Meaningful Consultation of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Advisory Council

Pre-Meeting Survey Responses

These responses were collected in a survey sent to all EJ Advisory Council members and Interagency EJ Committee members in July 2023.

Survey Question: The VT EJ Law often calls on Advisory Council members to "consult" on deliverables that the Covered Agencies, the Agency of Natural Resources, or the Interagency Committee are responsible for. What does meaningful "consultation" of the Advisory Council look like to you?

Advisory Council Member Responses (8 out of the 11 Advisory Council members responded to this question)

regular joint discussion as often as needed
Thorough exploration, examination, and understanding of the topics discussed for deliverables.
They ask questions, they listen to answers, clarify and agree that we are all understanding the questions and answers, and then, council issue recommendations! Those are really taken into consideration and actually applied, especially when it is possible!
Actions rather than words
It means ample time and opportunity to be consulted with.
I would like for us to be empowered to conduct different stage review processes and negotiate serious disparities in opinion before. Council members should be called in to testify on related bills.
Being involved late enough in the process that decisions had been made and a clear vision for the deliverables is made, but not so late that those decisions can't be alternated.

Interagency Committee Member Responses (9 out of the 11 Interagency Committee members responded to this question)

The ability to review final drafts of major documents which will be circulated for public input/advisement.
I think it is helpful to have conversations and make decisions with both groups together as much as possible so we're all on the same page.

test assumptions and ideas ... will they work? What would/could be better?
An opportunity for the AC to discuss and voice concerns at a meeting and in writing.
Offer guidance, lead the process for public participation, ensure we are following a timeline/process/trajectory that is inclusive and equitable
As an interagency committee member, I want to know how the advisory council defines meaningful consultation.
It is great to make calls to Advisory Council members to collect their feedback on the deliverables that are covered during the meetings. If no call is possible, we can reach out to members by emails to collect their insights.
Hearing their views.
I feel like this looks like listening to what the EJAC believes is meaningful for them. It makes sense to me for them to be involved from the start with periodic conversations at a pace that feels manageable for the EJAC, but if they envision a different structure, I would tend towards listening to their thoughts and moving from there.