically, there are a lot of insights that come from meaningful engagement and these lessons learned we are intending to capture in our Community engagement plan.

Engagement plan.

And so we will share with you some of the documents that Kim is referred to as part of this public comment period.

So that you can see what we mean when we say that this public comment period, we took a little bit further than what usually the agency does in an attempt to see what kind of outcomes we get when we actually, you know, put pen to paper.

Umm.

Yeah, well, when we actually do what we say we need to do, so we will share more with the two bodies and we're open to reflecting further what we can do better.

Juliet Birch

Alright, so we're gonna jump into the document itself and take a look at some of the edits that Kim specifically has worked really hard to capture public feedback in.

And so something to just note before we jump in, is that throughout this review process we have applied to types of edits, the more superficial ones that sort of involve, you know, moving content for emphasis or changing formatting for accessibility purposes.

And then also some more substantive edits.

So that would include things that Kim mentioned, such as including more specificity

or including more practical examples.

And as you can imagine, that includes, you know, rewriting or adding additional language to the document itself.

So as we move through, we'd like to take a look at each of these edits and get just like visual consent from everybody in the IAC and the AC who's present today to just say conceptually, yes, I agree with this.

But for superficial edits, that would mean that that edit gets automatically applied, and for those more substantive edits, we ask that you consider outside of this meeting and we can facilitate a way to make this happen.

Super.

But we ask that you guys consider taking some time to rewrite those substantive edits in your own language.

Kim and I both believe that it's really important for all of the content to be, you know, in your words, as you guys are the folks that are the authors under the law and we would never wanna make any assumptions, assumptions about, you know, your perspectives and how you'd like to express yourselves in this document that you've all worked really hard on.

I think that it's also important to note, you know, going back to this idea of doing the work and doing it intentionally.

Umm.

Part of really honoring the feedback that we've received from members of the public, sometimes that does mean we take a little bit more time to think through and put that, put those that feedback into words into our own words in the edit.

So if that works for everybody, you know that idea of potentially moving on and having to the rewrite some of these edits in our own words, we can move forward and just look through some of these edits.

Does that sound good to everybody?

I'm seeing some nodding and thumbs up.

Yeah.

All right, so here's the first edit.

Yes.

Kim Barrett

OK, so it might look a little confusing, but here is what I did so on the left hand side of the screen you'll see like the full page and so one of the first edits is related to the

second paragraph there.

So if you look on the right hand side of the screen, that's kind of zoomed in for you to see, but this paragraph someone felt would be stronger if we actually put the definition, the environmental justice focused population definition in this section, you go to the next page.

Hello.

Taking a little minute to to load. Wow.

Ohm.

OK, so can someone let me know if this is clear on your end?

Juliet Birch

What does it look pixelated?

 **Zoraya she/her** 48:42
We can read it.

 **Boomhower, Michele** 48:43
Now it's clear.

 **Kim Barrett** 48:44
Ohh, OK, OK.

 **Davis, Xusana** 48:44
Yeah.

 **Kim Barrett** 48:45
Great.
Awesome.
So alright, so I when I have here is in the comment, you'll see kind of what the essence of what the person said, but clarity and directness is important essentially.
So.
So I just put the definition in there and I'll let you.

Juliet Birch

Yeah.

So umm if this edit this is one of those more superficial edits as we refer to before.
If this edit sounds good to everybody, we'd love to see.
Thumbs up, but if anyone has any thoughts to share first that would be great.
I'm seeing Jennifer's hand first.

J Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council 49:29

Yeah, I'm not.
I'm not sure that I am in favor of that change.
I think I'm not sure what the full sentence even is.
Maybe you could read the sentence, but since we haven't edited that definition and that was is one of our like outstanding tasks.
And also I think you know the the very first meeting that we had where we actually talked about the definition, there were several members of the Advisory Council who had, you know, kind of issues with the definition, I guess.
And so I don't know that we it yeah meaningful engagement for for all people, not just people who fall under this definition.

Kim Barrett 50:13

Yeah, we we agree.
Go ahead, Karla.

Karla Raimundi

What I what?
I was gonna mention, Jennifer, this is Karla again from the agency of Natural Resources.
New resonates with what you just mentioned and my concern is that they become the document may become obsolete or needing to be edited ohm relatively soon or within a regular.
Cadence every time there's a revision to the definition.
I understand what the commenter wanted to do is just provide more clarity and just the information about what it is that we meet when we say environmental justice focused populations.
But if there is a way in which we could.
Capture what the commentary intended.
That's not gonna make this document become obsolete.

Umm.

Umm, in a relatively short amount of time, I would prefer that approach.

Yeah.

Abbey Willard

Can I ask what clarifying questions?

So currently there's a footnote number three that says you can reference the glossary for current definition of environmental justice focused population included in the law.

Note that this definition is subject to regular review and revision.

It's the thought.

Captured in this definition being included in the document that it needed to be more transparently displayed.

OK.

Kim Barrett

Yeah, more transparent, more spelled out, you know, because they felt like it.

It it doesn't really capture the the essence of of what this document is about.

And again, this is just me representing visually what the comment was and we can also have a further conversation about this.

But we really wanted to provide you with an opportunity.

To engage with this.

So if if if folks have other thoughts, we'll hear them.

And then I think there are like six.

 **Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council** 52:15

Can you read the sentence?

 **Juliet Birch** 52:17

Yeah, you can go.

Yeah.

Yeah.

So the full sentence is these principles endeavor to support state agencies and developing inclusive, innovative and equitable Community engagement plans by addressing systemic barriers to meaningful engagement of environmental justice

focus populations.

And then right underneath is where the definition of environmental justice focus populations could potentially be.

Just plopped in there.

Kim Barrett

And then also just for your knowledge.

Very good.

The first sentence if you're in case you're wondering if it's, if it mentions meaningful participation of all individuals, that's there as well.

It's just that it refers to particular attention to EJ FPS without saying what it is.

Zoraya?

zs

Zoraya she/her 53:07

So yeah, I don't know if this is a helpful and I wasn't.

I don't think I was part of the discussion on changing the environmental justice focus population, but I wonder if we just simplified it and said something like environmental justice focused populations include like below average income persons, persons of color and indigenous peoples and households with limited English proficiency as opposed to having like the exact numbers which probably just make it less readable as a document.

Anyway, if that would get to more detail without having the level of detail that would need to be changed.



Kim Barrett 53:48

I think that that's helpful.

Something for the for you all to consider.

Thank you.

Juliet Birch

So what I'm hearing is some folks maybe don't see this edit as being potentially helpful, just based off of how this definition is going to be imminently reviewed and revised and therefore will change.

Some folks are saying that this will help with directness and clarity, and zoriah provided a helpful.

Helpful potential solution which is to kind of paraphrase the definition within the the this paragraph itself, rather than just copy and paste the word for word legal definition as it stands currently.

Umm.

Does anyone have any thoughts on you know how we wanna move forward with this edit?

TM **Trey Martin** 54:58

Yeah, I think that chat that just came in was what I was gonna say is I liked the idea that we we provide a plain language.

Explanation of the pop.

You know what it means?

And then the footnote links to something that can be updated as long as that's transparent.

That's, I think, important to me.

Kim Barrett 55:21

Yeah, that's a great way of responding to the need.

So thank you.

Juliet Birch

OK, so I'm hearing several folks are interested in this, like plain language explanation. Having that in text and then having the actual legal definition in the footnote and that can be regularly updated as the definition is revised.

Does anyone have any other thoughts?

OK, so if I could get a visual consent, I think that it sounds like several folks are really interested in this plain language explanation being in text that would be I think, more of a substantive edit if you folks want to develop a plain language explanation for what EjFp 's but represent. Umm.

But if the if everyone consents to that conceptually, that edit if someone could, if we could all give visual consent, we'd like to see that.

Please also let us know if you do not consent.

Maybe put like a frowny face.

Or put it in the, put it in the chat or something.

Hey, seeing lots of thumbs up, do we know if we've gotten everyone? Yeah.

Alright, great.

So that's edit one, we will step.

HS **Hoffman, Steph** 56:51

Sorry, I'm having a lot of technical difficulties in teams today.

I just wanted to say I think in if I can understand in concept we're agreeing because I have a very hard time, like real time editing and responding to edits to a written document.

Juliet Birch 57:10

Yeah.

So this is just for now.

Conceptually, do you agree with the edit?

Does the edit need to take place and then we can figure out, you know, moving forward how we want to negotiate further edits, needing to take place like these, rewriting of these substantive edits?

HS **Hoffman, Steph** 57:29

Got it.

Thank you for that clarification.

Juliet Birch 57:32

Yeah.

Mm-hmm.

So that was edit one.

If everyone's OK, we can move forward to the next one.

Alright.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 57:41

Yes.

Kim Barrett 57:42

OK.

So number two, so this pertains to the to the lower part of the document. Umm.
The task.

Task.

And on the right hand side, you'll kind of see the the two paragraphs zoomed in, but essentially one of the commenters felt that, you know, towards the end of this document it it talks about the hamez principles and how important they are.

But they felt like, really, the spirit of this document.

Ah, is based in that, so if it's based in that, why not?

For clarity, directness include that in this introduction.

U M So that's bad.

If you go to the next thing there we go. So.

This is what the paragraph current currently reads as and I think the only thing I changed was I added.

These principles are heavily inspired by the Hamez principles.

Which inform how groups of people can work together to advance environmental justice.

And again, the comment was considered moving this up because it it was a major guiding force.

Juliet Birch

So do we have any thoughts on this edit?

I'm seeing a thumbs up staying more thumbs up.

OK, so if everyone, if there are no thoughts, we'll get some visual consent.

We're already getting some from folks.

OK.

Kim Barrett

The other thing that I want to note is that you know this was just I took a first stab at at adding this in here, but if there is other language that folks want to use or if you wanna discuss that at a later point.

But again, I just wanted to visually represent the comment so.

Great.

Yeah.

Juliet Birch

So it looks like we've gotten visual consent for this one.

Let's move on to edit three.

Perfect.

Kim Barrett

Alright, so this one is related to principle two.

There are a couple of different comments here, so in that first paragraph.

So this was just to step back.

Umm, this was about how to better incorporate community.

In processes and one thing that's as an example, one thing that came up was budgeting.

And I just want to be super clear that the comments are wasn't that folks need to be in all of you know, budgeting processes and conversations, but they felt that especially for.

Budget processes that proper annual.

Input that that could be a good place to learn more about what communities want to see.

So I think that was the.

Yeah, that was the specific example that came up.

So I they wanted to see that added in somehow to the overview section.

So I put some language in on that and then there was another comment.

About.

Explaining what the value of incorporating environmental justice focused populations really is in in decision making.

So if you go to the next saying we have it kind of zoomed in.

So I'll just let you read the paragraph and we can discuss.

Juliet Birch

So after having read this to yourselves, umm, does anyone have any thoughts on this revision?

Karla.

Karla Raimundi

Umm yes, my general.

Feedback here is that whenever there is like budgeting, you know the reality that the agencies operate on their.

And I wonder.

Whether this may be an area where?

Were were there may be like a, you know, not necessarily meeting up the minds in terms of the ability that the agencies have to create budget umm and the input and asks from Community uh members.

Coming.

That's just my general concern, Michelle.

BM Boomhower, Michele 1:02:51

Uh, I would just say and I I think this kind of reflects on my earlier comments that this this process is complicated by the fact that we have.

Umm, you know the administration?

Who is the entity which which proposes budgets and proposes you know what to include and and programming, and then the legislature which decides if they want to advance those budgets or not this.

Law, you know, developed by the legislature.

Umm, you know it?

It's a complicated process for public engagement relative to, umm, helping the public understand that the the agencies are going to work under the framework of proposing and preparing a budget that is adopted by the Governor's office and that the public comment period for that budget is essentially after the budget is delivered to the legislature and during the legislative process.

So I just think it's, umm, maybe there's more education and communication that needs to occur around how these governmental structures work together.

I'm just not sure.

Kim Barrett 1:04:19

Yeah.

And I just wanna add to so the the main idea was that there needs to be more specific examples of what involving community and decision making could look like.

And then one particular example that this.

Commenter suggested was budgeting, but there are other examples that could be added in there.

Who?

Who raised their hand?

I think that Jennifer bird.

But.

Ohh OK.

J Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council 1:04:51

Hi I'm just to process things.

This is Jennifer, Advisory Council one.

I can't use the chat or see it or anything like that, so I don't know.

That's just a functionality thing on teams.

I also don't really know who's like.

If people could identify themselves like if they're on the Council or what agency they're from, I I really don't know.

Everyone in this group, so it's hard for me to keep track of who's saying what.

Juliet Birch 1:05:20

Thanks for that, Jennifer.

That's a really good point for folks who who are in the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee, something that we try to do but often forget is before you speak, please let us know who you are and who you represent.

I'm I'm being a hypocrite.

I'm not on the AC or the IAC, but I'm Juliet and I'm from the civil rights and environmental justice unit, so I'll try to be more be better about that before I speak.

Thanks for that, Jennifer and Claire you have your hand raised.

Claire McIlvennie

Yeah.

Claire McIlvennie with the Department of Public Service I I guess I wanna acknowledge Michele's comment and the budget process in the state is multilayered and complex.

And honestly, I'm not even totally sure I understand all the layers of someone not directly involved in it.

And also I did want to push back a little bit saying like I still think there are ways that.

Yeah, staff can advocate for specific things in our budget within constraints.

There are ways we can spelled budgets that come from other sources, like for example, the influx of federal funding we're getting right now.

So I do still think there's a role like.

I think yes, there's definitely education that can be done around how the budget process works and like specific injection points.

And I also think they're the way that we can be intentional about how we are listening when we do community engagement about like what needs to be prioritized and budget making and also think more intentionally about how we build those processes.

About how.

So that they can strategically inform how we advocate for our budget.

I think.

Juliet Birch

Yeah.

So I see your hand tray just one moment.

I just.

I'm hearing that we're not necessarily sure, though several interagency committee members have said that they're not really sure if budgeting is really a good example for the overarching idea here, which is to provide some sort of specificity on examples of how to specifically include members of the public, specifically environmental justice focus, populations in decision making and decision making processes.

So I guess my question is, do we generally agree that some detail can be added here?

Some example can be added here and that may be budgeting is just not the example.

We could choose another one on how to more specifically include ETF 's, so that's a question.

Another thing I wanna note is that we are a little bit behind in the agenda and we should, you know, maybe open up the floor for public comment and a break.

I'm sure folks would love to stand up.

Maybe use the restroom?

I know I would.

So just offering that will take Trey and Jennifer's hands and then maybe we'll take a moment and we'll just reset the agenda briefly. Trey.



I think the the way you recalled the question, I don't need to add anything more.

Now I think that was Juliet, that that works for me.

If we were noting that there's something we wanna do here, but we need to get to the wordsmithing, I'm good with that.

And this is Trey Martin from housing and Conservation Board on the Advisory Council.

1:08:51

Things tray and Jennifer.

J

Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council 1:08:55

Thanks, Jennifer Byrne, natural Resource Conservation Council Rep to the EJ Council, I would say resource allocation might be more relevant to communities than actually like the budgeting of agencies.

But yeah the like, you know, distribution of resources might be a way to rephrase this.

Juliet Birch 1:09:15

Thank you.

Thanks for that, Jennifer.

So to close out this section, we'll take a break and then we'll come back to the last few edits.

But to closeout this particular edit, what I'm hearing is we may potentially agree with the idea behind this edit, which is to include some more specificity and a potential example of how to include EJFP's in decision making processes.

But maybe not budgeting.

So maybe some more wordsmithing needs to take place.

Karla.

Karla Raimundi

I was gonna mention that.

Perhaps what Jennifer just proposed?

That phrasing, whether we can include it and then perhaps consent to it and have this, this edit added.

Juliet Birch

Yeah.

So that's solution.

Whether the motion that's a good point.

That's a good point, Carla.

Carla.

Jennifer, would you like to reword what what you had just said about resource allocation and maybe we could have that be the the language that we consent to for this edit?

J Jennifer Byrne, EJ Council 1:10:26

I'm sure.

I mean, I I don't know that I can reword it.

It really just just that I think what, what do you say here throughout program and policy development and resource allocation or distribution of resources?

I'm not sure how it fits overall.

It's.

I'm on a phone, so it's it's kind of hard to see.

Juliet Birch 1:10:46

Thanks, Jennifer.

I totally understand.

And Trey, I saw you had your hand up again.

TM Trey Martin 1:10:52

Yeah.

And if we're making edits on the fly, what if what are the first sentence just ended with permeate Vermont State government?

Period.

And then you could add Jennifer's concept and you know throughout program and policy development as well as resource allocation, decision making comma to Co create solutions to community issues.

Juliet Birch 1:11:15

Yeah.

So yeah, I appreciate that, Trey.

I think that something that we could do just to make sure that we're all I, you know, we don't get into the, you know, nitty gritty of wordsmithing is if we just wanna do like some visual consent on if we agree with the general idea conceptually behind this edit.

Umm, let's get some visual consent.

If not, if or if you wanna abstain, maybe give us like a, you know, some other sign.

Not just a thumbs up.

All right, I'm getting some thumbs.

Great.

Alright, so we conceptually agree to this edit that more examples or a better example needs to be included of how to include EJP 's and decision making processes.

Jennifer has proposed talking about resource allocation and this can be one of those substantive edits that we revisit together.

Perhaps in some other form that we facilitate at a later date, so if it works for everyone.

Ohh, I'd like to take a pause, open up the floor for public comment if there are any folks online who are members of the members of the public who like to, you know, share some sort of public comment here.

If there's any participants raising their.

Here.

Alright, I'm not seeing any members of the public on, so we'll take a five minute break and we'll return at, let's say two twenty two because that sound good to everybody.

Alright, thank you.

BREAK

Juliet Birch

OK folks, if we wanna start trickling back, OK?

Cheesecake, which was the best thing ever.

Piece of cake.

Are you saying?

They don't do it anymore, but we'll.

Give it like a minute or so for folks to start trickling back in.

It is like stop talking about Donuts.
No, please talk me about Donuts is fine.
Remind me about.
Nobody on our conversation.
I like it.
I like it.
I like it.
Juliet, I like it.
Ohh, we're just.
Don't have.
They're having conversation about Donuts.
Country Donuts in Morrisville.
Country Donuts.
And for this and the, the only problem is that they have.
Very odd hours and you know when they run out, they run out and they close.
So sometimes I get there from stove, I get there under clothes already.
Yeah, other order online.
My God, Claire.
Claire has all the answers.
Correct.
She is.
One bumping it up and.
Not.
Umm so.

Juliet Birch

So for those of you who are still trickling back in, I just wanted to note, you know, we are just a little bit behind on the agenda and we have a couple of other items that we would really love to have in depth conversations about.
So we have maybe two or three more edits to take a look at on in this document.
And I was wondering if we could potentially, you know.
Reserve maybe just one minute for discussion for each edit so that we can kind of move through and make sure that we have enough time to talk about the mapping tool and the ejfp definition because I know these are really pertinent conversations.

We need to have.

Umm, so this is the next edit if we wanna just jump right in.

Kim Barrett

Yes.

Yeah.

So this is regarding the a paragraph at the bottom of the page under the recommendation section.

Why umm, so this comment was about again adding more context to what consultation to decision making processes means.

So this is another place where you'd want to put, you know, substantive examples. Substance.

And you'll see that just to capture that original comment I put in towards the end of the paragraph.

For example, consider involving them.

You know in processes to blah blah blah and we know that we're not going with budget, but that's where you could.

Have it in some changes.

Juliet Birch

Yeah.

So for example, that could be again referring back to resource allocation or other things that we've talked about for the previous edit.

But the overarching idea behind this edit is to just strengthen the recommendation by providing you know more specification or more tangible examples.

So if anyone has any thoughts, please feel free to share.

All right.

I'm not seeing any hands in the room, so if we wanna just get a visual.

Ohh sorry no Claire.

Claire McIlvennie

This is gonna offer, I think I may have like contributed to this initial like part of the document.

It's going up.

I'm happy to like work offline to come up with tangible examples if that's something we want to do.

That's awesome.

Yeah.

So once we're finished working through the edits, that's a really great point.

We need to figure out some next steps of how we wanna facilitate having these substantive edits really done so.

Thank you, Claire, for offering a potential solution.

Umm, Michelle.

 **Boomhower, Michele** 1:22:47

I think in the third sentence, excuse me 4 sentence.

For example, consider involving them processes to assess annual budget priorities.

So I think there's some wordsmithing that needs to happen there, but once again, we're using Inno budget priorities and I just I think we should that that's not the appropriate example to give based on prior comments.

 1:23:17

Yeah.

Thank you, Michelle.

So what we can do is yeah, think about think about this as more of a conceptual, you know, maybe budgeting priorities are not the best, is not the best tangible example to give.

But we wanna give a more tangible example in this section.

And I heard a second from Karla that a budgeting priorities are not the one that we wanna go for.

So if I could get some visual consent to the concept of this edit, which is just to provide more tangible examples, I'd love to see some thumbs.

And Xusana, you have your hand up.

 **Davis, Xusana** 1:24:04

No, sorry, that was intended to be at the thumbs up.

I hit the wrong button.

 **Juliet Birch** 1:24:08

Ohh gotcha.

Alright, I'm seeing lots of thumbs from folks, but I don't know if I've gotten

everybody.

So if there are, I think some maybe Advisory Council members seeing Walter, Great. Nice.

Alright, I think we're catching.

I think we're catching everybody here.

So we agree conceptually to this edit, but we will do some wordsmithing and maybe come up with a different example.

Alright, so moving to the next.

Kim Barrett

So this was regarding principle three.

This is related to emphasizing leadership training, not just staff training, so there's a section.

You're on the next there we go.

So this section here I think I added a sentence towards the end of the paragraph.

Additionally, infrastructure changes essential to this process and requires leadership training.

You don't need to use that exact language, but the if.

If we are wanting to emphasize.

Leadership training.

This principle would be where you do it.

So again, we're just wondering if you feel like emphasizing leadership training would strengthen this document and strengthen the the guidance?

Juliet Birch

I'm seeing some thumbs up from Carla.

Does anyone have any thoughts before we move for visual consent?

Abbey Willard

I'm sorry, just for clarification.

So this would be updating where it says ensuring staff from across the agency to insert leadership and staff there.

Kim Barrett

Yes. Yeah.

Yeah.

There's probably other places to put it as well, but just wanted to easily capture that.

Juliet Birch

I want to also, you know, Amplify Amy's question which is perhaps we can say what we mean specifically by leadership.

Umm

Abbey Willard

yeah.

Like to all the way to cat.

This is Abby Agency of Agriculture.

On the IAC, yeah, we are we referring to like Cabinet Member Secretary?

Commissioner Division directors like how?

Karla Raimundi

This is Carla.

And I would say all of the above.

Abby.

OK, but that's my opinion.

Yeah, cabinet members, commissioners.

Umm, you know the secretaries?

Perhaps directors, but that's taking it down, you know.

But yeah, cabinet members.

Abbey Willard

Amy, I'm curious what you were thinking with your comment in the chat.

Yeah, I think you're muted.

 **Redman, Amy (She/Her)** 1:27:17

At Abbey, this is Amy.

Were you asking me about the the my question.

 **Abbey Willard** 1:27:22

Yeah, I was curious.

Yeah.

What you you were thinking?

RA **Redman, Amy (She/Her)** 1:27:23

Yeah.

Ohh yeah, thanks.

So Amy Redman in the interagency committee with the Department of Health.

I I agree with this in what I'm seeing.

I see there could be.

There's so much that could be gained from leadership training and I just wanna make the implicit explicit.

I just wanna.

I feel like the more we can do that, so I agree with all of the examples named.

I just was wondering if there was room to include them. Mm-hmm.

Juliet Birch 1:27:56

Yeah, so this may be an example of a time where.

The folks wanna get together to work more on this document to provide those substantive edits.

We can figure out how we want to define leadership within this context, but that's a really great question conceptually.

Do we all agree and consent to these edits?

Can I get some thumbs?

Alright, I'm seeing lots of thumbs.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 1:28:28

Yes.

Kim Barrett 1:28:29

Great.

Alright.

And so we're gonna move on to the next edit.

Right.

So the next one is actually.

A continuation of this so we can go to that.

Alright, so in terms of clarity, directness.

This commenter felt that the way we have it principled twelve is the is the strongest principle.

The ball.

And so they wanted us to renumber it and bring it up.

So it's, you know, more impactful.

So that would basically mean moving it to principle seven, which I did here.

So show up on the ground and work towards Equitable solutions alongside community members.

So thoughts on renumbering this so that?

Number twelve is now seven.

Michelle.

BM Boomhower, Michele 1:29:38

I guess I would ask is there a hierarchy in terms of the importance of these principles and if there is not, I think we should just make a statement about that at the outset, before the before the principles are listed.

Umm, because I I I guess I'm just not sure if there is a hierarchy.

Kim Barrett 1:29:57

Yeah.

So thank you for that.

The the commenter, not that they were creating a hierarchy, but they felt like if you were reading this from start to finish that it might be helpful cause.

So there what they had said was they felt like a lot of the strongest language was at the end of the document.

So it would be helpful to kind of read through the other principles having that language in mind so they felt like moving it up might help you.

Just like understand the concepts, but I recognize you know there isn't really that hierarchy.

It's just a I thought.

Just the.

BM Boomhower, Michele 1:30:39

Yeah.

I mean, I think if there's a principle that informs the reader with regards to principles that come after it, then I could see how it would be important to elevate the number of that principle.

But I think I think equally we should probably make a statement at the beginning that the the numbering of the principles is solely for the purpose of organization and not meant to imply a priority of the principles.

 **Juliet Birch** 1:31:14

Great.

That's a great point, Michelle.

With that in mind, does anyone have any other thoughts around moving what was previously principled twelve up to the principal seven?

 **Trey Martin** 1:31:34

Did Juliette, did anybody ever go through and say what's the like?

Is there a narrative order that makes the most sense for these?

Like 12.

I was just looking at it and 12 is like informative going forward, but maybe like just thinking about the, the whole sequence and it, are there concepts that lead one to the next would make sense not just #12 sort of along the lines with Michelle saying which I also agree with, if we want to say these aren't sequential, they're not hierarchical, they're not.

Yeah.

And I.

Yeah.

Either way, Carla, I agree.

 **Juliet Birch** 1:32:11

Yeah, that's a great question.

I guess that's a question for the group.

You guys see these principles as having being in some sequential order or do they each kind of stand alone within their within their sections?

Karla Raimundi

This is Karla, agency of natural resources and Trey.

You've just made me want to go over the document and see whether there is a sequence that makes more sense than other.

I've read the document so many times that I think I lost track of what that order implies.

You know the first section is foundational and.

Within that first section, there are principles.

They're not hierarchical, but whether there's a sequence there that makes sense in terms of how the agencies can prepare themselves or not, I am unsure about.

I tend to think that there is not necessarily an order that makes more sense than how it's currently captured.

Not.

I think perhaps what the commenter noted impacts and just providing nomenclature that can help the reader frame how they're going to look at the document.

Maybe perhaps the driving force behind the order.

Umm but yeah, I'll, I'll, I'll look at it just for you know the exercise and see whether we would be best served if I think that we would be best served by a particular order over another.

And I invite others to do the same.

OK, So what I'm hearing is that whether or not we agree to this edit is depending on further investigation of whether the principles are in some sort of sequential or like storytelling narrative order.

Karla Raimundi

Yes, Carla, to answer your question, Juliet, I I agree with the edit to bring up principle seven to I mean principle twelve to now seven.

I'm just because of the impact that the language may have on the reader as they continue the, you know, exploring the content of the document.

And I think for me that's independent on whether there's a sequence that's preferred in other sections of the document or in this section.

But I think that principle twelve should be higher up and I think seven makes sense.

Juliet Birch

Thank you, Carla.

So with some visual consent, do we all conceptually agree to moving what was printed previously?

Principle twelve. Up to principle seven for emphasis purposes.

 **Davis, Xusana** 1:35:04

Yes.

 1:35:08

Alright, seeing thumbs.

Thank you.

Thank you guys.

Alright, so that was all the edits we'll need.

We will be sending in a follow up e-mail some information about how we can help facilitate if anyone wants to be involved.

Claire, I know you had mentioned you would like to if anyone wants to be involved in doing those final substantive edits, maybe revising some of the language here, we'll send you in a follow up e-mail, some logistics of how we wanna facilitate doing that. But next, we're gonna move on to a conversation about the environmental justice mapping tool.

So I will pass it off to Kim to talk a little bit about the RFP process and where we're at on that.

Good.

Kim Barrett

OK.

Switching gears, alright, so the the update for the request for proposal, we just wanted to to share you know that this is a technical process that that our unit is exploring and we also need technical assistance.

So right now we're in an information gathering phase, not just with, you know, folks within the state, but but other folks who can possibly help us create a framework moving forward.

Folks who can?

And because of that, we are trying to use this dynamic approach where where

navigating you know barriers and things that are coming up changes in timelines, all of that.

And then also we're wanting to craft an RFP that's dynamic, so that the outcome works for what we needed to.

And then the last thing we wanted to share is we're also trying to navigate the fact that there are different differing ideas about what the outcome of a mapping tool or tools could look like.

We recognize that even just the AC in the IAC may have differing feelings about what you want the outcome to be and how this tool will be used.

And so we wanna hear from you what you know, some of those outcomes may be. As we move forward in the process.

Juliet Birch

So as you guys may recall, probably two, three months ago at this point, we did have a little bit of a precursory conversation about the mapping tool where we asked you all to reflect on what opportunities the mapping tool could possibly bring us. And so some of those reflections include, you know, visualization of burden and opportunity to overlay with other factors.

Communication between people and their government.

Alerting community of public comment.

Opportunities on permits or rules and all.

All of these are really great potential opportunities that the mapping tool could bring.

And so with that in mind, these are just kind of an attempt to prime the pump for you guys on what the discussion we're gonna have next.

We were just interested in, you know, expanding on that.

So what outcomes do you envision for the mapping tool?

How would you measure success once the mapping tool is complete?

Kim Barrett

Yes.

Umm, what?

We can open it up from there and then.

See what?

See what your thoughts are.

Jennifer.

BJ **Byrne, Jennifer** 1:38:55

Well, I've always thought that Vermont could do something different with their EJ mapping tool.

We really just don't need yet another map.

I think the and our Atlas has so much great information on it already.

Umm.

And what I would envision would be actually a community facing tool that functions as a communication tool as well.

Ideally you know integration even with 211, I think 211 should have an app and you know we could.

It could function as a resource, you know information sharing as well as a communication tool to accept comments from the community.

BJ **Byrne, Jennifer** 1:39:39

I'd love to see permit information on the EJ map and you know of the ability to submit comments on open permits and communities and and receive notifications if a permit is, you know, open for comment in your area.

So yeah, so that's that's like my #1 hope is that this is actually a communication tool that's useful to community members and that it's not just about, you know, a map that you can only access on a laptop.

I think it's really important that it be mobile and from the flip side there's also, you know, ways to use the map in agency decision making for sure.

But I do think that we kind of have a lot of that data already.

So there's sort of that question of like what data do we have that agencies need to be considering for their decision making?

But I'm more like I said, I'm more interested in how can communities engage with an EJ map.

And you know what functionalities can we can we build into it to make it something that's really cool and useful and a two way communication device?

Kim Barrett 1:40:47

Thank you, Jennifer.

That was great.

I think what I'm interested in learning more about is.

Umm, what the two way communication looks like in the context of the mapping tools?

So I understand that you're saying you want communication on both sides, but what are you envisioning that to be used?

Are those messages like help help us understand what that looks like?

 **Byrne, Jennifer** 1:41:16

Sure.

I mean, you know, first and foremost it like I said with permitting like the ability to actually submit formal comments, whether it's on rules or permits that are, you know, gonna impact your community, that there's some kind of geography like right now, the permit websites don't have any kind of geographic functionality.

So there's actually no way for folks to interact on a map with what kind of environmental permits are open in their area, let alone open for comment.

But just you know, in existence so that, umm, you know, that's kind of the the the biggest way I could see.

But also, yeah, in information like an umm yeah critical information sharing based on your ZIP code or you know your geographic location.

There's a lot of communication that really should be going on, you know, from the government whether it's water notices.

I mean, you name it like, every way that the government communicates with people.

Umm.

If it's geospatial in nature at all, it could be communicated through this map.

Emergencies.

You know, all kinds of things.

 **Kim Barrett** 1:42:28

Thank you.

That's helpful.

Umm, I want to take a pause and just give a little silence for folks to process these two questions.

Umm.

And then we'll we'll come back and share.

Uh, Jenny?

 **Ronis, Jenny** 1:43:25

Thanks.

So I thought Jennifer's comments were really interesting because they were, they seem, and if I'm not, if I'm incorrect, please correct me, but they seemed more focused on how potential members of EJ populations could identify work that's happening around them and from and so by the way, I'm associate general counsel for the Natural Resources Board.

So I'm one in one of the covered agencies.

Umm, what outcome I envision for the mapping tools being incredibly helpful is, as you know, Act 250 is being reorganized around location based jurisdiction where there will be lowered regulatory burdens for projects in certain developed areas.

And so I would say ultimately using the mapping to identify where populations are and how they overlap with the different tiers of regulation, which then go toward, you know, ability to participate and do process in projects in those areas, umm, have having those maps feedback into the process of of determining where those tiers are is really what I envisioned seeing from this mapping tool.

So I don't know.

I it's gonna be hard though, because I know the original tears are all going to be drawn out before the mapping tool is supposed to be finished.

So it might have to be that in in future iterations, as those tiers sort of expire or are redrawn etc.

It'll have to come in through amendment.

So anyway I'm.

I'm just thinking of it from that perspective, so thanks.

 **Claire McIlvennie** 1:45:12

Plan.

I'm Claire McIlvennie.

Then you would the Department of Public Service.

Umm when I just done it for, I've never thought of a mapping tool through that plan so.

Grateful that you brought it up, because that's really something.

Be interesting to think more is through and I think like it's hard to like wait for my comments because then I have comments from what other people said, but I guess for the second bullet, how would you measure success?

And.

What's tools need I feel like?

I don't know how we would measure this, but a benchmark of success would just feeling like.

Stakeholders from different perspectives feel like it accurately represents where we see the most burden in, but if it is aiming at an identifying like where there are burdens and HP stuff in Vermont that folks feel like that represents their reality. Because I feel like working with a lot of different stakeholders with the Regional Planning Commission and others like it feels like a lot of the tools available to us draw on federal data sets.

At like a higher resolution than we think about in the environmental justice focus population, I just feel like I hear over and over like it doesn't represent where we know there are areas of the one and that feels challenging especially when we're in situations where we can only use the federal.

Tool.

If we don't have our own designated environmental justice mapping tool.

So I don't totally know how we rectify that situation of like not having granular enough data to really like highlight those areas of need, but.

Feels like that would be a successful outcome.

And then being able to use that, among other things, to help inform resource decision.

Umm.

Kim Barrett

Well said, I think this this issue of data you know really important and it's.

I think this.

This.

The struggle also is that we know.

We know that there's information on the ground to inform.

We just need avenues to capture that so that that's definitely a consideration in a major thing that we're needing to work through.

Umm, I know we have other hands I wanna see if anyone just to kick it back to the

Advisory Council.

If there are any other folks who from the Advisory Council who wanna share uh, and then we can.

Ohh.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 1:47:54

Hi, this is Xusana.

I'm.

Here on both councils.

So I'm going to that and jump in.

Can you see now? You can't.

Here we go.

You know, I I agree with a lot of what's been said here and I just wanna add that in terms of measuring success.

So we, so I'm in the office of equity and so for us a lot of what we do has to do with whether or not the public is aware of it and can use it and cares about it and if it's doing anything for them.

So for me, that's going to be a huge part of what success is going to look like for this kind of thing.

I am struck by the fact that there are a lot of pieces of information that we say is, quote, a matter of public record.

But in reality, people don't know how to access that, and I'll use a different example entirely, which is I used to work in New York City, and obviously when you work for any municipal or county or state or federal government, things like your salary are just matters of public record.

Anybody can find that out, but ostensibly nobody knows how to find that there was a website right?

There was a website that anybody with an Internet connection in the world could go to and type in my name and see everything that I made in every position I had.

I knew that, journalists knew that, but realistically none of my other bronxites knew that.

And so it was almost a publicly less worthwhile resource than it could have been and less powerful than it could have been because it gave people the technical, technical availability of data.

Doesn't necessarily mean informed access, and so I guess for me, I would love to see

regular people like me and my family and my neighbors and my friends and my letter carrier know that the tool exists and actually know that there's a way to get it. And and also I guess for me another thing and maybe this isn't more aspirational, but success.

I I want to see what comes of it and what people do with it.

So for example, you know how and I apologize for the very simplistic basic comparison, but you know how sometimes you'll be shopping for a product online and it'll show you photos of how other people styled it or used it or decorated their home with it.

And it's the same object, but you're seeing it in so many other real-world applications.

I wonder if there's a way to like what project?

What research project did you do with this tool?

If these data you know tell us how you styled the map, so to speak, just to be able to highlight it's reach and it's versatility and its applicability.

And I think that if we're able to see real world applications of the tool and the data, then that might be another way that we can measure success, not just to say we put something up that has good technical capabilities, but it's actually functional and usable and bonus functional and usable by more than just researchers.

So I hope that that was not choppy audio and I hope that that helps. Thanks.



Kim Barrett 1:50:58

That sounds perfect.

Thank you.

Carla, I think you have your hand over.

Karla Raimundi

Yes, this is Carla.

Agency of Natural Resources.

I had my hand up, but then Claire shared her feedback and answer to the question to the second question in particular.

And I agree with what Claire mentioned.

I think an issue that.

Has become palpable and pretty evident in Vermont when you use the federal tools that exist.

Is that not all the communities that we know exist and are of certain characteristics are captured by those tools and the consequence of that is, for example, we were in a meeting, umm, last week with EPA and they relied on CEJST to identify communities to work in.

And of course, some of the communities that came up are communities where there's need.

But is are those communities where the most need is at, and that question remains to be answered.

And unfortunately, we do not have the data to back up the intuitions that we have as state workers.

And so an important aspect for me, but the mapping tool to consider an attempt to capture is that granularity is going further than the census track to really create a realistic landscape in Vermont.

Umm given you know the nature of our state and I do have to say, Jennifer, that I, I. I loved the vision that you have for this tool.

We actually met with, Umm, a, this individual who actually mentioned that they devised, umm, a tool, a software to to share with members of the public.

What organizations existed in a certain geographic area and what they dedicated their work to, they would announce like outreach events and the like.

So there are things out there that maybe useful, but I added on the chat what the law.

Says about this deliverable and I wonder whether that outreach component and like communications aspect would fall under.

Umm, what the legislature has.

Appropriated dollars for.

So that's just a question for further examination perhaps, but I do have to say that it resonated deeply.

You know that perhaps this can also be a tool that creates more governmental transparency.

Abbey Willard

So this is Abbey Willard from my agency of agriculture.

IAC and and maybe I was just not paying attention for a bit, but.

Yeah.

At.

One point.

I recall we had talked about putting out the bid for the mapping tool.

Did that already happened?

So this is a conversation it because we've decided to delay that.

Or it's just not happened yet.

Kim Barrett

It just hasn't.

OK.

Yeah, you have more time.

OK.

Yeah, I think you go ahead.

Sorry.

Ohh no I was I was just coughing.

Juliet Birch

Gotcha.

I I think in the last joint meeting we had had a conversation where we informed you all that we were gonna try and get the RFP done in July.

Yeah.

And as Kim mentioned, we're kind of like responding to new information as it comes with regard to the RFP.

So now we have a little bit more time I think.

Are we aiming to have it done by, you know, October?

Is it kind of the goal?

Karla Raimundi

It.

It really depends on what happens with the carry forward decision.

You know, we're trying to get the RFP ready as soon as possible and we presented a carry forward memo which hopefully we will be able to carry forward the money for the mapping tool.

As soon as Poss.

But yeah, we had initially, umm, we were told July first and we worked really hard to get there, but it was pretty evident that it's just, you know, an RFP of this extent is really difficult to put together in a month.

So then now we are trying to buy more time and have it ready in October.
And you know the the the the point is that our original timeline was to have this.
Our FB out December of this year, so we had to move the.
Ahead several months just to make sure that we don't run into issues of not having
the available funds that were appropriated for the tool.
So we're looking now at October.
So we're.
After some bargaining.
There's.

Kim Barrett

Then also just to add it, something that we need about weekly and and we're
constantly trying to get technical like I said support to piece apart some of the things
that you all mentioned already, so.
Working hard.

Karla Raimundi

If I may add something else here to the end, this conversation is that as you see from
the text that I put on the chat.
Umm there's it's explicit that we should be able to depict EJ FB 's populations and
measure environmental burdens.
So the way in which we're gonna do that is also a conversation that we're having.
Are we gonna have an index?
Are we gonna have indicators?
What kinds of?
Data and and.
We're gonna adopt in this tool, so we're looking at at many, several options and add
capabilities that also we will then be able to sustain internally, which is an important
consideration because there are contractors that work with certain software that then
we cannot.
I'm sustaining internally, so that's it's.
It's US has been shared earlier.
It's been a process of, you know, getting information that we didn't have up to this
point and having conversations internally with the state of Vermont on what are the

minimum requirements that we need so that we can create something that we can build on in the following years.

Kim Barrett

Yeah.

Before we move to a break, does anyone have any more thoughts on the mapping tool outcomes?

BJ Byrne, Jennifer 1:58:54

You just that I think there really are two different like parties there's there's really like, you know, the internal facing use and the external facing use.

And I think that kind of that definitely needs to get flushed out and the visions for either umm, because it's totally it's totally both and I think the flexibility of the way that the legislation is written allows for us to be you know it's creative as we wanna be since you know there's a collaborative.

Piece of the puzzle.

Abbey Willard 1:59:28

Agree.

But.

Yeah.

So this is Abbey.

Agency bag I see again, I I question maybe to like build on what Jennifer was offering.

I'm thinking about how the mapping tool then relates to our distribution of resources through kind of the the benefit.

Of access to funds or grants or services, et cetera.

And really wanting to think about like a challenge or a circumstance that we've experienced in our agency where we have collected some.

Basic demographic information about those that have applied for grant funds within our division.

And the fact that it has been advised or expected by our legal counsel that we're not attaching that demographic information to the actual awards.

So that again, demographic information is not being utilized as part of a selection process.

If I mean, I may not be being very clear, but.

That I just want to make sure that the mapping tool offers information that then agencies can use.

And have as part of the allocation of resources as well.

So like for example like we do not capture race, ethnicity, income or other kind of like.

Identifying information.

As a part of our grant application so that we're reviewing that information at the same time that we're making grant award decisions, we capture both of those informations, but they're in separate portal.

Different.

Different, separate.

So we have the the universal application questions around demographics, but it's not attached to we're making award decisions.

So I'm just thinking about how this is all gonna work on a practical.

Implementation phase, stage.

I can explain that better if if this is resonating with others.

After the break.

Juliet Birch

If I could just jump in.

Umm, we have spoken to several folks from, you know, a DS and like some firms that do this kind of like mapping work just to get sort of the like technical competency down to figure out what is actually needed from a contractor in terms of their technical abilities.

Umm.

And I think that something that to note is that what we're trying to capture in the RFP is sort of like a potentially the world of possibilities of what could be done and then when they, you know, come forward with applications, they can tell us maybe what would the contractors can tell us, what they can do with the information that they've been given.

With the.

And so with that in mind, like there Jennifer is right, there's kind of like this too.

There's two kind of potential outcomes.

There's the community facing tool and the one that's kind of for more internal use,

and the question is, umm, is there gonna be a contractor who would be able to, uh, encapsulate both in the capabilities of just one tool?

And so, you know, we're still trying to find out and we might not even know until we've got gotten applications or responses to the RFP.

So umm, I think that, Abby, I don't know if that answers your.

I I don't know if that answers your question very specifically, but I think that there's just still a lot to learn about what is or is not possible in terms of the outcomes of the the tool.

So just like getting your ideas for what you envision is really good for us to like put forward in RFP as in the world of possibilities.

Abbey Willard

Yeah.

And I think you're speaking to like what the contractor can do.

And I'm speaking to like, what is state government allowed to do with the information of, like, the merging of looking at environmental benefits or burden?

Utilizing and if like personal identifying information.

Right.

 **Boomhower, Michele** 2:03:44

Yeah, I think.

 **Abbey Willard** 2:03:44

So like the contractors capable of doing it.

But are we able to put those side by side and say yes, this is from a certain kind of like population or other indicating characteristic and therefore we can make?

Benefit or burden decisions based upon that information.

Karla Raimundi

And if I may, if I may say something here, this is Carla from the agency of natural resources engaging conversation here with Abby.

 **Boomhower, Michele** 2:04:03

I OK.

2:04:13

And I actually think that that that you just identified gets a little bit more complex when we think about going to a more granular level, yes, where where umm confidentiality and privacy may become an issue depending on how granular we can get the data to be.

Yes.

So that's definitely a question that we've flagged as important.

Umm.

Also, for purposes of clarity for the process for those individuals in the meeting who are not familiar with the processes right now, we draft RFP.

We.

Ensure that the technical capabilities that we're looking for are included there.

We published the RFP, then we get applications, review the applications and then we submit questions to the contractors or the applicants and that follow up is where you know further conversations are gonna be had.

And this group is gonna be particularly important.

It's just to identify questions like the one Abby just raised, and perhaps explore further.

How we can, umm, address what Jennifer has envisioned for a useful mapping tool for Vermonters is that later stage, where we have the applications before us and then we want to make sure that we go with the right contractor and then we ask them specifically, how would you address this?

And so just wanted to share that for context.

And Michelle, you have your hand up.

BM

Boomhower, Michele 2:06:02

Thank you.

Umm I I think I understand what Abby is getting at, and it really is, I think, separate from the mapping RFP.

I envision the mapping tool.

In terms of the and and this might be something for EPA to think about too.

The mapping tool in terms of a resource that will help us to determine if we are.

Umm, making the investments in an equitable manner by being able to understand where the population target populations are that we are working to connect

resources with.

You know, I imagine that we are talking about a census tract level of information that will be available for us to then overlay our investment patterns and then from policy perspective, we are going to perhaps have to adjust the structure of our granting to. Umm.

Figure out how to make investments that will result in the outcomes we are looking for.

Umm.

And I think ABC's question is sort of a legal policy related one that we should not lose track of as we go through this process.

That's all.

Thank you.



Kim Barrett 2:07:37

Yeah, we'll do one more.

The.

Claire McIlvennie

This is Claire McIlvenny, Department of Public service.

I guess what I'm also hearing in in abbeys question is how or?

Statement questions is how we actually evaluate the success of our like shifting reallocation of resources.

And I think this is a question the department has also had of like a lot of the EJ mapping work is around identifying geographic locations where we want to be targeting investments because of the populations who we know typically live in those areas.

Department.

The.

And there is a disconnect between actually being able to say like I was successful in getting my dollars to a person.

And there is a disconnect between actually being able to say like I was successful in getting my dollars to a person who experiences that burden, that I might still be, like, successfully targeting them in that geographic area.

Who experiences that burden?

Who?

And if there's a higher concentration of that population there, then my but I I feel like it's that disconnect of like actually being able to say like my dollars went to these people versus like my dollars went to this geographic location for it hopefully reached the well.

Umm.

And that's like a I feel like that's a somewhere between, like the environmental benefits spending report and the mapping tool. Yeah.

Welcome.

And how we approach this work?

Again, likely.

Great.

Kim Barrett

Yeah.

Thank.

Thank you for that.

I guess quickly before we move on, is there anyone from the Advisory Council that wants to weigh in at all?

That hasn't maybe spoken.

OK, good.

Or let me make sure I we're gonna go to public comment.

And see if anyone.

No good.

No one here from the public, so we'll come back at three twenty.

Ohh.

Should be good.

Juliet Birch

Sure, folks want to trickle back in.

We'll close out the break and jump into a conversation about the ENFP definition.

Also, if you wouldn't mind turning your camera on, it just helps us to facilitate as well to read the room.

You.

For those of you who don't want to or can't turn your cameras on, if you could just give us like a thumbs up that says hey, I'm here and I'm listening.

As we trickle back in from this break.

Great seeing lots of bright and shiny faces.

This is awesome.

Alright, so we'll jump back in now into the E JFP definition portion of our agenda and prior to our break, Claire brought up this really good point about, you know the ways that the E JFP definition affects the other deliverables that we're working on right now, including the mapping tool and the environmental benefits spending guidance. So what better to talk about than the actual definition itself, and what we can do to revise it so you know, uh, let's take a look at the definition itself.

We already kind of got a taste for it earlier today in the core principles of community engagement, but this is the definition.

As it reads, we can all read it to ourselves.

I'm sure we've seen it a million times, but I'll just give a moment.

Awesome.

So umm as we know the definition is sent to be or is set to be revised by the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee.

So this is the definition as it currently stands in the law, but we could wanna, you know, define environmental justice, focus populations any other way.

And this final revision is now with the two year extension due to the General Assembly December first of twenty twenty five.

However, you know, I think with all of the other deliverables that we have coming down the Pike, especially the RFP for the mapping tool, the guidance for the environmental benefits spending, it is important for us to start having this conversation now and maybe start coming to some conclusions about what definition would better represent us.

So we've heard some, you know, some potential ideas of what might not be so sufficient about this definition, including that it's geographically tied, maybe census block groups aren't granular enough to truly represent these small pockets of communities in Vermont that fall under EJFP.

So we wanted to sort of take a moment to have a little bit of a discussion about about the EJFP definition of what you guys would like to see or pass it to Kim.

Yeah.

Kim Barrett

So thank you, Juliet Ohm.

So earlier we kind of talked about what the work looks like for you, how we create change.

And so we wanna get more specifics.

So what are the elements of an ideal E JFP definition that could be supportive of your work?

And then in addition to that, what should next steps be to get closer to decision making around this and what needs do you have?

As it relates to decision making, so I know those are three big questions, but the main thing is we want this definition to, you know, be useful.

So in the context of what you do and in the context of what your responsibilities are and the lawn, what, what elements should we be looking out for?

And there's no, you know, wrong or right answer.

This is just to brainstorm here, so we're gonna have some silence for about a minute to let everyone process and think, and then I'll open the floor up.

Alright, we'll open the floor up and I just wanna say from a facilitations standpoint, I wanna make sure that we have equitable time for the AC members to speak as well.

So if there's anyone on the AC that would like to start, no pressure.

But yeah, just want to make sure that you all get to weigh in.

It's wow.

BJ **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:23:23

Could you put the definition back up for us?

Juliet Birch 2:23:32

Can you see that?

OK, just making sure.

TM **Trey Martin** 2:23:41

And sorry, can we just have a quick reminder of census block group?

Juliet Birch 2:23:54

Yeah, that's a really good question.

Claire McIlvennie

It's a night like this is Claire from the Department of Public Service.

My understanding it's sort of the middle level of granularity of what census data is available.

So the census tract is the largest.

But maybe not the largest, but the largest you typically hear of.

I don't think it.

I don't know how well aligned with counties or municipalities, but I think the census block group is the middle and tends to be associated.

I know there is like a specific number of people, but what I've heard before is it's like community sides in Vermont was the decision that was made and then the census block is one level small and I think many mapping tools are at the census tract level and certainly the federal ones are.

Someone may know more specifically the.

Number of people they captured, but that's my understanding.

Zoraya?

ZS **Zoraya she/her** 2:24:52

Oh, were you done, Trey?

TM **Trey Martin** 2:24:55

I yeah, I I do have.

Well, let's hear the rest of the questions because I do have a a thought related to this where we're focused, but go ahead.

ZS **Zoraya she/her** 2:25:05

Yeah, I guess I'm curious and maybe you just said it and I couldn't quite hear what the end of the statement was and this is where I am.

I'm on the Advisory Council, which is, I don't know I.

Did redistricting in Burlington, so I know, like about what a census block looks like, and I just know.

So I'm just curious if.

I guess I don't think I don't know how the groups pertain to that, cause we were just looking at census blocks.

But when we're looking at what was, you know, like the kinds of things that made a difference, and I assume other Vermont towns are almost more granular and where they're differences are, it was really at the census block.

So I guess I guess first thing is like questioning even smashing blocks together for something like Vermont where we've got big differences in kind of short geographic terms.

And then, umm, is this A or?

Yeah, it's an or.

Sorry, I'm saying the B.

Yeah.

And then I maybe I'll just leave it there for now.

 **Karla Raimundi** 2:26:15

Thank you, Zoraya.

I this is Karla.

From the agency of Natural Resources, I put on the chat and the materials that were discussed and presented to these groups.

I mean here umm regarding the definition there you will find how what a census block group is and a census tract.

This but I am adding those umm definitions into the chat so that there's a better sense and you can see what that means tangibly in Vermont, depending on which factor you look at.

And then one of.

 **Zoraya she/her** 2:26:56

Well, so.

So I don't think.

I don't think it's in the chat, but I think my point was that I know that Burlington.

Paid for us like a community or what was representative of maybe some of these things that we wanna see, which is low income, which is by POG, which is like the English speaking.

You couldn't really do it.

We did that at the block level and even that was.

I just think that I would assume that blocks is what we wanna work with given some of the difficulties you've had working with federal data.

And also I don't think I I don't see anything in the chat after 1:59 PM.

I don't know if other folks are having the same.

 **Kim Barrett** 2:27:36

I see.

Yeah, the chat may not be updating for you.

 **Zoraya she/her** 2:27:44

OK.

 **Kim Barrett** 2:27:46

Yeah.

Jennifer.

 **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:27:52

I did just put something in the chat, so maybe the chat can be emailed around or something like that afterwards.

But just from what I know about how this was written and what this is based on, just for clarity, this is definitely built off of the Massachusetts definition.

So I put a link to that definition in the chat.

Umm.

And the reason we're using groups is because it's due to like health data law and like personal identifiable information around health.

 **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:28:25

Umm, so I'm pretty certain that that's why this level of data, the group level and not the block level is being used because in theory with a smaller group of people, if you're looking at health data, you could be identifying someone in advertently.

If you're trying to map.

Yeah, something smaller than a sense is black group, so I know that's why, like, legally, they they consider it at the census block group level for EJ definitions.

 **Zoraya she/her** 2:29:05

Sweet and I can see the chat now, but I'm I do think that that is gonna make identity like.

Yes, I understand.

We don't wanna get to the level of identifying folks and I think it's gonna continue to

have the same problem, like at what point do we just keep using the federal data then?

Because if we can't say, hey, this neighborhood Montpelier actually really needs help or, like, could really use the help.

ZS **Zoraya she/her** 2:29:32

But overall, like they're surrounded by then it if we can't use it to justify supporting smaller communities within maybe wealthier communities than I, I think we've missed an opportunity.

TM **Trey Martin** 2:29:49

I guess that was the question I was trying to formulate to Zarya.

TM **Trey Martin** 2:29:52

Thank you for being more articulate.

It you know, understanding Jennifer, the privacy concerns like is this tool nimble enough to reach the folks that like if this is again about building bridges from the public opportunities to the people who need it, like is this is this functional enough and is there a way to over like if if loss of privacy or or, you know, PII personal information is the issue is there a way to mitigate that in order to to dovetail this more to small communities or to communities that are small in numbers but over a geographically what big enough area that.

TM **Trey Martin** 2:30:31

The kinds of investments that we're talking about would make sense for a specific pocket, but don't for the full town or the hamlet that's within the town.

Kim Barrett 2:30:43

Yeah.

So it sounds like an element that would be ideal as being able to.

Capture and reach folks.

Who?

You know who are in smaller communities, pockets of communities, as you said that that's gonna be important.

And actually, umm, you know, reaching who we want.
Is stuff.

HS **Hoffman, Steph** 2:31:07

Thank you.

Umm staffman.

I'm at the Public utility Commission.

You might have been more familiar with my colleague Elizabeth showing on here in her stead today.

Umm.

I'm wondering on that line of thinking if there's any way in a small place like Vermont for self identification or some sort of call for identification to get sort of look that as an environmental justice focused population can be part of the process because the definition currently is, do you report to the feds, have the feds collected this data on you?

And then how can we use it to sort of carve out and define who belongs and what group and at what level?

And the reason I think there's an overall tension with this definition to come up against some of the resistance of certain communities to participate in the census process and or that is that are not interested in the types of federal data collection or even state or local data collection that gets us to.

This answer let's say there is an answer to the question.

Because of that resistance, carving up the state and putting labels on different parts of it is problematic, so I'm not sure how we overcome that hurdle without giving folks in those populations some sort of agency in that process.

Kim Barrett 2:32:38

Great point.

Jennifer.

BJ **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:32:51

Yeah.

I just wanted to point out and I think it kind of relates to that comment that the other thing that's interesting about Massachusetts definition is that they actually include an opt in procedure for smaller segments of a census block group.

BJ **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:33:08

Umm that you can read it in that link that I just put in the chat but it it does provide for you know if a smaller portion of that neighborhood feels like they meet the definition and that they're not included.

Overall, Umm, that's just interesting to know.

It's something we might consider.

I think it's a petition process of 10 or more residents.

Karla Raimundi 2:33:39

Umm, this is Karla.

Agency of Natural Resources.

I would like to under score what Zoraya mentioned regarding the granularity of the data and the reliance that we have on the data that's been gathered by the federal government.

And the question the question that Zoraya posed, it's very poignant for me is to what extent are we going to continue using the same data over and over and what that what that brings up is this challenge that as we get more granular data and more detailed data and perhaps we're not looking at like geography anymore but rather households.

It.

The question about privacy and confidentiality of information and whether government can use that data and how to do it.

I you know, I'm thinking that there may be ways in which in which layers of privacy could be developed, but the question you know, remains open is.

If we get data to the household level.

I think the interest of folks here, you know that, you know, sorry has mentioned we keep missing certain individuals and certain communities because they're not captured by the data that we've been relying on historically.

So then how do we overcome those challenges that are like opposing each other? Because otherwise what we're left with is just relying on the same.

Sources.

Kim Barrett

Yeah, let's take a quick just minute, minute process and kind of catch up.
Zoraya.

zs

Zoraya she/her 2:36:21

Yeah, I'm also still trying to reinvent or like vision.

Because I am maybe not as suspicious of governments as other folks are.

Umm, like what-

Because they think like, I still think doing it at the.

Census block makes sense to me and I think it's only when you start layering people like when you start layering a lot of the qualifiers that it could point to an individual.
Uh.

You know what I mean?

Like just having what income bracket you're in or having non English, I think it's when you start layering.

And so I don't know if there's something that can be done within the app that helps make.

General things like and that helps make a layer at the at the block group level, but then maybe it doesn't allow you to have all of the layers.

Umm, because I think that would.

But then also part of me is like, you know, for example, Burlington has like 15 black homeowners.

I assume if you go to my census block, I could be the only one in that and also I don't know what information that gives people if they don't already know who I am and that I own a home.

So I guess I'm like, what information we're afraid of giving out and if there's, like, certain things, like, I don't know as much about health information and how that is regulated differently.

But if some of those layers maybe aren't as block level, but I still think that if we're gonna make good decisions in Vermont for Vermonters, I think it's gonna have to be at the census block.

Based on my experience.

Thank you.

I'm done.

 **Kim Barrett** 2:38:31
Michelle.

 **Boomhower, Michele** 2:38:32
Umm.

I guess just maybe for my own clarification.

This I believe the way this is structured that only one of these criteria needs to be met, not all of them, because of the use of the word or at the end of B.

Umm and umm I I guess I'm wondering.

I would suspect that we like, I guess I'm I like the idea of the Massachusetts model whereby we could have an opt in process.

Umm, because I think that and environmental justice focused population who has, you know, annual meeting income is not more than 80% of state household median income.

That's gonna comprise a good portion of the states census blocks, I believe.

So umm, I just wanted to sort of point those couple of things out, that's all.

 **Kim Barrett** 2:39:43
Thank you.

Are there any other thoughts before we move on?

Where?

Claire McIlvennie

Sorry, I just just I was.

Kind of in responses, Arias comment.

I'm just wondering if the level of granularity and I don't know the answer to question.

And again, Claire McIlvennie, Department of Public service may be different in the more urban versus more rural parts of the state.

Like I know for example, efficiency Vermont does the energy burden report and this last iteration they did it.

They did it at both the Census block group level and the municipal level, and there are areas of the state where that distinction makes a difference, and the areas where it doesn't seem to make as much of a difference.

So being able to reflect that dynamic nature of like where we need to be really

granular and maybe where we don't.

No.

And.

And again, I think in.

And I think in rural areas, the data quality, maybe it's as good anyways because of the margins of error that that might be an important thing to capture.

Kim Barrett

Umm Walter.

I saw what you put in the chat.

I've been wanting to to go to you.

Do you have any thoughts that you'd like to share on anything?

You're on mute.

Not not to put you on on the spot, but I wanna make sure you included.

BW Brownridge, Walter 2:41:10

No, no, I I think I've, I I think I've participated it and I don't have anything more to add than what other people have said, especially about the Massachusetts definition. And to thank you for asking though.

Kim Barrett 2:41:23

Of course.

Jennifer.

BJ Byrne, Jennifer 2:41:29

Yeah, I think I think it definitely depends.

I'm I'm reflecting on what Zoraya was sharing and and her ideas and I think.

Yeah, I totally agree.

Like in terms of the usefulness.

Being able to go more granular and I wonder, I think there's a question for lawyers, but I wonder like it does it matter more the how we're using this definition?

And I would kind of like to see it might be helpful for everyone.

But the point of this definition, like in what way?

Is it actually used in decision making or is it more being used in like where do we need to put that extra attention in community engagement?

So I think there's a difference there and it might be a legal difference too.
If it's not being used for actual decision making or is it and resource allocation?
Or is it being used just for information and you know kind of how we strategize around community engagement and that kind of stuff?

 **Kim Barrett** 2:42:34

It's.
Three-point.
Sure. Yeah.

 **Davis, Xusana** 2:42:43

That.

 **Zoraya she/her** 2:42:45

Yeah, another quick it's true.
I don't know if on the urban versus rural have urban, you can call a Vermont.
I don't know how much of clustering there is and some of the more rural areas of.
Populations, I just know our bigger municipalities better.
And so I don't know if there's like the caveat of like, yes, we can do, you know, block groups, but it's like to some extent it's still represents the same amount of people regardless of what we're talking about.
So I I don't, I wouldn't know.
I don't love the idea of like being able, I feel like.
Being able to like exempt yourself, I assume that's not for an individual data point.
I assume that's like at a geographic level.
Was that the Massachusetts case, Jennifer?

 **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:43:39

It's not an exempt it actually an opt in to be defined as yeah.

 **Zoraya she/her** 2:43:42

An opt in and is that on a personal level or is that on a like that's on a yeah.

 **Byrne, Jennifer** 2:43:48

Yeah.

zs **Zoraya she/her** 2:43:49

Then I think it might just add like levels of bureaucracies for commute for the communities that can least like ask for that.

And so I don't think that's a great.

I don't think that's a great solution.

Maybe I think it sounds nice cause you're like, oh, I don't.

It'll defer the problem to later.

Umm, so I wouldn't necessarily, but I do think for somebody who maybe knows more about rule.

Umm.

Blocks and how often that like you have clusters like this.

I just know that in some of our municipalities, the clusters are so small that if you count them as part of something else, their income, the all of the all of these things stop being true.

Kim Barrett 2:44:31

Exactly. Yeah, these are really important considerations and I really appreciate all of your feedback and thoughts and just the ability to to have such a great conversation.

Susanna.

Your feet.

Feet.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 2:44:45

Yeah.

Apologize I my brain zoomed out a little bit in the conversation and so I may have missed this already, but did somebody mention differential privacy as it relates to using census data?

I know we're talking about what size area where the, you know the catchment areas, but have we already talked about the the obscuring or masking or suppressing of population data through differential privacy or no?

Kim Barrett 2:45:14

A little bit, but if you have thoughts.

Definitely share.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 2:45:17

I I guess you know I'm I I'm understanding a lot of of of what's being said in the considerations that we wanna make right.

We wanna protect people's identities.

We don't want personal identifying information and at the same time I know that in Vermont, especially when it comes to things like racial and ethnic groups, sometimes our numbers are so small.

I'm sorry, I'm actually not on camera.

So and the numbers are so small that we would end up getting told that our data and therefore our experiences are not of quote statistical significance.

So I can recognize why those two things are often seen as being in conflict, and I'm somebody who believes Bruce strongly in privacy.

2:45:49

Umm.

Yeah.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 2:45:54

But I also, in order to do this job I need to have information and that's attention that I can't resolve and I don't think any of us can, but it's there.

But the other thing I was gonna say was we're talking about the catchment areas that we're looking at.

But the other thing is you know which data sources and I know that did come up earlier in the conversation.

Which sources and I think a lot of times we tend to default to census data, but as of the 20, I think 20 decennial census they were using this thing called differential.

Is that what it called differential privacy, where they effectively scrambled the numbers, the demographic numbers of people living in an area to thwart the advertisers and people who would use it for an affair as reason.

So for example, in an area that maybe is like 11% Asian and you know 15% black and 12% Hispanic, then it might be the Census Bureau will say, oh, it's 14% Asian, 9% black and blah blah blah, just to sort of it's it's slightly deidentified people.

It's supposed to be for our protection, but the problem is that in areas of the country that have really small populations, like some places in Alaska like Vermont, you can

knock off 1% of a demographic group and it raised the group entirely from that county.

And so I think that's another thing that we're up against, which is in Vermont because of the sample sizes some of our groups are so small that they may end up being rendered nonexistent for purposes of tabulation.

And again, if this is not relevant to this discussion, then I'm sorry for taking the time out, but I just wanted to make sure that we also kind of contextualize it within that broader thing, which is how much can we even trust the bigger data sources that were trained to believe are supposed to be reliable?

And what does that mean for us in our evaluation?

 **Kim Barrett** 2:47:42

Well said.

Well, son.

Umm yeah, these are all points that we're definitely going to have to continue talking about.

I just also wanted to name that this was a concept rich had brought up a few meetings ago as well about potentially the mapping tool erasing some of the indigenous communities.

They are, so I really appreciate you sharing that.

Umm, we're gonna move on just to.

Next steps, and I definitely think that continue.

Uh.

This conversation is important back to let's see the yeah.

So related to the E GFP, our unit is gonna try to arrange an exploratory meeting between the AC IC and then also our environmental justice working group just to talk a little bit more about how to support this effort to to amend the definition, if that's what you all want to do.

Effort.

I think that all of this information is necessary and and the the working group can also support in in finding avenues forward.

So I recommend if you're interested in that, please let us know.

We'll meet out and then also I think the mapping tool, if you if you would like to discuss that further.

We're wanting to know what's the best way to engage you on this because obviously

you all have thoughts about it and we wanna make sure we were capturing them, but also that you're involved in the conversation and then our next meeting is September twentieth from twelve to three will give you one and on that.

OK.

But with regard to the core principles.

You know, it sounds like there's more work that needs to be done as far as approving some of these proposed edits.

So wondering what you all think next step should be on that.

Player department.

And.

Both that feels like the edits we talked about.

Could easily be resolved and like a small working meeting there is a contacts group.

And I already volunteered, so I'm happy to help with that.

But umm yeah, if we could just find the time.

It feels like that should be easily accomplished in an hour.

Sounds good.

Does everyone agree with that?

We can reach out and see who would be interested in the task group on that.

Therefore I saw.

Apart from that.

Any other next steps or things that we'd like to breathe?

Yeah.

This is Abby agency bag from the IAC.

I was thinking about the relationship building comment that was made between IC and AC and even the buddy concept that I think we had talked about.

Just wondering if there's anything that we can do between now and?

September or like over the the coming fall months to sort of assist with that?

Umm.

Take advantage of this opportunity of time that we have.

And any initial thoughts on that?

Yeah, I agree.

I'm happy to help.

The facilitators think through how to best like, get that information.

Unless somebody says something different, I feel like what makes the most sense is for Advisory Council members just to I'm state their preferences or rank the agencies and then make a sign.

And I think with the buddy concept, it had been not just.

Umm.

Council to committee buddy, but also having, like at least two people, just so to reduce the pressure for each agency.

Umm.

I'm happy again.

I haven't heard what you all have heard, but I'm happy just to talk through what that Google survey or team survey or whatever it is could look like and how to then do the pairing based on that.

But I I think if we could have that set up by September, that would be ideal.

 **Kim Barrett** 2:52:01

Be great, definitely make that happen.

That's awesome.

Umm, alright, let's do a closeout.

Umm at the time we have left, if everyone could share.

With.

With the.

He.

The.

Once one positive thought you had from this meeting.

Ah.

Do you wanna come over first?

Thank you.

Give you a minute.

The bank here.

 **Trey Martin** 2:52:55

I felt really thankful for all the ohh go ahead Walter.

BW **Brownridge, Walter** 2:53:07

So I sent the updated timeline I think is very encouraging.
I could say more, but I'll stay with that.

TM **Trey Martin** 2:53:20

And I'll say less by agreeing with Xusana, which is that was what I was gonna say is so many people showing up, leaning in and really, really thoughtful.

Kim Barrett 2:53:30

Umm, definitely that's that's my positive thought is just that this was an amazing meeting.
So we appreciate you all sharing so much.
Change.

Claire McIlvennie

This is Claire. I already provided this feedback in the room, but I just wanna echo gratitude to our two facilitators, who I think did a really nice job.
Guiding us through a lot of different conversations at all help.
Really productive.

BM **Boomhower, Michele** 2:54:03

I'll add that.

Karla Raimundi 2:54:03

I think I'm clapping through everyone.
I'm just gonna keep clapping here.

BM **Boomhower, Michele** 2:54:11

I I just umm yeah.
Appreciate the staff and the.
The the level of consequence of this work and umm for gene a pathway that we've
we've never traversed in Vermont before in a very deliberative and in-depth manner,
and how complex that is.

And, umm, just just that you can stick with it and be patient with the process.
Thank you.



Kim Barrett 2:54:50

And you ask any last thoughts or we close out?

Karla Raimundi

Umm, I Carla.

Agency of Natural Resources and I am super grateful today.

Well, I wanna capture what everyone said before me.

Kind of cheating and I'll add that this felt like an incredibly productive meaning.

We have a lot of information that's really gonna help us charter the path forward in a way that feels pain.

And intentional. So thank you so much for for contributing your input and knowledge and expertise.

And I really look forward to so immersing also ourselves even deeper in these deliverables.

So thank you.

Kim Barrett

Awesome.

Well, thank you everyone.

Enjoy the rest of your day.

□ **Barrett, Kim** stopped transcription