

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 0:07

Thank you very much for being here with us today. My name is Karla Raimundi and I am the Director of Civil Rights and Environmental Justice at the Agency of Natural Resources, and it is with a great pleasure that I welcome you all to the public comment meeting for the Core Principles of Community Engagement.

Thank you all for being here.

And today, we're doing a hybrid setup.

So we have people in Burlington joining us in person and we have folks on the computer screen, so I'll try to manage the chat to the best of my abilities. For those folks who are virtually joining us, please use the "raise your hand" feature when the time comes to provide public comments.

So without further ado, I will introduce you to my coworkers, Kim Barrett and Juliet Birch.

Welcome, everyone.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 1:29

Awesome.

Kim, would you like to introduce yourself and then we can pull into the- the next portion of the content?

I think so.

It looks like, you know, government technical difficulties. It happens.

So thank you so much for being patient with us.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 1:59

I'm sorry about that.

I kind of like lost.

I'm using two screens, but I'm going to say hi and then come off screen. Everyone.

I'm Kim.

I'm one of the Environmental Justice Coordinators.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 2:13

And then.

But yeah, so if you have any issues with being able to hear, my apologies.

The speaker is just a little bit muffled because of the size of the room.

But are you able to read the transcription that is on the screen at all?

I know. The air conditioning is working so that's... I know, if you want I can try turning it off if that'll help.

It'll be stuffy in here.

What are you able to read?

I can make it bigger.

Okay? Awesome.

I'm Juliet.

I am the other Environmental Justice Coordinator with the Civil Rights and Environmental Justice Unit at the Agency of Natural Resources.

If you weren't familiar with the Agency of Natural Resources, you might know our work from if you've ever been fishing or hunting or visited a State Park here in Vermont. Our particular unit is designed to assure that all Vermont residents have equitable access to the programs and services at the Agency. So, in terms of the Environment and Justice Law, which we'll talk more about it later, we are tasked with providing Technical Support in the implementation of the law.

But and if there are any Environmental Justice Advisory Council or Interagency Committee members online with us right now.

I would invite you to introduce yourself.

OK.

It sounds like we don't have anybody from those bodies online at the moment, so we can move forward.

The uh, it looks like we might be having some type of technical difficulties with the presentation, but I would like to just talk through the schedule for tonight's meeting. Starting now, we're gonna be walking through the 1st 6 and principles in the Core Principles of Community Engagement and then we will add 4:15 break for a 15 minute period of public comment.

Then from there, at 4:30, we'll review the next six of principles and from 4:35 to 4:55 another opportunity for public comment.

And then we'll close the meeting. If that sounds good to everybody, we can move on with the topic for tonight on you'll run a little bit about the Core Principles.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 5:15

Sorry.

I'm just gonna ask a quick question.

So right now you can see the purpose of this meeting screen can slide.

Can you see anything else?

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 5:27

Right now, all the people see is the welcome slide.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 5:27

OK, it looks like it's not advancing for some reason.

I apologize.

Give me one second.

Are you seeing it now?

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 5:58

No, it looks like your screen might be frozen.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 6:01

OK, alright.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 6:11

I can share my screen if that's better.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 6:14

OK, I'm gonna stop sharing and see if that changes anything.

I'm not sure why this is happening right now.

Give me one second.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 6:30

OK, I'll share my screen.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 6:33

Thank you, Karla.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 6:52

Thanks, Karla.

**BJ** **Raimundi, Karla** 7:07

Great.

OK, I'll share my screen.

I think I've got it.

This is gonna happen.

Great.

What can you see?

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 7:26

The very first slide.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 7:29

Beautiful.

Welcome.

And then we continue moving on.  
Juliet just mentioned that this is the schedule for tonight.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 7:49

Welcome introductions.  
The review of the first six principles.  
Then we're going to open up the floor for public comment.  
Then the review of the other six principles, then public comment and then the conclusion of this meeting.  
And now I'm going to pass it on to Kim for the purpose of the meeting.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 8:09

Thank you.  
Thank you.  
Alright, so the purpose of our meeting today is to provide information on the core principles of community engagement, and that is a guiding document that we are going to be using to support our engagement work.  
As we look to advance environmental justice, so we're going to be gathering oral comments from you all, should you like to submit one.  
And then we're also gonna share information about the current public comment period, which is going on right now from May 1st until June 14th.  
So we're in that time time frame and then we're gonna share details about our next public comment meeting, which is happening on May 22nd from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 9:09

And so there are several things that we would like to share with you.  
There are guidelines to ensure that we are engaging with each other within certain parameters and to allow all speakers who wish to provide comment to do so.  
So we are allocating a 2-minute time limit per speaker.  
There will be an opportunity to complete your comment, your oral comment, should you want to do so. We can allow for a completion of the comment during the meeting

while it's being recorded, or if you prefer, we can record your oral comment after the meeting when the comment will not be recorded.

Additionally, you can provide comments in writing and in order to do so, we will be providing you with a link at the end of the meeting and Juliet, in the room, will share that link with members of the public who are present in the room with her in Burlington. Comments should pertain to the core principles, which is the subject matter of this meeting and, please, for the benefit of the recording and the record, provide your name and affiliation if it's applicable at the beginning of your statement.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 10:53

Alright, so we're gonna answer the question "What is a public comment period?" and what that is is just a range of time that community members have to submit your input or feedback as the agency is getting ready to make a final decision or enact something. So it's your opportunity to share your thoughts with us.

Alright, perfect.

Thank you.

And So what are the core principles of community engagement?

As I mentioned earlier, there are a set of guidelines and values that outline how we as an agency, how also individuals, community members, organizations can work together to overcome systemic barriers, particularly in this case, we're looking at environmental justice issues.

And so these principles inform how the different agencies under the environmental justice law, Vermont environmental justice law, will engage with communities.

And then who created the core principles of community engagement?

We have two governing bodies.

One is called the Advisory Council, and so that is made up of 10 representatives from communities who are deeply impacted by environmental justice issues.

And so those folks have been appointed into their positions by the legislature under the Vermont environmental Justice law.

And so, together with the Advisory Council, we have the Interagency Committee, which is a body of 10 representatives from different agencies that are required to adhere to the environmental justice law.

So those two bodies came together and created this document.

And so who will use them?

Ultimately, the as I mentioned, the covered agencies within the environmental justice law will ultimately be utilizing these principles.

OK.

Alright, so why comment?

You have the expertise as community members.

We're here to hear from you.

You know what's going on in your communities and so basically we would like to hear your expertise and be able to support the covered agencies and engaging with you in the best way possible.

So what happens after you submit your comment?

We'll review them.

We'll take them in and then different forms of leadership will take a look at them and then they will ultimately help inform the finalization of the core principles of community engagement.

Alright, so I'm just gonna take a breath and pause.

Just cause we went through a couple of slides very quickly.

Umm, so I'm just gonna wait before we move on so quick.

All right.

So in our document, the core principles of community engagement, there are two sections.

So the first section is called laying the foundation.

So these six principles, these six values, these six guidelines pertain to laying the foundation for doing community engagement well, OK.

So the first, we're just gonna quickly read through and then I'll give everyone also a chance just to visually look at the screen because I know that folks like to take in information differently.

So the first principle is utilize existing guidance for equitable Community engagement.

The second is value and integrate community input at every stage of agency action.

The third is build your agency's internal capacity for meaningful engagement.

The 4th is coordinate with other agencies to de-silo policy conversations and share

resources.

#5 is build resilience and trust by building ongoing reciprocal relationships, and the sex is prioritized.

Voices most impacted by environmental injustices and address systemic barriers to participation.

So before we go on to the next slide, I'm just going to pause again.

OK, right.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 16:18

Awesome.

Thank you so much, Kim, for introducing us to the first section of the core principles of community engagement.

Now we will open up the floor for public comment and the way that we'll do this since we are in a hybrid environment is if the folks who want to give comment who are attending virtually could please press the "raise hand" feature, which is in between people and react on the at the top of your screen.

We will alternate between virtual and in person attendees and try and go in numerical order.

So I'll give everybody an opportunity to raise, hit the "raise hand" feature if they're interested in providing a comment.

Great.

If there's anybody else who would like to provide a comment, I to raise your hand at anytime during this meeting. Pam Ladds, if you could leave your hand raised and Alex Castellano, if you could leave your hand raised until after you've provided your comment, that'll help us keep track of who the ask to speak when. So, we'll start with someone who is present in the room.

If Ed Stanak, could please provide your comment, to reiterate the guidelines, we're going to start with just a 2 minute limit.

And then from there, we will, if you would like to finish your comment, if it isn't finished at that time, we can provide opportunity for that later.

**Comment: Ed Stanak**



Well, thank you.

My name is Ed Stanak.

I resident of the Barre City. I was employed for 30 years as a state employee, as a district coordinator for Act 250.

Since I've been retired for 10 years, I've worked pro bono with many individuals and grassroots organizations around the state in their efforts to participate in the agency permitting processes. That experience for me has involved everything that the full range of agency permits, ranging from solid waste certifications, air quality permits for asphalt plants, indirect discharge permits, discharge permits, and so on and so forth.

Uh, my experience has been as those people struggle to protect finite natural resources and ensure the quality of life in the Green Mountains, it's been extremely frustrating to participate in the permitting process because the public participation process is currently designed this flawed.

It's not authentic.

There really is no participation.

Many of the public meetings I've been at the agency, the agency staff, never respond to questions.

The responses come at the response of the summary, which comes out sometimes months later attached to the permit.

Very rarely, if ever have I seen, if ever, any public comments affect the content of a draft agency permit.

They never change. And it gets even worse on appeal because on appeal, the agency legal counsel stands aside and the citizens wind up standing toe to toe with the corporate lawyers representing the developers.

So right now my point is if this process is to layer on top of the existing public process, it's flawed to begin with.

There is no foundation that's meaningful.

Why would the public participate in this process that does not work?

Um, in making these comments.

I want to make one final point.

It's this.

About directing any criticisms at the classified employees who work for the agency, the

rank and file. On the other hand, my criticisms are meant and are very severe for the exempt employees, and the appointed officials who administered the policies of the executive branch.

That's what this is all about.

The process is broken, so as a white guy that's participating in this process of years, but people with resources, what have you, I have very little hope that people of color, people of economic struggles and no background would ever be able to participate this process.

These principles and guidelines are wonderful, but there's no foundation folks.

There is no public participation right now in Vermont that's meaningful.

There is no environmental justice in the Green Mountains.

Thanks.

**Birch, Juliet** 20:36

Thank you.

OK.

Thank you so much, Mr Stanak.

Next, we will invite a participant from the virtual meeting to give their comment.

Pam Ladds, if you would like to speak.

**PL Pam Ladds** 20:59

I don't know if I'm muted or unmuted.

Unmuted.

Great.

Ah, exactly what Ed Stanak just said.

Right on. We have, I live up in the Northeast Kingdom,

We have the only landfill in the state and we have participated many times in what have been referred to as public comment sessions.

What we have learned is that decisions have been made before that, including allowing something to operate that had not even technically been permitted.

How do we know this?

Because they had an accident where it in release 9000 gallons of leachate.

That's how we know they're technically was no permit.  
So why on Earth would any of us trust ANR? That's not been our experience.  
We've had people look a straight in the face and lie, so public trust is really limited.  
What I'd like to ask all of you, because I understand that you're doing this with really good intentions and that you really believe that environmental justice is possible.  
What I'd like to ask you is, have you been to any of these comment- public comment sessions and seen what happens?  
And then looked at what the outcome is further down the road, because I think you might be shocked.  
I hope you're shocked.  
Thank you.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 22:28

Thank you, Pam.  
Pam Ladds. ext, we're going to have a participant from in person.  
Sylvia Knight, if you'd like to speak.

### **Comment: Sylvia Knight**

Thank you.  
I'm Sylvia Knight.  
I'm a member of Vermont pesticide and poison Action Network.  
I've also worked as an individual with ANR on various permit processes, and I ask  
What is the basis- the existing guidance?  
What is the existing guidance?  
It does not work and it's not working for people to protect the environment.  
As things stand now, so if we're basing the environmental justice piece on the existing there, there is no existing foundation to make this work.  
I'm sorry to say that, but that's my experience as a white middle class woman.  
It's not working for me.  
So how can it work for people who have no rep- have not had representation to us?  
Uh, we have CSO, you know, combined sewer overflows.  
We have pesticides going to a lake into our water, into our food.

We have PFAs being spread on land and...

Nothing- you know.

Yeah.

I want to, I want to support the opening statement that was written.

"We need to supersede our anthropocentric perspectives and, recognizing the interdependence of humans with everyone and everything else.

Recognizing this truth, spoken for generations by indigenous communities, we must commit to engaging respectfully and reverently with the other than human members of our Community."

But we we're not doing that.

We are we see the land and the water as commodities to be used and.

Contaminated.

I'm sorry.

I would hope for something better coming out of this, but we I think we need to start from a different basis.

**Birch, Juliet** 25:05

Thank you so much.

Umm, next.

I believe, was Alex Castellano attending virtually.

The floor is open for you to speak, Alex.

AC

**Alex Castellano** 25:22

Hi everyone.

My name's Alex Castellano.

I'm a reach up case manager with the US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

My main focus is our new American community in Vermont, Language access, and also just knowing what my families are coming from, the environmental injustices that have been placed on them, how can we engage the new American communities in their new home, in their new community? To engage with the environment in a way that feels inclusive, that feels safe, that feels culturally Appropriate?

And a huge part of that is language access.

I know that there's a lot of talk in government agencies from the one that I work for and with as a Reach Up case manager about being transparent with language access, but it is such an obstacle.

To get things correctly, accurately interpreted for folks to access, not to mention folks that are illiterate and require in person, Umm, interpretation right in that moment. I think that that is really, really something that is lacking broadly in government agencies and how they're supporting those families.

So I want to advocate for them with my entire being. I think that that's extremely important and engaging and bringing them into our larger Vermont community. Thank you.

BJ

**Birch, Juliet** 27:18

Thank you, Alex Castellano.

Now we will move to the next portion of our agenda where we will review the section two of the core principles of community engagement and then from there we'll open up the floor again.

If there are folks who still have comments that they would like to provide.

All right, so we've reviewed the first section of the core principles.

The first six principles that were drafted by the Advisory Council in collaboration with the Interagency Committee.

These this second section refers mostly to real, tangible ways that agencies should- things that the Agencies should- agencies should incorporate into their community engagement plans to tangibly, maybe you communities.

So principle #7 is that agencies should compensate community members for their expertise and efforts.

Eight is agencies need to do their homework and adapt engagement to the Community's needs.

Nine agencies should conduct accessible and inclusive outreach and engagement.

Umm, 10 agencies should be transparent and accountable from start to finish.

11 agencies need to commit enough time to do engagement well and well.

And twelve, Agencies should show up on the ground and work towards Equitable solutions alongside community members.

So that is the last of the 12 core principles of community engagement.

Uh for more details on these principles you can view, if you're in the room with us today, you can view some materials we have provided.

Or you can take a look at our website.

I will drop some links in towards the end of the meeting for folks to engage with those materials, but now we're going to open up the floor to more public comments if there are any folks who haven't already spoken, I invite you to either raise your hand if you're a virtual participant, or if you'd like to sign up here just so I have record of your name if you'd like to provide a comment, the floor is open now.

Will there be opportunity for supplemental comments if no one else wants to comment?

Absolutely, we can definitely open up for additional commentary from people who've already spoken.

Is there anyone who hasn't already provided a comment that would like to participate?

Something she hasn't come in yet.

Yeah.

If you are a virtual participant and you would like to provide an oral comment, we ask that you please raise your hand using the raise hand feature.

If not, if you would not like to leave a comment and just want to view what we're talking about today, you can leave your hand down.

Since no one's raising their hand, could I speak?

Absolutely. Would you- We'll do another two minutes, if that's OK?

That's alright.

Yeah.

**Comment: Ed Stanak**

Again, this is Ed Stanak from Barre City. I already spoke, but just supplemental comments about Principal #9, principal #10. Quickly about accessibility.

I know the agency is all geared up for making optimal use of the computer.

One of my system but I can tell you that a lot of people struggle with the environmental notice bulletin.

Cannot get first base with that.

I admit I'm an old dog, right?

But I know youngins that can't get information by using the available systems at the agency has.

So I think accessibility is going to be a challenging issue to have genuine, bona fide access in a timely manner to the information.

Because what currently exists, they work for some people, but not really does not want people.

And finally, about transparency, again, just keeping it brief.

Uh, I urge you to incorporate into this record a White Paper of Pam Ladd mentioned organization called Dump from the Northeast Kingdom.

I urge you to consider reading or incorporating into this by reference a White paper that Dump produced on transparency based upon your experience with the agency and dealing with landfill certifications etcetera.

And I believe that White Paper, which was sent to Secretary Julie Moore, was stated in January of either 2022 or January 2023.

I won't go in details, but there are exhibits attached to that obtained through the public documents statutes of a back channel, communications between the agency and development personnel that the public were not even aware of.

So that's a case study of how broken the system is right now when it comes to the lack of transparency.

So accessibility, transparency.

Very critical issues, but once again I want to be nice center here.

The existing system really doesn't work and to have expect people.

And to now expect

Of all those categories for environmental justice to participate?  
It's it's doomed to failure.

**Birch, Juliet** 33:10

Thank you.

And if no one else wants to speak yet.

I'll just offer one more time for the virtual participants if there are any virtual participants who would like to speak, or if there are any participants who haven't had the opportunity to speak yet, I would offer you the opportunity to take the floor.

Alright, Sylvia Knight.

Would you like to finish your comment?

**Comment: Sylvia Knight**

Yeah, on transparency.

I don't know when this bill was passed and when did this law come into effect?

**Birch, Juliet**

2022.

**Comment: Sylvia Knight**

2022? yes.

And I'm trying to figure out when a plan- a master plan for the Middlebury Airport came- uh, was actually approved because there was no there was no transparency.

There was very little transparency and accountability in that and it information that the efforts, the communication between the Vtrans and the neighborhood that was, uh attempting to.

Uh.

Provide feedback on this airport.

Development of it's very Lacking.

And it has to do with the protection of public resources.



Public drinking water resources.

So I'm I mean this is this looks good on paper and I'm just wondering how what it's what is the message that we were?

Help this happen if the you know given the power differential between average folks in the state. Uh.

How do we how do we get to something like this?

That's the question.

**Birch, Juliet** 35:36

Thank you.

All right.

Thank you so much, Sylvia Knight.

Are there any who are present either online or in person who would like an opportunity to give public comment?

We'll leave the floor open.

Another, you know, 10 or more minutes if folks would like to, as if as people are filtering in.

If you'd like to participate and provide a comment if you're a virtual participant, please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to give comment on the core principles of community engagement, and if there are any folks in person who would like to- would like to comment, please let me know.

Well at the risk of being a filibuster?

Do you like?

Umm.

If there are any other folks who want to participate, please let me know now.

If not, I will turn to Ed Stanak to continue with another two minutes if that works.

**Comment: Ed Stanak**

Yeah.

I just.

I can't see it right now without my glasses, but I believe one of the principles, or just principle #4 coordinate without the state agencies to de-silo policy conversations and share resources. That's a major understatement, but Cognizant to the fact that we're here today just talking about the Agency of natural resources, I understand. My comment has to be has to do with the silos within the agency and within the Department of Environmental Conservation, um, which is a permitting agency, The divisions do not really coordinate with each other.

Where you have a bunch of industrial project for example, where multiple permitting processes are involved, there is no coordination to speak of in terms of how those permanent processes were done, particularly on jurisdictional questions.

Whether a permit is required and I tell you this is the really breaks down when you consider Act 250.

And I know that's the purview of the Natural Resources Board.

They're going to have their own show on this soon going around.

Umm, but the process really now has been a broken again on jurisdiction back to silos because he used to be a member of the public to go to regional office and do one stop shopping to find out the answer.

All these things, those regional office is open pretty much dissolved and so that effort to have one stop shopping i.e.

To de-silo- to place already in the 1980s due to funding due to policy changes at the top of the executive branch of the last eight to 10 years, that's all unraveled.

So we're reinventing the wheel here, which existed at one point, but without beating this to death.

#4 is a very important problem with the Agency of Natural resources, particularly in department of Environmental Conservation.

I also when I work for the state, I saw the same problem happening with of the other departments, not coordinated with the- with themselves of Fish and Wildlife.

For example, with parks built to the habitat issues we're having.

**Birch, Juliet** 39:07

Thank you.

Thank you so much.

And I just wanna provide clarification that the core principles of community engagement do apply to the Agency of Natural Resources, but they also apply to the other nine covered agencies in the Vermont environmental justice law.

And that includes the Vermont Department of Health, the Public Utilities Commission, the Natural Resources Board, the Agency of Education and a few other agencies.

But so I appreciate your comment.

I just wanted to clarify

Would it include agriculture or Vtrans?

Yes, I I would need to clarify there quickly if it includes Vtrans.

I don't recall at the top of my head, but it does include Agency of Agriculture now.

Uh, for I will have the floor again if Margaret Adelman would like to provide comment.

**MA** Marguerite Adelman 40:10

I don't know if you can hear me or not.

Can you?

**BJ** Birch, Juliet 40:14

Yes.

**MA** Marguerite Adelman 40:15

Ohh I was just confused because there's this meeting chat and we can't send any messages and I would anyways no I'm I'm going to send in written comments but I I saw three hands up and nobody being called on and then I kind of got shut out of the meetings so now I'm back but I was just confused why the people with their hands up weren't getting called on.

Thank you though.

**BJ** Birch, Juliet 40:46

Thank you so much.

If there are any other participants, I just want to reiterate, if you're a virtual participant,

you can raise your hand if you would like to give comment, that's how we are determining the order in which folks speak.  
The floor will remain open for another 5 minutes or so if folks would like to speak.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 41:10

Yeah.  
Let me just jump in real quick, Juliet.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 41:10

Ohh.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 41:13

So it looks like Pam your hand is still up and Alex, your hand is still up.  
Did you both want to provide a comment?

**AC** **Alex Castellano** 41:24

I left my hand up.  
Umm, I think at some point we were asked to leave them up even after our comment.  
So I just left my hand up for that purpose, but maybe I misunderstood.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 41:35

No problem.  
I just wanted to double check.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 41:57

Alright, if there's any other folks who trickle in in these last 10 or so minutes, the floor is open to additional comments.  
Karla, I would defer to you on when would be an appropriate time to close the floor for public comment, since it seems that there may not be folks who would like to.  
There, there may not be additional folks who would like to provide comment.  
Oh, Karla, you're muted.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 42:51

And I was muted.

I keep doing this.

You think that after several years using Teams that I would be proficient enough to unmute myself when I speak, but no still happens.

I think if there are no comments, additional comments, we can close the floor for public comments on the core principles of Community engagement.

I would like to reiterate that we will be providing a response document that will address your comments, but without further ado, I think I'm gonna pass it on to my coworker to close the floor and talk to other ways in which you can participate.

Thank you very much for being here and for your comments.

They're greatly appreciated.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 43:57

No, thank you so much so much.

**BK** **Barrett, Kim** 43:59

All right.

I don't know if the screen is up for folks to see, but other ways for you to participate.

You can provide a written comment.

There will be another opportunity to provide oral comments and that will be on Wednesday, May 22nd from 12 to one.

That'll be another.

That'll be a virtual meeting.

You can also sign up for updates on the implementation of the Vermont environmental justice law and in the chat for the folks who are virtual, I put a link there for that, and then you can attend a public meeting of the Advisory Council.

Umm and, or the interagency committee they meet together, and they also need separately as well, yeah.

Karla and Juliet,

Anything else you want to add?  
I think someone has their hand up.

**Question:**

We're good question.  
I'm curious about the two.  
Councils that were set up, yeah.  
How do they interact and how do they help enforce what this policy is opposed to be about.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 45:28

I can answer that really quickly for brevity purposes and we can continue chatting about uh about the two bodies that were created under the law and their role with regards to the deliverables of the law, after I stopped recording, if you're interested.

But really briefly for the record, I will mention that the Interagency Committee and the Advisory Council were the two bodies that were created on the Vermont environmental justice law in 2022, and those two bodies have different responsibilities with regards to the deliverables that are included in that law.

The legislators assigned specific duties to those bodies and the Agency of Natural Resources, so depending on the deliverable the law identifies which entity will be the responsible party to deliver on the contents of the law, and that particular deliverable. And then I I can expand here also to reiterate what was mentioned earlier that the Advisory Council, the membership for that group is members of communities that have been historically marginalized, underserved, frontline communities and the inter agencies are nine agencies of the state of Vermont and the Office of Racial Equity.

**RK** **Raimundi, Karla** 47:11

Thank you for your ohh you have your hand up?  
Yes sure.

**Question:**

I didn't interacted with a with an Advisory Council for about 20 years.

They had no enforcement capability.

Umm.

How will this- How will the Advisory Council function?

I don't understand what you're saying about about their responsibility.

RK

**Raimundi, Karla** 47:52

The Vermont environmental justice law that was adopted in March 2022 created these two bodies.

These two entities, the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee and in the law itself, it identified responsibilities for each of the bodies that are created that were created there.

So the text of the law identifies responsibilities that each of the bodies are intended to advance or create.

Sometimes in collaboration, sometimes one of the two bodies will be the lead and the other body will be supporting or advising either the other body or the agency of Natural resources.

So there are tasks within the law that these two bodies are required to either adopt or create or fulfill, depending on each of the things that we're talking about.

For example, for the purposes of, umm, the purpose of this meeting, which is one of the deliverables under the law, one of the things that the agencies were responsible for doing is the creation of the core principles of Community engagement under the direct advisement of the Advisory Council.

So those 12 principles that we presented earlier were put together by these two bodies because the law asked these two bodies to work and create those documents and the purpose of those principles is to guide the agencies creations of the Community engagement plans.

So if I may then close the floor up for public comment, which we had already done, I just really wanted to provide more clarity with regards to your question and allow for more of a conversation at the end of this meeting.

But I am very happy, more than happy to stay on online and continue engaging with you and any any other members, but for purposes of this meeting I will stop recording and we'll consider all of the comments provided complete so I will stop recording now.

Thank you all for being here.

Now I have to figure out how to stop recording here. OK.

Let's see.

Great.

Thank you all.

**BJ** **Birch, Juliet** 50:46

Thank you.

● **Raimundi, Karla** stopped transcription