

Transcript

September 20, 2024, 4:11PM

● **Birch, Juliet** started transcription

BJ **Karla Raimundi** 0:14

Well, welcome. And I'm gonna pass it to Kim Barrett from the agency of Natural Resources to get us started.

Kim Barrett

Right here. OK.

So as we begin, we're gonna start with our relational community agreements. And so if you are here and you're a member of the Advisory Council or the Interagency Committee, if you'd like to come off mute and read one of the agreements, and then we'll all agree to it, we'd like to go first.

Abbey Willard

Can people hear me if I just speak like this on the phone?

OK, be present with yourself and one 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.

Kim Barrett

Thanks. Alright. We're gonna get agreement with each one.

So if you agree to this one, give us a thumbs up.

Wonderful. Soon as you thumbs up somebody.

Wonderful.

Excellent. All right, let's go to #2.

Anyone want to read that one?

Mariana Sears

I go.

Calling in and calling out assume best intent, but intend to impact.

We can stop things that are being said that are hurtful and be curious and create a

space for learning.

Tools include using oops Ouch. To indicate a pause is needed.

Right thumbs up.

Oh, zariah. Yes, your hands up.

Z **Zoraya** 2:22

Sorry, no, I was just trying to figure out how to do thumbs up.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 2:28

Thank you.

Z **Zoraya** 2:28

My apologies.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 2:31

Alright, #3, who wants to read that one?

Karla Raimundi

I can go.

This is Karla Agency of Natural Resources expect and accept nonclosure.

We are unlikely to live here feeling 100% ready to go or to have everything on our agenda wrapped up, especially if we are committed to moving at the speed of trust.

Kim Barrett

Get thumbs up.

OK.

The next one is ready.

RH **rich holschuh** 3:17

I'll share that one.

#4 center respect.

Be respectful, intentional, and work to build trust and create a safe and inviting space.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 3:29

Thank you, rich.

And the last one, last but not least.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 3:53

Can do that one.

Hi, Susanna Davis, racial equity director. Share 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 comment without repeating the same points they that have already been made.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 4:18

And it turns out.

That we have everyone here.

OK.

So now we're going to.

Approve the.

The Minutes from our last meeting from August 19th.

If everyone approves, you can give us a thumbs up.

Very good.

OK. All right. Now we're gonna just approve the agenda for today.

We're gonna go.

We're gonna do a quick ice breaker in a minute.

We're going to approve the floor principles of community engagement.

We're going to take a break for public comment and then 5 minute break for the meeting.

We'll come back and we'll talk about some community considerations.

With regard to the definition, the environmental justice focus population definition.

We'll have another public comment and then a break, and then we'll do some separate work in groups where the Advisory Council will meet separately and then the Interagency Committee folks will also meet and then the goals that will come back for a 5 minute brief share out where.

You'll share kind of key messages or questions you want to pass between the the two groups and then next steps.

And then close out for the day.

If.

Folks are in favor. Please give us.

Is properly exercised.

Excellent. Alright. To the next slide.

OK.

So our icebreaker for today.

And we wanna make sure we get to everyone and still have time enough time for our discussion.

So I'm trying to do them quickly, but the ice breaker for today is. I'm grateful for the urge because so you'll say your name, you'll say briefly who you're representing.

And then delete the sentence.

So I'm just gonna give a one minute pause for everyone to collect their thoughts and then we'll start from there.

And I can kick us off. My name is Kim.

I'm here with the agency of Natural Resources and the Civil rights and environmental justice unit.

I'm grateful for Earth because.

She provides.

Amy Redman

Yes, yes.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

This is Amy Redman.

I do environmental justice and HealthEquity work at the Department of Health.

And IC members question the first thing that pops into my mind.

I'm grateful.

I'm grateful for the Earth because of the warm days, but also like the cool mountain spring waters that have been dipping in just a little bit. It's been really beautiful.

Is there someone on did you wanna do the room or pass to someone?

Is anyone online ready?



Vinson, Grace 8:11

This is grace from the from ACCD can go.

Can y'all hear me?

BJ Kim Barrett 8:17

Yes.

VG Vinson, Grace 8:18

OK.

I'm grateful for the Earth because I just love the changing leaves.

And I'm member of the IAC. Sorry.

BJ Birch, Juliet 8:36

You want to pass it to somebody.

VG Vinson, Grace 8:39

Yes, I will pass it to my team member, Gabbie.

WG Wray, Gabbie 8:43

Hi, I'm Gabbie.

I am the environmental specialist from ACCD.

And I am grateful for the earth because it gives me a place to explore.

RJ Ronis, Jenny 9:05

This is Jenny Ronn from the Natural Resources Board.

I'll go next, if that's OK.

So I'm grateful for the Earth because changing of the seasons reminds me that everything changes. Thanks.

RH rich holschuh 9:27

And this is rich Holschuh, a member of the Advisory Council, and I am grateful for the earth because.

I recognize that this is how we maintain balance in relationship here. If we appreciate the Earth, she appreciates us.

And we can continue in a good way and I'm going to pass to Johanna.

JE Johannes Epke 10:00

Everyone, thanks for letting me crash Johannes Epke.

I'm a staff attorney at Conservation Law Foundation.

Just listening in today.

I am also thankful for the earth for the reminder that sometimes there are gloomy days and slow days, and I just need to slow down and be kind to myself.

And I am sorry I do not. I stepped away.

I do not know who has not get gone.

Can somebody else pass it?

DX **Davis, Xusana** 10:31

Everybody, this is Xusana Davis, racial equity director for the state.

I'm grateful for the Earth because she has given us greatest hits, including kittens and chocolate.

We'll send it over to Claire from PSD.

MC **McIlvennie, Claire** 10:48

I love that Xusana.

Hi everyone.

Claire McIlvennie with the Department of Public Service on the Interagency Advisory Council or committee.

I am grateful for the earth because she grounds me, although I also would have said what Jenny said.

If so, I second what Jenny said as well. Thanks.

And.

I will pass it.

Abbey, have you gone in the room?

BJ **Abbey Willard** 11:19

If not, yeah, I'm happy to do Abbey Willard from my agency of agriculture.

MC **McIlvennie, Claire** 11:20

OK.

BJ **Abbey Willard** 11:25

I'm also on the interagency.

Committee. I'm grateful for the earth because it does remind us about the complex,

interconnected.

Kind of symbiotic relationships that exist.

Let's see.

Mariana Sears

I can go.

My name is Mariana.

I work for Hunter pre Vermont as an outreach lead and I use.

I'm very happy to be here and I am very grateful for the earth because of the earth for the earth, because she is the ultimate recycler.

Nothing is wasted under her mantle, and yeah, she reuses everything that she has to provide abundance for everyone without waste.

Thanks. So I'm always thinking, nothing is missed. Wasted here. So we should learn from about that.

And I can't tell... Oh, OK, sorry.

Karla Raimundi

I can go, Karla.

Agency of Natural Resources. I am grateful for the earth because.

She comforts me.

And I will pass it on to.

Juliet, I believe you have not gone.

Juliet Birch

Sure. I'm Juliet.

I'm an environmental justice coordinator with the Agency of Natural Resources, and I'm grateful for the Earth because it has everything we need as long as we.

Reciprocate care, care for her in return.

And I can pass to Zoraya if you haven't gone yet.

Z

Zoraya 13:23

I have not gone yet.

My name is Zoraya Hightower, she/her pronouns, and I'm on the Advisory Council.

I don't remember what it's called anymore, and I'm grateful to the earth because.

She sustains life's which bring us relationships and.

Emotions.

I do not.

I'm having tried to download teams so I'm not.

I can't actually even see who's remote, and so if someone could just like to go next.

BJ **Karla Raimundi** 14:00

Have all of the members of the two groups gone?

Juliet Birch

I think if Jennifer, if you're on the call still if you'd like to go, I don't if you're on the call still right now.

But if Jennifer isn't currently on the call, then all the Members who are on the call have gone.

That's on Jennifer.

Britaney Watson 14:27

Hi, this is Britaney Watson.

I am on the Advisory Council and I would say she her pronouns and I would say my.

Britaney Watson 14:40

I'm grateful for resilience.

And withstanding change. Thanks.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 14:51

Thank you.

Thank you all for sharing. That was wonderful.

We're gonna move on to the next thing.

All right. So in this part of the meeting, we're going to be talking about the four principles of community engagement. We're going to be hopefully getting a vote of approval.

So this just a recap of everything that's going on with the four principles of community engagement.

So from May 1st to June 14th of this year, we held a public comment period.

We had two meetings that we hosted.

One was virtual, one was hybrid.

We got some wonderful comments and great feedback and then we hosted. Two office hours where folks from the Advisory Council and the IC came together to look at some of the feedback that we received. And then our internal civil rights and environmental justice unit reviewed all of these revisions and incorporated those that feedback, and then we on September 10th, we had a group come together to actually take some of that language. We're really grateful for those folks. The final revisions were done by Mariana. AB and Claire. So we appreciate you. And then today, we're going to be approving that. We went ahead and sent meeting materials. So you've all seen the the final document that we have so far would it be? I think there were maybe 5-5 or six edits that were that were made. So that's what today's about. And then I'm gonna pass it to Juliet.

Karla Raimundi

Carla Agency of Natural Resources.

I would also like to extend gratitude to Phoebes Potter and Alex Lindner for the incredible work that they both contributed and the to advance the core principles of community engagement with other contributions. This document would not have come to fruition the way that it did, so thank you.

Very much to.

That.

Juliet Birch

Thank you, Carla, for importance.

Yeah. Thank you, Carla for mentioning that.

So now here we are.

At a time where we have a more or less final draft of the core principles of Community engagement on, you've all had access to this final draft for about a week. And so knowing that we've had ample time to review that document and the five or so edits that have been applied since our last meeting.

We'd like to move to have a vote of approval for this document and I just want to note that we have seven members of the interagency Committee present currently,

and we have five members of the Advisory Council.

Of the Advisory Council present currently. So we do have quorum. So I would love if we could, you know, just move to vote to approve this document if there are no questions.

What's spelling edits?

No, no, that's part of this vote.

Yeah, we can talk.

We can talk if you if you have further thoughts about like minor spelling things we can, we can talk about that.

But overall, we'd like to vote yay or nay on this document.

Abbey Willard

Can I ask one other question?

I'm sorry. So on page 25, there's the the officer racial equities policy impact assessment.

And I just wanted to double check that that's the, that's the that, Xusana, you would say that's the final version. It's not.

That we've been using for policy submissions and that may be that there's two different versions for those different purposes.

So I just didn't know that was a question.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 19:09

Yeah, the.

We created a modified version for the ICAR Group.

It was never formally adopted by ICAR.

It just kind of still exists and we're working on reintroducing that to them.

So otherwise the the version that we would recommend using here is the one that was recently updated. That is the general one that gets.

Submitted along with budget proposals and such.

Although.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 19:42

I guess, although for purposes of applying it here, we could also look to making a modified version that's more applicable to this group, if that's something you all are interested in.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 19:56

So what we can do is the for full transparency.

What the next step would be from our team after we leave this meeting today is Kim and I would take a look at the document one last time to make sure all the links are functioning.

Double check any final spelling errors and also to just make sure that the formatting on the document is aligned with our agency branding and accessibility.

So that would take, you know, a couple extra days before it would be ready for public consumption after we leave this meeting today.

So that could be something that we take a look at as well as making sure that the appropriate policy impact assessment is linked on that page. So page 125, great.

Yeah. So that would be something that we can adjust.

The functionality of all the links.

With that in mind, if anyone sees any like minor things that need to be altered about the document between now and a couple days from now, while Kim and I are looking at the formatting, please let us know.

Send us an e-mail, but generally the overall what we want to vote on today is just the language and making sure that we're all comfortable with the views, guidance, values, et cetera, that are represented here as well as some of the examples that are provided.

So are there any further thoughts or questions about this before we move for a vote?

I'm just going to put it out on the table. I would like to move for a vote of approval for the current draft of the four principles of Community engagement, which would be considered Draft 5.

If I could get everyone who is attending virtually to raise their hand if they approve this draft, that would be best as opposed to thumbs up and everyone in the room who is a member of the A/C or IAC, please raise your hand if you approve.

This might take me a second.

But I've got all the hands in the room and folks who are still online, please leave your hands up.

For clarification, Gabbie, are you voting on behalf of ACCD?

VG **Vinson, Grace** 22:48

Yeah, this is grace. I guess Gabbie and I would be one vote combined. Sorry.

WG Wray, Gabbie 22:49
Yep.

BJ Birch, Juliet 22:52
Oh, that's great. Clarifying. Alright.

WG Wray, Gabbie 22:53
Oh yeah, I'll take my hand down to not confuse.

BJ Birch, Juliet 22:58
Alright. And Britaney, I know that you're joining on over the phone.
If you could give me a verbal confirmation that we great.
Replay.

Britaney Watson 23:18
Can you hear me?

BJ Birch, Juliet 23:20
Yes.

Britaney Watson 23:21
Hello. OK.
Yeah, this is verbal confirmation. Thanks.

BJ Birch, Juliet 23:25
Thank you so much, Britaney.
Alright, we have gotten a majority vote from each body to approve this document.

BJ Birch, Juliet 23:34
We'll send you all final the the final document. Once we've done all the formatting
and all that other good stuff. Once it's ready to go before we've made it publicly
available.
So we'll keep you up to date on that.
Thank you all so much.

Yay, big win.

Onwards. Oh my, that's great.

Karla Raimundi

That feels good. Feels so good.

Thank you.

Now we have our guide for the Community engagement plans.

Kim Barrett

And I also just also really, really wanna thank the folks who came to the to the. Two public comment meeting and shared some grateful to see how that can incorporate it here.

Juliet Birch

Yeah, that's a really good point, Kim. Thank you for mentioning.

Once we have released the document to the public, we'll also be releasing our responsive summary. So that's something to keep an eye out for as well,

Kim Barrett

Yes.

OK.

Now we're here for public comment.

Zoraya.

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

Sorry old hand.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 24:53

Oh, no worries.

Alright, so we're going to see if there's anyone from the public who would like to comment, share any thoughts, questions.

Replay.

Thank you.

It's for a couple minutes.

Yeah, I I didn't see anyone else join.

So I think.

We'll we'll move to a break unless we'll just give it one last call if anyone wants to.

All right. So we will take a 5 minute break.

See you all in 5 minutes.

Yeah, alright.

Well, welcome everyone back.

Hope you enjoyed your break.

Set thumbs up if you're here. If you're with us.

Wonderful. OK.

So we had a really great conversation at the last joint meeting where we talked about the the environmental justice focus populations.

Definition and some of the considerations that we have.

Today we want to kind of take the focus.

Off of the data and what exactly that'll look like.

And just move more to a community focus.

Conversation and so for this obviously welcome the thoughts and expertise of everyone, but also some of the feedback that we received several months ago from folks on the Advisory Council was, you know, to create more space to talk about what's happening on the ground, what your work looks.

Like.

And so this would be a really great space to do that.

I know I'm personally really interested in learning more.

So that's just the purpose for this.

For this part of the conversation, so we were offering these questions up here, but please speak from the heart and speak from your experience and what's going on in your work and in the community.

But I'll just read some of the questions and then we'd love to do circle process and then allow time for folks to respond and ask questions. And then really just see where the conversation goes from there.

So the questions we have are how does environmental?

Injustice manifest itself in the communities you work with. Which parts of the Community experience environmental injustice more than others?

What does working and collaborating with communities look like for you right now?

Where is the community?

Where was located and this is kind of, you know, connecting back to some of the

conversations we had last week.

Our folks localized our folks, spread out and then also how does that distribution impact how you work with them?

How you meet with them?

How you outreach to them?

How you share with them how you support them and then if we have time and space to talking about how the, how the definition can potentially impact decision making on these communities.

Yeah. So that's a starting place. I'm gonna.

Well, we'll take a minute again to let everyone kind of think and reflect and then whoever feels like starting.

That would be great and I would just request that we hold space for an Advisory Council member to share first.

Thank you.

Folks are ready.

I also want to say there's no wrong answers.

Please don't feel like you have to have a perfect answer even for folks on the ice if there are things that you questions you have or thoughts or you feel like you don't have an answer perfect, you know in your head that's totally fine. Feel free to share. It's hard.

Mariana Sears

Perhaps if nobody else wants to go first, I don't mind.

So I guess I'm. I'm just gonna try to go and work just to sure organize my thoughts.

Otherwise, I could end up not only not swearing.

So I think, well, I I work.

I work for hunger free Vermont and our organization works to end hunger for everyone in Vermont.

And.

Our main focus is systemic change.

So.

You know when you talk about hunger, perhaps briefly, that I would like to know if people, what do people think about hunger or how?

Because it's such a term that could mean anything and and people have feelings when they say hunger.

Some people imagine certain things other people think of physical aspect of hunger. So briefly, when we talk about hunger.

Of course, Hunger is a physical sensation that is a result of not having enough food, and it could give you a headache.

It could make you irritated.

It could make you speak faster when you're hungry like me.

Right now I didn't have lunch and I'm hungry.

So, but in a more social aspect, when you know over time you are not well fed and you don't have enough food that.

Can that can take you to a space that is that that becomes.

Fragile.

Vulnerable and that's when we talk about like other type of hunger, not just the physical part of it.

And there's no way to measure hunger, and nobody can tell me how much hunger I am right now, or where somebody has experienced hunger as a child.

How can we tell how much of it?

But eventually, when people advocating against hunger issues got together over time, they came up with a definition of food security, which is a way to measure.

Some aspects of what we other you know, in this work we call hunger.

So basically, you know, want to fall into any technical terms because I'm not even good with them myself.

But but wait, so food security would be the food security versus food insecurity.

Some range in which food insecurity will be a person that that many times during extended periods of times have have. Let's not have access to the food that the person needs and want to have a thriving and healthy life.

And on the other hand, it will be someone.

Very insecure and very stable, which is a price on that has everything that.

or they want to.

Fulfill all their needs in in whatever form that that that is in terms of the food that they can access at any time they want it and and you know, everywhere they go at home, at work and school.

So they they have no issues whenever they want food, they get it.

So you know that is that is the that being a spectrum can be divided and and so we can go deeper in that. But there's no need.

But having figured tries to work.

With.

Changing the systems and the the the ways to to access food so that to improve food security for everyone in Vermont.

So so one would would think well here in Vermont, we have agricultural abundance.

Are people hungry here?

How is this rate of food security measured?

Here it is measured through the census and also through studies done by the University of Vermont.

University of Maine and again not to fall into the data resend into the technical details.

There's data that that has been put together.

I think the latest numbers that we're using is for a year or two ago and indicates that two and every five people in Vermont self self identified as food insecure because these are things that you complete in the census and it is self define, right.

You know you you complete how many times you feel that you couldn't access the food and that information that put together this data. And of course, if anybody's interested in this data, we have the links to the, to the research. We have a data team, I'm not.

Part of the data team. I'm not too much of a technical language person, so I so so with this data.

100 people a month with this data and with with access to the different programs.

That come from the federal government over the years to to to try to tackle.

Hunger in the in the United States, which has been a problem.

That has been around for a long time.

We tried to bring the programs from the federal government to all the way to the people in Vermont through outreach, training and education, and to raising awareness about hunger.

So we have a team of people that work in the legislature.

Bringing information that we collect in the communities.

Through 1000 councils that we have distributed all across Vermont and we try to reach what we learn from the people, working with communities and service providers on the ground.

And.

Put together the changes that we think are necessary and bring them to the legislative level.

We are in the we have been for the past two year or two in the middle of.
Reorganizing process internally and so creating new teams to to try to promote to
create these changes in a different way, more looking into.
Communities and coalitions, and that's a process that.
You know that we're going through that will impact our work and.
We've been committed to to do our work through the lenses of.
Social justice and equity and diversity and inclusion.
So so we are changing the way we are doing things as we doing them.
So our work has been looking different and we've been trying to hire people that are
more diverse like me.
And yeah, people with different like experiences and that can inform potential
solutions and can bring a different perspective into this part.
So. So what we so environmental justice manifesting in communities.
In our case would be hammer or food insecurity.
That is the way that that is.
I guess we can consider that food insecurity is an environmental justice. Not having
access food that you need and want and.
So if you think of all the state of Vermont and you think what communities
experience more hunger than others, of course there's data that talks about income
level.
And and and and different aspects of a community that could inform where there are
places in which hundreds or hundreds of more prevalent than others.
And we know that we have identified priority populations very similar to the work
that we're doing here with environmental justice. And we know that those are the
people that.
Are being and are most impacted by hunger?
And we try to.
Then put them in and collaborate with organizations that work directly.
This community is to yeah, to to implement projects and to to try to create resources
and access for them.
For instance, we have worked, we've been working.
We've been doing work around language access.
With partners that work with refugees and immigrants and workers, we have been
doing work with members of nation.
We have been doing work with.

The the agencies that work around the agencies on aging to work with older Vermonters. And so we've been putting our eyes in all the organizations and parts around the state that work with these communities and trying to gather information and respond to that to that feedback.

So that so our hunger councils have been the space in which we have been more in touch with the communities.

Even though we don't provide direct service, so an organization that provides direct service in the in the world of hunger could be a food shelf, a food pantry, the Vermont Food Bank.

A meal site in a community.

A senior citizen, centre or an older Vermont center in which they offer meals or or a program like Veggie Van Gogh, which they bring produce to certain locations, or they innovate their share farm, which offer low cost or free CSA shared to community members.

Who had afford them? So those all those are examples of what we call direct service providers or people working in the cloud with people who are.

Yeah, struggling with security.

So so we collaborate in, in, in, in developing materials and developing information, ways of sharing information about these programs so that the Community have this, the information that they need to access this program.

We've been doing a lot of work around language access so that this this information is distributed in different languages to different community members.

And the and the Hunger Councils, which is a project that started from Hunter Free Vermont and what it does is it.

Create a space in the in 10 different countries in 10 different regions of Vermont in which the the Community and the service provider.

Working a rough educated me together with different frequencies depending on the region to talk about and to collaborate around and to create joint solutions around hunger.

So each of us work a hunger free month.

Facilitate one of these ten hunger councils.

I facilitate the one in the Northeast Kingdom or the regional work trying to.

Not bunch them together anymore.

They are Essex Caledonian and Orange County.

And it's lovingly called this Kingdom. I am partially facilitating the banning of Hunger

Council too.

And we have invited Members of this group to introduce concept of environmental justice into our councils and they feeds and Alex have come to all the way to the Kingdom.

And we started a wonderful meeting.

People were very interesting to work together because we could see the overlap.

Between social justice and environmental justice and hunger and and I'm not sure if I responded to all these, but I think I've spoken up.

So I want to say something for others, and I'm sorry if you have any questions. Bring them up and I will think if I miss something and I'll say later, just to create a space for others.

Kim Barrett

Thank you so much.

I think we all learned a lot from.

That so we've actually done that now.

These are the types of discussions that we wanna have in learning more about what you do. Supports us and actually collaborating so.

Thank you, because a lot was said.

Does anyone have any follow up thoughts if they wanna share at the moment and if not?

Karla Raimundi

This is Carla Raimundi from the agency of Natural Resources.

And what is interesting about what you just shared, Mariana, is that it not only made me think about the definition of environmental justice.

Focus, population and perhaps other factors that may be considered as part of you know, communities impacted by environmental injustices, but also it made me think about.

The environmental justice mapping tool that we are tasked with building for the state of Vermont.

And that perhaps?

Put in security, put security.

Maybe an indicator?

In a map to identify burdens and benefits? Absolutely. So it it it. Thank you so much for sharing all of that.

Mariana Sears

Yeah, that would be completely related because.

When when people are feeling insecure, it means that they don't have access to stores that they don't have.

Income to support their needs that they don't have transportation.

That they need, they may they may, be located in a in a in a food desert where there's not even a store around.

So yeah.

Food security or food insecurity are indicators of other bigger pictures in the area. Isolation.

Yeah.

Kim Barrett

Is there anyone else on the Advisory Council that would like to share?

Their work.

What's happening with them in their communities?

JB Jennifer Byrne 52:34

Jennifer Byrne.

Representing the natural Resource Conservation Council, which is the overarching agency of the.

14 conservation natural resource conservation districts in Vermont.

And let's see, I'm on the Advisory Council. So just looking at these questions.

We, the conservation districts, cover every.

Inch of Vermont I. I guess you could say we're actually a local government.

We're like a watershed government.

We're we're the closest thing to county government that Vermont has, really.

And so we're actually governed by every resident of our watershed and an elected publicly elected board of five residents of our county or watershed.

And what that looks like. So we we work with a lot of farmers, but we also work with just, you know any land stewards.

Municipalities, you know, nonprofit organizations, other.

Is we?

We don't really have any kind of restriction on funding.

Our job is to coordinate funding and.

Send it out or, you know, help projects kind of manifest and happen. And a lot of that work is individual assistance and program navigation, especially for farmers that we serve, but also in projects like dam removals and back Rd. improvements.

Culvert replacements like it really just depends on the district and.

What the Community needs from them, what kind of niche they need to fill. So in my district, the niche that we fill mostly is in the agricultural sector and.

So to answer the question is, what is the community we work with?

Where is it located? We are in.

For just the district I work for, we're in Orange Windsor.

And then a little bit of Addison and Rutland County, like I said, we're a watershed shape.

And the distribution impacts how we work with them. When I'm just thinking of farmers or land stewards, you know, obviously we're rural and so.

To help an individual.

We really have to, you know, get our feet on the ground.

We have to be out here in the field doing land assessments and you know, really talking to people out here on an individual level to understand their needs and their, you know, issues and.

So.

The transportation issue is always a thing and also service we at our district we provide a service called we we call it farm teams which is just coordination services.

So that the farmer isn't overburdened.

I would say like if we're talking about.

How environmental injustice manifests with farms, specifically in Vermont, it's and this goes to distribution of resources.

It's so.

It's so random how farmers get paid and at what programs they have access to, and it almost entirely rests on.

The service providers that they just happen to be connected to.

So it's just like, really unfair and how, you know, what level of service someone might get and I'm not specifically talking about anyone agency, you know, at the state level or the federal level.

It's all of them. Where you know, if a farmer walks into, you know, a federal office. Depending on their education, their reading comprehension, their access to Internet, they're, you know, just perseverance or their record keeping ability.

They might not be able to access, not might not.

It will be much harder for them to get funding for stuff like fencing and water line, like implementing grazing systems or, you know, cover crop programs or tree planting.

You know agroforestry implementation. We work on like the implementation side of all the conservation programs.

And so I would say it's like, yeah, it's it's pervasive.

In terms of like in unequal access to.

Funding for natural resource based programming with farmers and and a lot of it has to do with with time but also education or, you know, just comfort level with navigating complex systems and so.

I don't know.

I could talk a lot about how to fix that, but that is there's something that I'm aware of and I'll and I'll wrap is that with the impact of decision making is another thing. But in terms of distribution in these communities.

And what I like, what a map. Or like a definition like this, I would hope would be able to show is where the money gets spent and on whom. Like we get AGI like adjusted gross income information on all these farms. And you know the the poorer far.

To put it bluntly, are are it's.

You know, they're accessing less funding.

And so and not only that, but geographically it's not equal either.

We see a lot of money getting spent in Lake Champlain Basin.

Not a lot of money getting spent on farms in southern Vermont and even on in the Connecticut Riverside of Things. There's not as much access to state money.

It's sort of changed over time, but it's still an issue.

And so, yeah, if there's questions, I could answer them, but that's sort of where my mind goes when I see this list of questions and.

I didn't even get into decision making, but that's a whole other thing.

BJ

Kim Barrett 58:48

Thank you for that.

Any follow up thoughts?

For Jennifer.

Abbey Willard

This is like one follow up thought.

This is Abbey Willard.

I see an agency of agriculture I I I completely agree with what Jennifer is describing. And think that there is a component to the inequity. So like taking Lake Champlain, for example, resources are directed towards a watershed based upon data that's available to show that it's impaired and that it needs assistance and so.

There is a data collection and information generating inequity that then I think precipitates, then the resources being available, right?

So like if we invested as many resources and as many kind of support structures towards like for Magog or like the Connecticut River watershed or other watersheds. In this particular example.

Then you may build that same kind of like interest around or.

Or a perceived need to then direct dollars there, because so many policies and appropriations have such a narrow eligibility attached to them.

So it's like you have to meet a certain criteria to access certain funds.

You have to be a certain size or from a certain area or in a particular watershed, or grow a certain type of food or.

Meet other thresholds, whether it's a food security issue or accessing food right legibility.

Yeah. So I I just.

I don't.

Again, I don't have a solution for that, but I just I feel like.

There is.

There is something in that that's like, they're really specific policy development that is a contributing to that inequitable distribution.

Karla Raimundi

This is Karla, Agency of Natural Resources and Abbey Willard. You mentioned highlights for me the need to fill the gaps in data.

And identify from the data that's actually currently had, and perhaps where those gaps are.

To see whether.

There are mechanisms that could be developed to fill the gaps.

To be able to create a better picture of what's really happening on the ground and then bring this brings me back to.

Then you know the definition and also the mapping tool.

The law identifies that the tool should be created utilizing the smallest possible geographic unit.

And.

I wonder whether.

That would be enough to capture the gaps that you've identified and that, experientially.

Jennifer and others have noted.

Mariana Sears

It's certainly not just trust in the data.

And then other.

Other sources informing the decision and the definition, and because data is just one way to look at things and.

As as imperfect as anything else and as perfect, depending on how you want to twist it as you want it to be.

So I guess data is not the answer is just one part of the answer.

Has to be other.

Experiential data.

Ethnographic data storytelling informing the data, completing the data, and to making sure that that's where that there's no gone.

Kim Barrett

I agree with that 100%.

I think I I just really wanna under score what you said, Mariana, and the need that we have to be open and accepting.

Of different sources of data and hold them as all of them as legitimate.

Because if we can acknowledge that there's a gap, then we also have to acknowledge that it may not be fully.

So I I agree with that

Mariana Sears

and on the technical experts or the people who you know the data are telling us what the data is supposed and the research is followed the data. So no worries like perpetrating the the circle of issues, the circle.

Kim Barrett

Hey, wonderful discussion so far.
Other folks who want to join in and share.
Anyone from the A/C or IFC? We'd love to hear from you.
I actually do have a question for Jennifer.
Jennifer, if you're still around, I know you went outside and it looked beautiful.
So I don't know if you can go back to answer a question.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:04:23
Yeah, I'm here.

BJ **Mariana Sears** 1:04:26
I was envy you of you a little bit.
Love with love.
I was wondering if all the
Conservation District is that the main update all around Vermont to work in the same way with that 5 member board and they that they are residents of that district and how many districts there are total and all of them follow that.
Being defined by the watershed, which is so beautiful as opposed to this other boundaries that we create among ourselves which don't make sense, this one seems to make sense.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:05:09
I agree.
I really love conservation district, so you guys will I could talk about them forever and I'll put a link in the chat of my conservation Districts 101 video.
That kind of shows how it fits in with, you know, environmental justice, kind of beautifully because of that, because it's like the the residents of a watershed having a say so in the natural resources of their community.
And yes, to answer your question, largely the answers to your questions is yes, it's

the same.

In that we were established by the 1939 Vermont Soil Conservation Act.

Well, at least the ability to form districts was established.

So there are 14 districts in Vermont, and it's really up to the residents of a community to form their own district.

It's not like the statute does that the statute sets up a process to form your district.

So it really all took place back in the 40s.

There's been adjustments over time in the boundaries.

The original idea of districts, it's a national.

It's like national infrastructure, so they exist in all 57 U.S. states and territories in this pretty much the same way where it's a state law.

To establish these local municipalities that are based on boundaries instead of borders, and not all of them in Vermont, even our watershed based some of them chose to be on county lines, but that's up to the residents of that community to choose those boundaries.

So it is.

Conceivable and has been done.

You know, I think the last time it was done was in the 60s, but you can change the borders of your district if you get 25, you know, dwellers land dwellers in your in your it's and every you know, the language is different in every state, but.

The original language was occupiers of land.

And.

There's yeah.

So there is ways to change the boundaries. Is what I'm trying to say. Not every district in Vermont is a watershed.

District ours is partly like mostly a watershed district. And then at the bottom, we follow the town lines like down by Norwich, which makes it weird.

But that does put us like we we're in four different counties because of that, which, yeah, I agree.

I think it's beautiful.

I think watershed governments make a lot of sense.

And and yeah, there's there's so much room to, like, breathe life into the your local conservation district.

There are five elected representatives on every board.

There's an election every year for one seat, so you can run for your own district

board, or you could contact your district and ask when their elections are.

We're not on the ballot.

I wish we were, but we're not.

And you know, so we all have to run our own elections, which is interesting.

We don't really get guidance on that, but there's so there's a lot of improvement that could be made, but it's really up to the people because it's a local government.

So that's why you see disparities in the way that the disparity run like some of them have.

Only 1/2 time staff member.

Some of them have, you know, 10 staff members and that really is just dependent on the people in that community.

Asking for more from their government.

BJ

Mariana Sears 1:08:32

Thank you. I will look at the video sounds fascinating.

I'm sorry anyone else have thoughts to share pieces and parts of these questions that they'd like to discuss?

Sauna, go ahead.

DX

Davis, Xusana 1:09:00

Yeah, sorry, I've been listening to everybody's comments and I really appreciate all of them.

They're all very in depth and so I just have a really quick one and it's making me think that that I really just need to be quiet because I'm not prepared to go super in depth because I don't think you all want me to. But I just wanted to.

Say that in particularly looking at the 1st.

Maybe not even the first one, I guess.

Kind of.

All of these.

One of the things that that I think we talk a lot about in, in this space is the importance of housing. And we talk about how housing.

Matters in environmental justice and a lot of it is because.

Of neighborhood investment or disinvestment, depending on who lives in the area in question and about, you know, citing housing, particularly for low income communities in areas that have high.

Levels of health deleterious or other hazardous features versus, you know, citing more housing in areas that have better health, promoting neighborhood amenities or what have you.

But I think there's another piece of this that is really interesting and it and and I wonder how a mapping tool could be helpful with this, which is not just that housing and environmental justice are intertwined for those reasons, but also that how's the the creation of and?

Maintenance of housing.

Impacts the the local ecology in ways that might change in areas you know, level of ecological whatever you want to call it so you know it's not just enough to say where are we putting housing?

Is it in areas that are that have outsized burden or that have outsized benefit ecologically speaking?

But also, how are we shifting the landscape through our changing of the built environment?

And how is the ecology response?

How is the ecology responding to the ways in which we build housing?

Because I'm thinking about everything like the the shapes of structures, the you know, like are we building?

Apartments with.

Central courtyards to manage airflow to reduce heat vulnerability on high heat temperature. Days versus are we just expecting everybody to pull from the grid and use A/C and and how is that kind of creating new disparities? So I I so I know that the discussion around housing as.

An environmental justice issue is not new, but I think we're not doing enough to track.

The changes.

That the.

Built environment and the build out of the built environment is having on what we're classifying as emotionally emotional. Oh my God, environmentally.

Helped or harmed areas. I hope that made a little bit of sense. Thank you.

BJ

Kim Barrett 1:11:59

It did. I need a lot of sense.

That's only needed to be shared, so we appreciate that.

I wanna open up the floor if Rich wanted to share anything.
Or if you'd like to share anything.

RH rich holschuh 1:12:23

I would.

I would.

Thank you.

At, at the risk of.

Sounding like a broken record.

I.

I.

I.

I remain very concerned that.

Our our environmental justice work here.

And and in line with with that conducted in many other places remains completely anthropocentric.

It's through a lens of.

Impacts and values to only the communities of humans.

One could look at it through sort of a mental mental idea that what environmental justice.

Work does is spread out the the.

Impacts of the harm.

Among everyone equitably.

BJ Kim Barrett 1:13:25

Thank you.

RH rich holschuh 1:13:28

It it recognizes that the harm is disparate and impacts marginalized communities greater.

And.

It does not address what's causing those harms, and to whom originally, and it is spreading the harm out among the humans.

In an equitable manner, which we can see is kind of backwards.

And it does not privilege.

The other than human communities.

At all, it accepts that they are there as resources to be of benefit to the humans.

This is recognized all over the place and not not well addressed and I I have to keep raising it.

That's my primary point right now.

And I don't have the answer.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 1:14:30

Yeah.

Thank you for that.

I'm sitting with it.

Because I hear you.

I'm wondering, Rich if there's any there are any lessons, if there are any.

In terms of how you're approaching.

What you're doing and how you're supporting folks.

What? What can we do to to model that?

Or is there?

What changes would you like us to make in this space?

And also I think it would be helpful to just learn more about.

What you're doing and and what some of the issues are and and how we can support you from that from that space.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:15:33

I.

I guess you know we're doing, we're doing this work in this space and and it is it is assigned toward environmental justice.

It's a.

It's a necessarily a limited space because we can only do so much with what we have.

I.

I I wanna.

Advocate for or or you know, point out the obvious that most of this work is gonna happen somewhere else.

Environmental justice is going to be a part of that.

It's more of an eco justice, for lack of a a better term.

Needing needing to create categories and be objective but.

I'm talking about more of a rights of nature type approach which is, you know, basically constitutional amendment.

Whether that's in the state of Vermont or elsewhere.

We have to get everyone onto an equal standing.

Human and other than human.

The the problem in the 1st place, the reason that we wrestle with justice is because we haven't done that.

Western Society has never done that.

And until we look at that, we're going to continue to try to tinker around the edges.

That's what I got right now.

BJ

Kim Barrett 1:17:05

Thank you.

I wanna offer space for folks to respond or share reflections.

One thing this is can one of the environmental justice coordinators for ANR. The thing that I'm thinking about the most?

So earlier in the conversation, Mariana and Jennifer did a really, really great job of sharing.

What's going on?

I also heard threads of what can be what a burden is in in each of the spaces that you're in, and then also something that I'm reminded as well is that.

We also haven't been talking about the cumulative burden on the land as well, and that's something rich that.

That you helped me center it again.

So I'm just sharing what's what's on my mind with regards to that.

And also just wanted to share appreciation because I've been hoping and and wishing and waiting for such an in depth conversation.

And so I'm really grateful that we can get to that space.

Because I do think that the elements of this conversation will also support us in amending this definition, but also creating better guidance.

So thank you.

Other thoughts. And then we're gonna.

How we transition to another part of the conversation, but I don't wanna lose sight

of what we have here.

Abbey Willard

I wanna this is Abbey Willard.

IAC, agency in agriculture.

I just wanted to acknowledge and I've shared this before, but.

There are some parts of.

I guess this is back to the data bit.

Capturing demographic information that.

I am finding resistance to within our agency of being able to attribute.

Particular statuses.

To funding decisions that we make as an agency.

And I again I I am still unclear.

How we are able to attach protective classes to both benefits and burdens given?

The interpretation that's coming out around not being able to not be in a position to do that.

Like I I really like I I think this is a wonderful. Like there's there's a part of this that still feels to me, like, impossible.

And I I just don't know how to get around.

The circumstance that that we can't attach race and gender and ethnicity.

To our investments or our programs and so how can we really talk about the environmental benefits and the environmental burdens?

When we're not there, whether when there are interpretations of Constitution that disallow us to do that.

Yeah, still, how does it?

It feels impossible to me like that.

Then I just sort of not that I wanted to be hopeless.

I I'm just more like.

Kim Barrett

And the danger of that, too, is that.

And it actually reminds me of something you said earlier.

'Cause it's like if you if you have data that's not but also if you have this blaring issue and then it feels like you can't even fully describe the issue because you can't fully say it. It also continues to perpetuate that systemic issue because you can't speak to.

It.
And so it's something that I.
Am trying to wrap my head around.
I know that it's done.
So I just don't.
I don't know, but I think.
Yeah, I'll leave it there, but I I I hear you quite a lot.

Karla Raimundi

Yeah, I want.
I would like to this is Carla resources. I would like to under score the importance of this conversation because we are being asked by the legislature to consider environmental justice and several factors are have been identified for us and thresholds have been identified for us to do that ident.
Process.
But it remains unclear whether.
Whether the current legal.
Environment would allow for the use of race, for example in guiding agency actions.
Taken from what the federal government has done in the in the latest tool that they develop CGS.
And some research that's been done.
Just assessing whether the indicators that are identified in CGS are good proxy for race, it appears to be.
To to like a conglomerate of certain indicators.
Do tend to align with race.
The question is whether.
That would apply to Vermont.
Because of its rural nature and how sparse the population.
Spreads across the state.
The other thing that makes things a little bit more complicated for Vermont is that there are not a lot of point sources of pollution.
And and that usually proximity to hazardous facilities.
Tends to be a strong indicator.
So there are challenges in the current you know.
Several rounds like politically.

I think it's very complicated.

And legally, I think it's very challenging.

Given some of the things that have come up at the federal level and some decisions that have come down from circuit courts.

But this definitely remains an area of importance and and to your point. Avi and Kim, you know, how can we be effective?

Addressing environmental injustices, if we're not allowed.

If we're constrained by regulatory schemes.

And the current environment that we're in to consider an important part factor that's proven to be determinants.

In distribution of burdens.

And if we're going to use proxies, I think we just have to be really.

Honest about the imperfectness of of that potentially to your point.

In rural communities of correct and then the identification of of what those indicators will be is of the utmost importance.

So that's why Mariana, when you shared.

The statistics that you shared with us and put in security.

Perhaps you know there is work that needs to be done regarding what?

Why? What factors?

Are burdening our communities.

And then creating an identification of those concerns and see what kind of data can be gathered and how.

Missing data can be completed relying on non profit organisations.

Underground work and the like.

Jennifer.

JB

Jennifer Byrne 1:26:55

Yeah. I just, you know, this conversation's bringing me back to to law school.

Just for the record, I'm not a lawyer, but.

I you know very much recall all this type of.

Like grappling.

Around.

You know, using race or protected classes in decision making and I just wanna mention that like for me personally, This is why I see the Community engagement plan and implementation.

As probably the most important thing in this law and more important than a mapping tool.

And that, you know, yeah. You know, we can kinda go around and around for years about data and about how you can make a decision based on this or that.

But the persistent, like pervasive issues of, you know, we we have to do better in our communities at bringing people into.

Decision making.

Program navigation services and you know access to resources. And that's just true. And for every community is different, right?

So like we and the way I think about environmental justice and community engagement, it's really about like some communities you have to put extra umph into.

You know, bringing them into the fold and servicing them. If if we really believe that everyone's equal.

And the government is for everyone, and everyone deserves equal access to opportunities. Then for, you know, a non-english speaking community in Burlington, you're gonna have to talk to them differently than you would, you know, a rural, you know, the hills of Vermont.

It's gonna be different, but it's also like, so. Yeah, so that I won't go on and on, but I do think like.

These types of conversations have been the conversation of like.

The legal environmental justice movement for decades, and there hasn't been a solution found for this.

And here we are now the Supreme Court's like cutting it at the knees.

But I would just.

I don't know.

I I kind of want to just encourage us to like, let's stay the course and just do better and really go hard on this. You know, the side of like, service provision and community engagement.

BJ **Kim Barrett** 1:29:40

Let's just take like one minute of silence because there's a lot that we've discussed a lot of things that have come up and then.

We'll see.

Who else wants to share and then on from there?

OK.

Does anyone else have anything they'd like to share?

Or should they wanna ask them?

Thank you to everyone who contributed.

I also appreciate I can feel that folks are actively listening, like I can feel the listening happening.

So I just really wanna.

Express appreciation for that.

So we were going to kind of recap and talk over some of the things that we discussed at the last joint meeting.

I'm feeling like these questions here. It probably be good to pick up either after our like public comment and break or we can table these at another time. I feel like the conversation we've just had, we we haven't gotten to that level of detail before.

So you're like, we're at a good place with that.

So it's 142 just to stay on schedule. I think what we'll do is we'll open up for public comment and then see if anyone has anything to share and then take a break.

Does that look like it?

I'll still hold for a minute in case anyone does want to keep a comment.

Yes.

It's time y'all. We're going to.

Bye, grace.

Thank you.

We're going to stop for a break.

See you back here in 5 minutes.

Hi everyone.

Let us know you're back in the spring.

OK, cool. I'm ready to go to the next one.

It's OK.

All right. So we are going to be breaking up into groups.

So we're just kind of getting shuffling here in the room, but in about a minute or two, we will assign you to group.

You'll join and then you'll have kind of some separate prompts to work on.

As you when you get into your into your group, you'll wanna find someone who can share out at the end of that activity because we'll have 5 minutes for you all to again pass the the important messages and questions. If you have anything to be up to.

All right.

Thank you. Awesome.

So I'm just gonna take a minute to split everybody by.

By.

If you're in the A/C or IAC, anyone who's not in either body.

For now.

I'm just gonna leave you in the main room, which may you'll see us, but we're gonna be muted here, which may be a little boring, but if you wanna, I don't know. Request to join in on one of these groups.

Just please let me know, I can I can pop you into one of these breakout rooms.

Yeah, that's a good idea.

Members of the public would like to join either group.

Hey, can I join a nuts and then also we should check in to see if Susanna wants to be in the A/C or IAC for today.

DX **Davis, Xusana** 1:45:30

I was actually just wondering which one you put me in.

I'm fine either way.

Maybe wherever the numbers work out easiest for you, I'm I'm good either way.

Actually, you know what? I'm sorry.

Maybe the ACI would appreciate that.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 1:45:46

Sounds good.

One second.

I'm actually gonna double check something really quickly.

Here OK.

Thank you.

How was your driving?

Like it's not bad.

So yeah, we did, yes.

Yesterday was yes. We're like, we're going to Vermont.

Vermont. Yeah, we should. OK, well, that's gonna be.

OK, I'm about to put everybody in breakout rooms.

Just a reminder, if you're not a part of the A/C or IAC, you're gonna stay in the main

room for now.

But please feel free to request in the chat if you wanna join in on any of these conversations, just to listen.

And if there are any, not that you're gonna see this. If you're jumping in this call after I've said this. But if there are any folks who are part of the Inc or A/C who jump on after we had done this initial break out into groups.

We can reassign you accordingly.

Open the groups for right now and this room for now will just be muted.

You'll be able to see us visually though.

Stop sharing.

Thank you.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:57:36

There I just got service again.

Did you guys fill me in on breakfast to be?

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:07:58

Hello could someone put me into the room I'm supposed to be in?

Hello.

Could someone help put me into the room that I'm supposed to be in?

I haven't been able to access the room. Anybody.

Buddy, hear me.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:08:29

One SEC.

Alright, we're working on it. Yeah, we'll try again.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:08:33

K.

Thank you. I thank you.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:08:51

OK.

Jennifer, you should get another prompt to join Room 1.

Juliet Birch

Hi everyone.

Welcome back to the main room.

Hey everyone, sorry if you can have everyone do the the sharing out.

I just have to do this, yeah.

Could we get one member from each group to just very briefly share out on some, you know, big major themes or or important breakthroughs from their conversation?

That would be really awesome. So.

We start with one member from the A/C.

ZS

Zoraya she/her 2:46:56

I don't know that we assigned a note taker as much as I don't wanna put it back on Kim.

I think we have a process, at least for the buddy system, maybe that we're gonna use.

I think we're kind of differ like have some different points on.

And again, I don't know if we're in agreement on.

Like what we wanna do next and how?

That's that's all I got.

That's my take away. If anybody wants to add anything.

BJ

Kim Barrett 2:47:30

Oh yeah, just so we talked about a potential way to get everyone to rank or self select which agencies they'd like to pair with.

And so we'll kind of done that later.

Abbey Willard

I see Jennifer's hand.

Mariana Sears

I think it's chronic. Yeah, perhaps.

JB

Jennifer Byrne 2:47:54

Yeah, just just one question of.

The coordinators I guess, but I I it would be really helpful to see how many of our EJ advisory Councils meetings we've used this year where we've had quorum.

Could we get some kind of like spreadsheet just so that we know like 'cause? I know we had we have a limit to how many, but it's important that we you know.

Meet our in terms of our Advisory Council only meetings and I'm not sure, I don't know. We have quorum today but.

So this wouldn't count as a joint meeting if we don't have quorum.

So just I would love to see like some kind of record of that.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:48:42

Yeah, we can send something like that for you at just to note there we we do.

We did have quorum for pretty significant periods of today's meeting, including when we voted for approval for the corporate engagement.

But yeah, we can totally make a spreadsheet that shows attendance and when quorum has been achieved.

But thanks for pointing that out, Jennifer.

Do we have any?

Any you know, themes from the IACS breakdown?

I know that we're coming up on time.

Abbey Willard

I can be really brief.

This is Abbey.

We talked about environmental benefits, spending guidance.

And the covered agency's responsibility for a three-year look back report. And I think we had kind of pretty strong consensus within the group that was meeting today that we'd be looking.

Ideally at a phased approach where we could start with a few programs kind of work out the kinks, get a real sense of what it is that we're collecting.

And how?

And then the objective of expanding to cover all programs or all kind of funding sources over time, we did have a question for the A/C of whether you felt that that aligned with the statutory intent. If it started as a kind of a phased approach and expand it.

To all funds you know in some kind of reasonable period of time. And then our second conversation.

Was about.

Remember community engagement.

Yes, the community engagement, right, if I get set showing that.

Is there to say about the community engagement?

Not sure that I'm the best one to report on that.

Juliet Birch

Well, we all talked about, you know, some.

Where where our agency is right now, culturally as it pertains to community engagement and where we would like to go.

And so that's just something to take.

That's a big take away.

Is that we need to start thinking more about community engagement as it pertains to the Community engagement plan.

That each covered agency is going to have to.

Create. But I also recognize that we're about two minutes over.

We do have some next steps that we would love to address with you guys, but we can totally send those in a follow up e-mail just out of respect for your time.

Karla Raimundi

Yeah. I just would like to get something on the record really quickly and is the is the had another question for the Advisory Council as it pertains to the environmental benefits pending guide develop?

The guidance development and it has to do.

Specifically about the reporting and whether there is a priority that you all believe should be.

Taken into consideration when thinking through what kind of reporting.

And tracking of expenditures to undertake in the initial stages of this assessment.

Juliet Birch


Thank you for sharing that, Karla.

Yeah, we can. When we have our next meetings where we start addressing more in depth environmental benefits spending, we can look into that question.

But thank you all so much for such great participation.

Today, we'll send you a follow up e-mail with some next steps and some information about our October and November meetings.

But thank you all.
For participating and have a great day.
Bye bye.

 **Mcllvennie, Claire** 2:52:22
Thanks everyone.