VT EJ Law Joint Public Meeting-20251203_140928-Meeting Recording

December 3, 2025, 7:09PM

2h 35m 4s

Barrett, Kim started transcription

BK **Barrett, Kim** 0:07

Alright, thank you all for joining us for a meeting of Vermont's environmental Justice Advisory Council and Interagency committee.

Next slide please.

Welcome again.

Next slide.

Thank you.

Here are our community agreements. We'll just have folks read them silently to themselves.

And then if you agree, if this fills in alignment to you just give us a thumbs up when you're done.

Cool. Think we got thumbs up?

We can go to the next slide please.

I don't think we have quorum right now to officially approve.

Yeah, but we'll still go over what we're gonna do today.

So we're gonna do a Vermont EJ Law review of this year 2025, and then there'll be like 1520 minutes for questions. And then after that, each of you, each group will meet separately.

To talk through some things and then after that you'll come together and meet. Collectively.

We'll take a break, do public comment, and then we'll have a final debrief where we'll talk through any decisions that you all made in your either your individual groups or collective.

Discussions and then talk through any administrative next steps that need to come out of that to support you next year. And then after that we just have a couple updates to share with you.

So that's what it looks like.

Other than that, let's get started with the presentation and then whenever we get

quorum, we can go back to approve the agenda.
I think I'm going to pass it to Juliet to get us started.

Birch, Juliet 3:01
Awesome. Thanks Kim.
Yeah. So as you guys know, it's December.
Somehow the year has gone by so fast, and we're basically at the end of it.
So what we wanted to do today is take some time to review all the really cool achievements that we've made in 2025 and just also, you know, prep us to start thinking about what 2026 is going to look like. And we'll talk more about.
That during our meeting next week.
But so today.
We're gonna talk about 2025 and this year was really intended to build the foundation that we'll then use to implement the EJ law in 2026 and beyond.
As you know, we've done a lot of foundation building this year.
And so today, what we're gonna cover is some of the deliverables and modes of influence that we worked on this year and give you guys a reminder of what it is that we've achieved.
Through each of those modes of influence.
We'll be able to highlight the ways that the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee contributed and really helped advance those items.
And some of the outcomes we'd like to see from this part of the agenda is for IAC and AC members to understand the milestones and achievements that were made in 2025 to implement the law and then to also understand how the foundation built in 2020.
Five is going to inform next year's work, so hopefully this will be a fun, celebratory conversation.
And we'll get get lots out of it.
So really quick, just a reminder, as you all know, there are five modes of influence under the EJ law.
There are four of them sort of represented here, because the mapping tool and cumulative environmental burden rule making kind of go together. But we kind of broke them up by deliverable. So that throughout this presentation so that we could get into a little bit of detail especially on.
Mapping. But so today we're going to review what's been achieved in terms of

environmental benefits.
Community engagement.
The EJ mapping tool.
Cumulative environmental burden, rule making and annual agency reporting.
So we're gonna look at each area and review these deliverables together.
So first and foremost is environmental benefits.
As you're all aware, the first deliverable that is under this area of work is the environmental benefits spending guidance. So as the lead covered agency under the law, an R was tasked with drafting this guidance document to support covered agencies in the creation of the baseline spending reports.
So this guidance set the foundation for the completion of each of the subsequent deliverables gonna come under this mode of influence starting in 2026.
The Ebsg was due September 15th of this year and as previously said, it's gonna help us to build the baseline spending reports.
What are the baseline spending reports?
They ask each covered agency to take a snapshot of their investments in environmental benefits during a defined 3 year period.
Which you can find in the guidance and this snapshot will help the covered agency.
Where investments are currently going and will support environmental benefits related deliverables after the completion of the report. So throughout 20/26/2020, seven and beyond.
As you're all aware, ever since the guidance was complete.
These reports are currently under development in different stages depending on the covered agency, but ultimately they'll all be due on February 15th of this year.
So I think I'm gonna pass it to Kim to.
To talk a little bit more about what we've achieved so far this year with these deliverables.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 7:01
Thank you.
Yeah, here's our timeline.
So the PBSG tax group for the environmental benefit spending Guidance Task Group developed draft one between the end of 2024 into February of this year.
And then our unit hosted the ebsg feedback sessions across I think 7 agencies.
Those were really great.

And then in April, the Advisory Council provided, reviewed and then also provided feedback on the guidance.
Then, from July to August, we hosted the public comment period and then, you know, August until now and moving into next year. The covered agencies are working on their report and then the actual guidance was due on September 15th.
Next slide please.
So we just wanted to highlight a few things.
So the environmental benefit spending guidance Task Group was made-up of folks from our unit and the Advisory Council and Interagency Committee.
The feedback session materials were reviewed by both the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee.
And then the Advisory Council provided feedback like we said in that meeting in April, and then also the Advisory Council provided some great consultation on the public materials to support the public comment period and then also our presentation.
So thank you for that next slide.
And then here are just some highlights for the spending reports.
So these were also discussed in the feedback sessions.
The interagency discuss these reports in the September 17 meeting.
We've already provided some one-on-one technical assistance for agencies who requested it, and then the additional TA is gonna be is underway.
I'm gonna pass it over to Juliet to talk through community engagement.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 9:30
Cool. Thanks Kim. So.
That's a lot of good information about environmental benefits. We're gonna switch our switch, our focus to community engagement with which is another area of work under the EJ law.
As you're all aware, the community engagement area of work is really focusing on improving the ways that we provide meaningful participation to members of the public under the EJ law and the first deliverable related.
To this area of work was the core principles of community engagement, which technically under the law because we had a two year deadline extension, was due in July of 2025. But we actually finished it way back in 2024 because we're so ahead.
And and we work so efficiently. So you'll all recall that was a. That's a really good

document that you all worked on.
So thank you all for that.
The next thing that we're really setting our sights towards and we spent a lot of time talking about in November is the Community engagement plans. As you know, covered agencies have to build community engagement plans that will describe how each agency is going to engage EJF PS as.
It evaluates new and existing activities.
Programs. It's also gonna describe how they're going to provide meaningful participation in compliance with Title 6, the Civil Rights Act.
They have to be informed by the core principles and they also have to be developed in consultation with the Advisory Council.
So we're really looking forward to setting our sights towards that work, which is due in July of 2027. But we did begin thinking about these plans this year.
So just some quick highlights because.
You know the time spent on this deliverable, we're still in the beginning of the Community engagement plan deliverable thought process.
Some highlights from this year include that the IAC discussed the core principles of community engagement and community engagement plans way back in June.
They were able to identify needs, opportunities and priorities during.
The November IAC meeting and then we got together twice or actually.
Just once as a full group in November to talk about community engagement between the AC and IAC, where the Advisory Council provided consultation on the Community engagement plans.
And then the Advisory Council and Interagency committee formalized a community engagement working group during that meeting.
So that's really exciting and we're looking forward to starting that work as soon as possible. But probably, you know, thinking likely in the new year.
So that's really, really exciting.
And good work.
I'm going to now just switch gears to think about the mapping tool.
So we've covered environmental benefits and community engagement.
Now we're gonna start thinking about another deliverable. Just the EJ mapping tool.
As you all know, as the lead covered agency under the Vermont Environmental Justice Law, an R is responsible for creating and maintaining.
Meaning the state's environmental justice mapping tool, which has the main

purposes of identifying environmental justice focus populations throughout the state and mapping environmental burdens and environmental benefits.
So this mapping tool is something that we really started making a lot of advancements on this year. And so as a reminder, this year we determined and also through public meetings in 2024 that this project.
The mapping tool would require interdisciplinary work to be able to meet the needs of the law. So as you all know, we developed an approach to bring on AGIS contractor as well as a community engagement contractor to collaborate on the development of the tool and that those ADV.
In terms of the contracting, were all made this year, we're really excited about it.
Quick reminder the.
Deadline for the mapping tool is January 1st, 2027.
And I'm going to pass it to Kim to go into a little bit more detail about what happened with this this year.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 13:53
Thanks, Juliet.
All right. So on 2024 end of 2024 until February, we were developing the GIS request for a proposal. And then from February to March, the Advisory Council and Interagency committee reviewed the GIS RFP.
We released the RFP in March and then in April.
We received our proposals.
And then from July until September.
We hosted our GIS selection committee, which included Advisory Council members and interagency committee members, and then in September the selection committee chose Stone environmental through a completely blind process for all of the, you know, identifiable information was redacted from each proposal, and then from September until December.
We're working with the agency of Digital Services to formalize the statement of work that's going to help guide Stone's work.
Thank you, Juliet.
So now we're gonna just look at the mapping tool timeline from the community engagement side of things.
So from March until to June, we developed the community engagement, RPU and maybe starting a little earlier too.

From July through August.
The Advisory Council actually reviewed the community engagement RFP and the executive session, and then in August we released the Community engagement RFP and then we received.
All of our proposals in October and then our selection committee, which is also again made-up of Advisory Council and Interagency committee members.
We're in the process of selecting the contractor.
OK. And then I'm just gonna pass it back to Juliet to talk through some highlights.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 16:21
Cool. Thanks.
So the highlights for this mapping tool project from this year is that.
Our unit was able to request some predraft feedback from both the Advisory Council and Interagency Committee in these RFP processes and the feedback that you all provided really helped shape the direction of these of of the RFP's. Additionally, the GIS and community engagement.
Selection committees were a huge success in the community engagement selection committee continues to be a huge success since it's still working.
On determining a final contractor for community engagement and as Kim mentioned, those selection committees have representation from both the AC and the IAC.
They were two distinct groups that had distinct representation from each bodies.
And so we're really grateful for the those of you who are willing to spend some extra time.
Time with us to make this happen.
And then finally one last highlight, Advisory Council members were able to review the final community engagement RFP in an executive session a couple of months ago.
If you recall and that was a really enlightening and productive conversation.
So we appreciate you all for participating in that.
All right, we're coming towards the end of our highlights reel or our year in review.
We're over halfway through.
The next area of work that we want to talk about is rule making.
So this was something that was recently introduced to you all last month.
So for those of you who were not at the November 17th meeting, this may feel like

new information.
So I'm gonna kind of walk through it a little slowly and if there are questions or if if folks.
Need a refresher?
You're always welcome to ask questions at the end. We'll get get to it.
But as you're aware, one of the key deliverables under the EJ law is something called cumulative environmental burden rule making.
This is a new deliverable and basically as again the lead covered agency under the law ANR in consultation with you all in the Advisory Council and the IAC will adopt rules, which means that.
Are going to impact the way that our agency does our work.
To define and consider cumulative environmental burdens as we make decisions and take actions.
The rules will also inform how the public and covered agencies.
Consider cumulative environmental burdens.
This rule is not just going to impact A&R, but it'll impact all of the agencies under the law.
It's a big undertaking.
And then finally, it's going to inform how to use the EJ mapping tool.
Which is gonna be a key part of decision making in general.
So this is something that we're all very new to.
It's something we'll continue conversations on in the next year, but we wanted to just acknowledge that this is something that we've started to make some progress on this year, albeit very recently with the full group.
So the deadline for this rule is July of 2027 and.
As you can see, the timeline for this looks a little sparse, and that's because a lot of the work that happened on this deliverable this year has been internal at ANR. Our unit working with our legal team to develop technical assistance materials, understand the deliverable ourselves so that.
We can then go to you guys and give you as much information as you need.
So last month we were able to introduce the deliverables to you all with the help of Rachel Stevens, our associate general counsel.
And I'll pass it to Kim.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 20:22

Thank you.
So I'm gonna talk about some other highlights here.
As Juliet mentioned, we, you know first ourselves.
We consulted with our office of General Counsel.
They supported us in, you know, understanding our legal interpretation.
And and understanding the rule, making requirements and then the office of General Counsel provided some introductory materials. And then we also.
Use this to prepare materials for our internal engagement with ANRS agency of Natural Resources environmental justice network. So we consulted them and that was helpful to also inform how we introduced this deliverable to you all at the November 17 meeting.
And then I'll also just add one more thing, which is that the discussion we had about the environmental justice focused populations in that executive session also is going to inform this deliverable as well.
Alright, so annual reporting Vermont, EJ Wall requires the covered agencies to report annually on the complaints they've received pertaining to environmental justice and civil rights issue.
This deliverable is designed to encourage transparency and accountability from the covered agencies.
So the deliverable associated with this is the civil rights and EJ complaint reports which were due.
On March 15th of this year and then after the covered agencies submit their annual reports, the Advisory Council has the opportunity to review and then Prep provide recommendations to these reports.
So this also allows the Advisory Council to use their expertise and then you know, to support the covered agencies in improving their procedural responses to the complaint.
And then here is the timeline. So of course the deadline for submitting the complaint summary reports was March 15th. As I shared the Advisory Council provided recommendations on May 15th of this year.
And then from May to August, the IAC develops a work plan to improve the civil rights and EJ complaint intake systems.
And then the IC submitted.
Their response to the Advisory Council on August 15th.
And then I'm gonna pass it back to Juliet, just to share some highlights about this.

Birch, Juliet 23:24

All right.
Thanks Kim.
So last but not least, some quick highlights about annual reporting from 2025. As you may recall, early this year, our unit hosted some office hours to support covered agencies in their reports and as also some office hours to support Advisory Council members who are interested in.
Submitting a response to.
The interagency.
The committees reports.
Advisory Council members Mariana Sears and Rich Holshu submitted recommendations to the Interagency Committee. I think that was back in May. And then the Interagency Committee was able to discuss.
The civil rights and environmental justice complaint reports and the recommendations that they received from the Advisory Council back in June and actually drafted a work plan that has been.
Been discussed internally and will soon be shared with the Advisory Council.
You know there will.
There's more work to be done on that, but you know just want to note that a lot of progress has been made this year that we're really excited to share with you.
So I think that that's all that we want to share with you today in terms of a recap, I hope that that was both quick and fun as well as illustrative of all of the honestly crazy work that we've done this year.
I think we've all achieved a lot.
Are there any questions or any reflections that folks want to share from that brief little recap?
I'll stop sharing my screen so that I can see folks.

Mariana 25:18

There are two questions sent in the chat Juliet, if you haven't seen them, but I wanted to ask if we got.
People engaged in the period for public engagement after.
The let me see if I can say it.
Pending benefit guidance thingy.

There, there was a period of public comment.
Did anybody submitted comments or did we get any engagement from?
The general public, if you remember, it's just. I'm just curious. Thanks.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 25:56
Sure. Yeah, we can share again about that.
So yeah.
So we had virtual meetings and then we also had an in person meeting and so the attendance, like those meetings were small. But the folks who came were extremely engaged. So they ended up being like very small, intimate conversations about the guidance and.
Yeah. So we received a lot of great feedback verbally in those meetings.
And a lot of that was able to, you know, resulted in some some changes in the guidance itself. And then we also.
Received. I wanna say it's 14 written comments, but I can't remember exactly, but those comments were extremely robust.
And also very helpful.
So you know, it took a lot of time to get those resources together.
The task group worked really hard in supporting on that.
But those materials were went to good use.
And then we are working or we had started working on the responsiveness summary for that?
It took a long time for us to just kind of take all the information in and digest it and also review it with our legal team.
And so we'll be continuing to work on that.
In a little bit here.
Abby.

M **Mariana** 27:34
Thank you.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 27:36
Yeah. Thanks.
I was just curious, you mentioned one of the purposes of the cumulative environmental burden rule making was to inform how to use the mapping tool.

I'm just curious about what that like. Maybe setup is as the contract for the mapping tool development is underway if.
There's, like, just what the communication is, since that that rule making component is so new to most of us, maybe like is.
A&R general Counsel engaged in talking with the consultant or the contractor.
Maybe other things too, I'm not sure.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 28:17
Yeah, I guess I'll defer to Carla 'cause. She's running point on this and also might just have more perspective on timing or maybe can just speak more in general to how the deliverables informs the mapping tool.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 28:18
OK.
Thank you, Kim, and thank you, Abby, for your question.
I'm always so glad to get questions about these things because it really gives an opportunity to communicate things that are otherwise kind of in the weeds.
So the the good thing is that these two deliverables.
Are going to be advanced simultaneously. The creation of the mapping tool with the, with the engagement of the community engagement contractor, which we will very, very soon maybe tomorrow.
Select and the GIS contractor, which is stone environmental.
So that work as you know will.
Will take place very robustly next year, and the cumulative burden rule as well. So in the in the work planning it was it was included.
That the community engagement contractor and the GIS contractors would create.
A report on how to use the tool.
In and take into consideration.
And some of the some of the outputs required in law under the cumulative burden rule making process.
So what all of that means?
Is that the way that this has been envisioned?
Is that as we do the work alongside the contractors, they will produce reports that will help us inform.
That portion of the cumulative burden rule in in the statute, it appears as the third

prong of things that the agency is asked to do and that is to communicate to members of the public how to utilize the tool.
So it is envisioned that the GIS contractor and the community engagement contractors are going to help us build some of that.
Through their engagements and through the implementation of the contracts that we have with them.
So definitely that this, that it was already anticipated that this was gonna happen like this.
So we lined up the work to flow like that.
But yes, and and then your question about General counsel and legal is, yes, we regularly meet with our General Counsel's office and we are in continuous conversation with them regarding many things from.
Statutory interpretation to scoping.
Considerations to involvement of other agencies and the Advisory Council so these processes are not running independently. Rather, there are there are constant iterations between all of the groups involved.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 31:46
To Carla, that's helpful.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 31:56
Go ahead, Janet.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 31:59
Just I wonder maybe some clarification.
So the rulemaking isn't going to tell people how to use the environmental justice mapping tool.
The the two contractors are going to work on on guidelines for using the tool. The rulemaking is for.
Defining what environmental burdens are.
And and that and and.
Umm.
Right. I mean it it the the rulemaking isn't about the mapping tool.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 32:41

That question. So the rulemaking.
Process in the law actually includes the mapping tool.
And that is the third prong.
So it it it basically states that the rule will inform how the public undercover agencies will consider cumulative.
Will consider it cumulative burdens and use the mapping tool.
So it is included in that deliverable in statute.
So those are the three tasks.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 33:37
Carla, I just put that slide in the chat that we shared earlier today.
Do you want us to share screen and talk about that a little bit more?
Would that be helpful you think?
And then also Bob, I see your your hand is up.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 33:57
Yeah. Thanks for putting that back.
I mean, I see the the mapping tool as a tool that will be used to do this rulemaking, but that the rulemaking isn't.
About how to use the tool.
So let me see that.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 34:25
Carla, correct me if I'm wrong, but Janet, I think maybe the distinction here is that.
At the because the rule asks or is is trying to show covered agencies how to consider cumulative environmental burdens.
And because the map will map burdens showing in in, like a layered fashion, the tool is intended to be a tool for decision making.
And then in that case would inform how covered agencies consider environmental burdens.
So I think that that's where that distinction is, is that the tool is a key part of, you know, following through with the rule, if that makes sense.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 35:05
It's a key part I just.

I just maybe I'm being a little too pedantic but but I don't think that we're doing rulemaking about how to use the the mapping tool, and I think the mapping tool is is mapping environmental justice focus populations.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 35:19
You're correct.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 35:23
And it will be used to do the analysis.
That would look at cumulative environmental burdens that we have to look at.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 35:35
Maybe the analysis is what the rulemaking will help us.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 35:39
Yeah.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 35:40
Drive what we how we how we do it.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 35:42
Right.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 35:42
Well, this is one of I really appreciate this discussion. And Bob, I see your hand up.
What I would like to say is that.
The mapping tool will be part of the rule making process.
In terms of how?
It touches or where it touches on the cumulative burner rule.
The rule making process is not.
To to.
To instruct how to use the the tool itself, but rather how to utilize the component that involves the cumulative evaluation and so that is what the contractors are going to help us with, right?
They will identify with the input of the Advisor, Council and engagement throughout

Vermont.
Identify.
What indicators or indices will make it to or are important in the tool and then as part of the rulemaking process, we will include how the cumulative burden evaluation may be supported by the mapping tool.
So it's not, it's not the central aspect of the rule, but it is a component of the rule as it pertains to and touches on.
Burden evaluation.

DB **Donohue, Bob** 37:25
Thank you.
Yeah. So just continuing that discussion, I need more of a a tangible example to try and understand where this is going.
So if we were to look at environmental releases, be they through the air, through the water, say we had a bunch of either farms or industrial plants along the Connecticut River and their waste stream is going into the river including it.
Above, whatever the limits are allowable for whatever the toxin or element is that they're measuring.
Somebody would have to know those excursions in order to put those on a map.
So if we have an industrial polluter, we would have to know their air plume on the times that they're exceeding their limits.
Where does that go across the state of Vermont?
And it's only in knowing those multitude of potential environmental burden waste streams.
We would have to catalog all those and then overlay that as a layer of the environmental focused populations to know who's being touched by all those various.
That's how I see it.
But maybe that's not the intent, but I don't know any other way other than someone has to go around quantifying what are all the excursions.
That constitute an environmental burden and putting that on a map, you would have to have people looking at every type of.
Potential waste stream that exceeds a certain limit.
Just thinking out loud, not understanding with any clarity, but that's that's how I

would see that.
Thank you.

Raimundi, Karla 39:11
Exactly. And that's why this first iteration will not contain all of the imaginable or existing environmental burdens.
But rather we will need to prioritize with the data that's available, and also this speaks to the comment that one of the counselors shared regarding permits.
So all of that Bob and this is the first iteration and we will need to prioritize depending on what kind of data we have access to and the accuracy and validity of the data.
But in theory, we would have a tool that has overlays and the overlays may be varied and will be varied it could incorporate.
Like an overlay that.
Informs traffic transportation. It could have another.
Overlay on industrial sites it could have.
You know another overlay of on health disparities and then when making ACR and evaluation, an agency will consider.
You know the overlays depending on how the rule is developed.
And then they would make a determination based on the assessment made utilizing the tool and the burdens that are identified in the rule as a result of engagement and data assessment.

Barrett, Kim 41:02
OK.
Any other questions about this or maybe a different deliverable?

Raimundi, Karla 41:20
If I may, if I may say something here really quickly to sort of like reemphasize how important it is to get clarity on things that may be murky for you or you would want more elaboration.
The idea is that 2025 served an important purpose for many of the deliverables that we will be.
Advancing very robustly in 2026.
So the materials that were provided and the conversations that were had were

intended to serve as that foundation and that knowledge that's built and shared amongst the groups.
Will be utilized in 2026.
So the expectation is that when we start engaging around a certain deliverables that we will not.
Need to provide.
Us an extensive.
Introductory conversation.
As we've had in the past, but rather we will take things topically so that we can, you know, use our time together efficiently.
So if there are any questions with regards to any of the materials that were shared just now or in the past year, this would be a great opportunity for us to clarify any of those or provide additional materials and if needed.
As usual, we're more than glad to.
To meet with any of you individually to go over those foundational pieces.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 43:13
Janet. And then Abby.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 43:17
So now I've forgotten the timeline for the.
The the mapping tool development.
But I presume that the environmental.
Just the interagency committee will be pulled in at various aspects.
Or various times as they're developing these different data layers for the tool.
For input.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 43:49
Yeah, definitely.
So just another kind of recap.
Is that both the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee were written into both RFP's, so there's. So both the contractor will don't. And then whoever the the community engagement contractor will be.
You will all have the opportunity to collaborate with them, communicate with them and.

And what we don't know what the meeting structure will look like yet.
But I think something that we've asked before and something that would be really helpful for you all to assess going into the January is how much time you personally might want to contribute to this work or maybe there are topics that you like. For example, Janet, if you?
Really interested in the data and the layering and things like that.
Then we can work to pull you in.
You know when those things are happening, your folks are really interested in being a part of the community engagement side of things. Like there's a lot of space for that.
So I just want to make it clear that that's an expectation that's written into the RFP's and the proposals reflect that expectation.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 45:10
And so.
Remind me, though, when the what's the rulemaking deadline? Was it July 2027 or 8?

WA **Willard, Abbey** 45:24
January 127.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 45:26
January 127. Wow.
And that's is that a deadline to have a finished rule or is that a deadline to Elkhart?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 45:40
Roll.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 45:41
Wow, that doesn't seem.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 45:43
I'm sorry, I thought you were asking about the mapping tool, Janet.
My notes show that the mapping tool is due January 1st, 2027.
The cumulative environmental burden rulemaking is due July 1st, 27th.

Raimundi, Karla 45:53
July.

Hurley, Janet 45:54
OK.
That's better.
Half is a little worried, cause the rulemaking process isn't quick.

Raimundi, Karla 46:02
Mm-hmm.

Hurley, Janet 46:02
And.
So I'll just say that the the lurb is really busy through the throughout this period trying to implement ACT 181 and.
I definitely want to be involved and maybe more so in the.
Development of the.
The the tool because the tool is going to be identifying who are EJ focused populations are and it's going to be identifying what those environmental burdens are. And I feel like it.
You know this this body, the two bodies together are the bodies that should be overseeing that kind of policy determination.
So I'm I'm hoping that I have the bandwidth to stay on top of things, but if we could, you know if we could get regular.
Updates or regular timelines as they are modified so that we can keep abreast of where we can fit ourselves in. That would be really helpful.

Barrett, Kim 47:21
Sounds good.
Bob.

Donohue, Bob 47:36
Yeah, one last comment and then I'll stay quiet.
In the current state of Vermont, PCB testing in all schools was mandated by law.

For which the remediation, mitigation or abatement was not funded adequately and remains woefully underfunded going forward.
Yet the mandate to do the PCB testing is still out there.
Just taking that as an example, we could spend a great deal of effort.
Mapping that out.
Understanding what focused populations are impacted just to come to the conclusion, we have no resources to deal with it at all. Much like I just got done doing a school wide facilities assessment for the whole state. It ends up being like $8 billion / 20 years and.
State legislators say you think we have money for that.
So while the initiative in and of itself is wonderful, it has to be paired.
In unison with the same sort of focus on how to come up with a sustainable funding model to address the environmental burdens that we, ourselves are saying are unacceptable.
So I reiterate re echo everything I've been saying while we're doing all this work, there have to be backdoor discussions saying we're following the law. You who make the law, put your collective minds together to come up with funding streams to deal with that. What you're telling us.
We must deal this because to go through all this rule making and all of this analysis is wonderful.
But if it just ends up with data that goes on a shelf that we then talk about next year and the year after, acknowledge, it's important but don't fund it.
It just is performative.
So I think that's really key.
Thank you.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 49:36
Thanks for sharing, Bob.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 49:38
Yeah, Bob, what I I have a different question, but I just want to like build on what you're saying is what I I think I'm understanding your comment to be is kind of the investment and implementation capacity across the covered agencies, so.
Yes, build the.
Build the tool.

Conduct the rulemaking and then where's the implementation capacity to ensure that state agencies are able to kind of like do what was what's being asked.
So yeah.
I feel a little bit of that even on like the environmental benefits, spending reporting kind of proportionality piece of like it's great to do these baseline reports and important to do the annual reporting, but then starting to think about kind of like how might we do proportional improve.
In our programming that also has a capacity component.
The other, the piece that the reason I raise my hand was just wondering specifically about the opportunity to engage other staff from within our agencies. Other subject matter experts that might have.
You know, particularly GIS or mapping expertise, so that may not be my area of expertise as our agency's designee, but we may have, we do have staff within our agency that are not here at the IAC level.
That could be valuable.
Have you know meaningful insight?
Just curious if there's been thought around how to bring in agency department expertise.
On that particular deliverable.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 51:19
For mapping.
Yeah, I would say that we're open to that.
And again, the way that the RFP's are written is there's space for folks.
So I think it really just comes down to what's best for you all. And once you start identifying who those subject matter experts would be, your folks that you feel like should be involved. Just let us know.
But just know that it's it's all possible.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 51:52
It just means it's different than IACAC joint meetings where those conversations would happen. But actually again some sort of subgroup or task group where we might have some additional expertise that and individuals that would participate in those calls or conversations with the contractors.

Barrett, Kim 52:10

Yeah. Yes, exactly I would.
Yeah, definitely.
I also.
So I see everyone's hands.
I also wanna make sure that we're giving space for Advisory Council members to ask questions as well, especially if they may have some perspective or questions that pertain more to their side of things.
So just wanted to share that.
And then, Carla, I see your hand.

Raimundi, Karla 52:38

I think this is actually responsive to Abby's and Janet's underlying inquiry regarding engagement and ability to inform and participate in the creation of the mapping tool itself.
And one of the things that we will be doing is we will invite the contractors to a public meeting to have conversations with all of us.
And not only that, but also there is.
A work plan.
That includes conversations outside the public setting just for efficiencies and continuity of operations and conversations.
That will take place with Advisory Council members and with IAC members, and the goal is that all of that, all of the resources that you're speaking to Abhi, that may exist within our agencies will be communicated and leveraged.
This is really a collective endeavor. The agency is just the conduit.
Our agency.
The Agency of Natural Resources is the conduit through which we capture, organize, and then have the conversations. But the intention is that this process will be informed by the engagement with the Council, with the Council, with the Advisory Council and with other agencies.
Ultimately, we will be utilizing this.
Tool with the data that's inserted in it, so we must ensure that the data is.
That the data that gets incorporated actually gets us to where we need to be.

Barrett, Kim 54:45

Thanks Carla.
I'm just going to hold some space here and see if anyone else has a question.
Who hasn't shared yet?
OK. Any last questions before we move on?
Alright, sounds good.
OK.
So now we're gonna move into your breakout groups.
So I think we have three Advisory Council members.
On the call.
Yeah. So we're gonna meet separately. This is unstructured time.
Thank you, Juliet, for the Advisory Council and Interagency Committee to separately advance.
The work of their body.
Some we have some potential topics here.
And we created this list based on conversations that you all have actually had, like questions and ideas.
So some of the topics are what are governance options that you'd like to work through.
Do you wanna have?
Working groups.
And then what does collaboration within your group look like?
A lot of you have mentioned in the past that you really wanna strengthen collaboration and coalition building and and I feel like there's been a lot of momentum actually in the last few meetings around that.
So that could be a topic legislative organizing some folks have mentioned being interested in that. And then of course, their deliverables that you might wanna talk through.
Yeah. And then we have some.
Reminders.
Yes, because the next slide, Juliet.
Or maybe outcomes first.
Yeah. So the outcome is basically that both groups, you'll walk away with understanding maybe more about your structure if you want to designate team leads

and then any need that you might have.
And then here suggestions that we've shared before just to be mindful of equity and air time.
Embrace silence, these solutions.
Focus where possible, action oriented.
And identify clear next steps.
When possible. So.
Those are our suggestions and I think we're just gonna make we'll use the larger group here.
Or the main room for the interagency committee. And then we'll create a small breakout group for the AC members.
So just give me a moment to work on that.

Mariana 58:05
Kim, I have a question.
Are you either of you?
From the EJ are going to join us or this is going to be.
Yes.

Barrett, Kim 58:18
Yeah, one of us will join just so that we can record.

Mariana 58:23
Yeah, yeah.
And also just so that we look back to those.
To the outcomes that you mentioned and to make sure that we know exactly what teams are we talking about and what.
Yeah, just to make sure that we have questions. Thanks.

Barrett, Kim 58:35
Yep.
Sure. Yeah. I'll be sure that we we can one of us will make sure it's in the chat for you as well.
Alright, so just give me one second.

Raimundi, Karla 58:46

I want to mention Kim before we break out for Advisory Council members.
This is an opportunity also for you to have conversations regarding whatever needs to be discussed amongst yourselves, right?
It's really not.
We're not intending to prescribe what the conversation is going to look like or or what you're going to be talking about.
An example is for the governance document that was shared. If there's appetite to have that conversation, this will be an opportunity to do that and then bring back to the Interagency committee as sort of like a recommendation or you know, something to offer for further conversation. So this.
Is really an opportunity to have conversations about the content that we provided come up with questions come back with that or any other topic that you so desire to discuss.

Barrett, Kim 59:44

Yeah, I think I saw someone else join.
I'm not sure who exactly, but I'm just gonna keep chugging away at this.
So if you want to take a break.

Birch, Juliet 59:55

Yeah, I think from the, oh, sorry, I just want to say I think from the Advisory Council, we've got rich, Mariana, Britney and Jennifer.

Barrett, Kim 1:00:04

Oh, OK, alright yeah. If you all just wanna take a couple minutes break, maybe walk around, do something, give yourself a break from the screen.

Birch, Juliet 1:00:05

Yep.

Barrett, Kim 1:00:16

And then I'll keep doing this.
Alright everyone.

I succeeded.
There was a little bit of an issue.
For some reason I can't assign you rich or Jennifer.
I can't put you in another group, so I did it backwards and so all the IC members will go into a group and then the rest of us will stay in the main group.
All right.
Yeah, I'm gonna open up the rooms now.
Let me know if there are any issues that come.
OK.
It worked.
Alright, so I'm only here just so. Well, it doesn't even matter anymore. 'cause, we're in the main thing and it's recorded. So I'm just going to put.
Some of the outcomes in the chat for you, Mariana, and then I'll be off camera and not.
Essentially not here unless you meet me for something.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:03:51
Hola, Buenos. Yes.

M **Mariana** 1:03:55
Hi, how are you?

RH **rich holschuh** 1:03:57
I'm well.
I'm.

M **Mariana** 1:04:00
What are you?
What are you geographically located?

RH **rich holschuh** 1:04:06
Oh, I'm down in Brattleboro and.

M **Mariana** 1:04:08
Brattleboro, OK.

rich holschuh 1:04:09
11 tasks to go we got about 6 to 8 inches of snow last night.

Mariana 1:04:15
Yeah, same here. Although it was during the day.

rich holschuh 1:04:16
Yeah.

Mariana 1:04:18
I'm in Essex junction.

rich holschuh 1:04:22
Hello, Jennifer.

Mariana 1:04:22
It's it's nice.

Jennifer Byrne 1:04:27
Hi there.
It's good to see all.

Mariana 1:04:30
Hi, Jennifer.
Where are you to?

Jennifer Byrne 1:04:32
I'm in Newbury.

Mariana 1:04:35
OK.

Jennifer Byrne 1:04:36
And today we just planted the the rest of our like conservation District's trees into

nursery.
So we're digging in the snow to get like all the baby trees back underground is definitely the last day to do it.
So we'll have a lot more in the spring, so it's great.
We have like a huge.
Just number of different.
Pipes and many of them food bearing, so it's exciting.

Mariana 1:05:02
Nice.

rich holschuh 1:05:03
Were these like bare root beer root stubs that you're healing in?

Jennifer Byrne 1:05:06
Mm-hmm.
Yep. Basically. Yeah. Yep.

rich holschuh 1:05:11
OK.
Cool.

Jennifer Byrne 1:05:14
Yeah, I can put.
I can put a link to the resource even because it's it's open for the spring as well.

Mariana 1:05:26
Hmm.

Jennifer Byrne 1:05:26
But the there's a like a watershed distinction.
So it has to be within the Connecticut watershed basically.
Yeah. Let me find it.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:05:39
We qualify down here.

M **Mariana** 1:05:40
I think it's a OK.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:05:43
And they have to have livestock.

M **Mariana** 1:05:45
I.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:05:47
It's like 4 laptop burner.

M **Mariana** 1:05:47
Yeah, I saw some information of your. I think I have it somewhere around here.
Of your conservation district, during the farm to play conference.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:05:59
Open.

M **Mariana** 1:05:59
And I I talked to someone there and told him that I knew I knew you.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:06:05
Nice, nice.

M **Mariana** 1:06:06
Yeah, there were two people there.
It's great.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:06:08
Yeah.

Mariana 1:06:08
I really like your flyer.
It was very, very easy to read and and yeah, I. Yeah. I wondered if other conservation districts do the same type of outreach.
It was just you guys there I think.

Jennifer Byrne 1:06:22
Yeah, we're usually the only ones at that particular conference, but everybody is doing something different.
Yeah, because it's a regional.
It's like watershed level, which is what's cool about it is like it's geographic boundaries of.

Mariana 1:06:36
Yeah.

Jennifer Byrne 1:06:37
An established you know government.

Mariana 1:06:40
Yeah, it's great. It's really good.

Jennifer Byrne 1:06:42
It's cool.
And our mandate is like grow trees and put them into the community.
So we're like, can they be trees with food on them?
And turns out yes.

Mariana 1:06:54
It's perfect.
I I really been thinking.
I mean, I know this.
I I didn't want to go there because I know this meeting is not about that, but I've been thinking about you.

Particularly in the conservation districts, because we do have the food security networks.
That divide the state of Vermont in in small networks of, you know, in local networks of people that work around food access and.
And I thought, hmm, how interesting if we could combine the divisions.
And you know, allowing our foot secure networks with the the conservation districts because in a way we do similar.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:07:33
Mm-hmm.

M **Mariana** 1:07:34
A similar you know mission, which is to keep people well fed.
I mean you, you guys have have a different mission, but I mean, I'm sure that it is connected in a way.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:07:41
Yeah.
I mean, at the heart of it, isn't it about, like providing for all and thinking about like 50?
So one of our top line missions, although we've always been focused since it was like established 85 years ago, focused on like natural resources divided up like in little pieces like siloed, you know.

M **Mariana** 1:08:00
Hmm.
Yeah.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:08:07
But they're not really thinking about like the end product of food.
And maybe, I don't know.

M **Mariana** 1:08:12
Hmm.

Jennifer Byrne 1:08:15
Not by and large, but.
Anyway, yeah. So for us arch, one of our top line, you know missions basically is to provide for like think about like proteins, fats and carbs like how how much could grow in a perennial food system with all these.

Mariana 1:08:31
Oh.

Jennifer Byrne 1:08:33
We have the trees, the seedlings, and then you can build the system of gleaners and harvesters and that kind of thing, but that that squarely falls within like conservation like it's the human component of like, it's not just good for wildlife, it's also good for people and that.

Mariana 1:08:36
No.

Jennifer Byrne 1:08:50
Good too.
You know, we don't have to be separated from the woods.

Mariana 1:08:52
Right, absolutely.
Yeah, yeah, yeah, totally, totally.
And you'll you'll you know.
Yeah. We'll talk more about it at some other point, but we in the networks, we do have a lot of contacts with cleaners and with farmers and and yeah, other different organizations working in food access.
So it'll be nice to to have a a deeper conversation. At some point. We could do that.
Anyway, so it was.
We were supposed to be aware of the silence and I'm already here.
Like blah blah blah. So zip it.
Or at least, let's talk about what are we supposed to be talking about?

Which is always very mysterious and surprising.
I'm not sure.
Maybe you want to bring about that document that you share with us before Jennifer or reach, do you have?

rich holschuh 1:09:46
The government.
No, I I.

Mariana 1:09:49
Yeah, unless you do.
You have other ideas?
I I don't.
I don't have any particular.

rich holschuh 1:09:54
I don't either.
I I I still literally spend every meeting trying to keep up.
I feel like Jennifer's got a better handle on these things. Having having worked on on some of these initiatives in the past and contributed to the to the formation of the of the law.

Mariana 1:10:03
I have.
Right.

rich holschuh 1:10:16
But I'm still, I'm still struggling.
Obviously, we're still having a attendance issue too.
So I don't think we're alone in this.

Mariana 1:10:31
Yeah, totally.

rich holschuh 1:10:32

And it's a holiday.
Ish.

Jennifer Byrne 1:10:35
There were a lot of meetings.

Mariana 1:10:35
Yeah.

Jennifer Byrne 1:10:36
Suddenly, I wasn't anticipating this.
Many like right around this time of year, but maybe we should do the circle at least to make sure everybody has equal. If people want to just.

rich holschuh 1:10:39
Yeah.

Mariana 1:10:40
Yeah.

rich holschuh 1:10:42
Yep.

Mariana 1:10:42
Yeah.

Jennifer Byrne 1:10:50
Check in and pass.
What do you think?
OK, thanks. We're supposed to talk about.

Mariana 1:10:54
Yeah.
Yeah. Well, in this, in my camera, they're just besides the two of you that I can see you. There are two other.

People with the camera off, I think one is Kim, but the other person, I'm not sure if it's Avi or.

Jennifer Byrne 1:11:13
Think Britney is here? It's Britney here.

Mariana 1:11:15
Oh, Brittany. OK, OK.

rich holschuh 1:11:16
Brittany Watson.
Yep.

Mariana 1:11:20
And Brittany, if you want to kick off, if not, we could just start as ourselves.
And.
And see if she's surface.
Oh, there she is.

Watson, Britaney 1:11:36
I'm sorry. You what? What's the ask?

Mariana 1:11:39
Yeah.

rich holschuh 1:11:43
We're just making sure you're with us and and and want to give you an opportunity to to say something right now if you'd like.

Watson, Britaney 1:11:45
Oh, OK.
No, I'm just.

rich holschuh 1:11:52
Reacting to what our what our charge is for this discussion group.

Watson, Britaney 1:12:00
Oh no, I'm good. I'm just listening.

rich holschuh 1:12:02
OK.

Mariana 1:12:07
I I could just briefly say that starting by sharing that I would love to if we have a little bit of time to review your your government options, Jennifer.
So if the three of us or the four of us can come to an agreement on some one step toward that, that'll be wonderful.
And also I'm not sure what it means about the working groups that means.
The subcommittees.
For the deliverables, like the Community engagement subgroup, I don't know what it means. Working groups and then the legislative organizing. I don't know if that's something that.
I think I remember that at some point, some of us said if we could go back to the legislature to advocate for either changes in the law or.
Or if that has to do with the redefinition, I know that the definition was something that you reach brought up the definition of environmental justice.
I'm not sure what legislative organizing.
It seems like a very.
General outcome.
Not sure what.
Same with the deliverables.
I'm not sure what we specifically of all the things that we could be talking about, which of these could be?
About and that's. Yeah, that's good.

rich holschuh 1:13:25
Kim, do you wanna add to that?

Barrett, Kim 1:13:27
Sure, I can answer if you'd like me to.

So legislative organizing, we're speaking to what you said, Mariana, that several folks expressed interest at different times throughout the year about wanting to explore potentially going back to the legislature or even you know, creating documents or letters.
Coming from the Advisory Council.
And so.
Just offering that that's reflecting back that that's something we heard and something you all might be interested in discussing, even if just in an exploratory way.
Because it was brought up and then deliverables.
Yeah, that was just like a general bullet.
Sometimes folks have questions around particular deliverables or wanna talk through them.
Like I think in the past, Victor wanted to talk through.
I forget which one.
So that's just bears a reminder.
But you can use this time for whatever whatever you'd like. You know, just step back.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:14:50
Thank you, Kim.
So I see Jennifer put the the doc in the chat.
That we looked at previously.
I think there was some inclination to pursue this.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:15:10
And I worry about anything being too complicated. Like nothing is the law, but it's just like, what are the actual agreements and and what I heard, I guess from the reaction.
From you know an Rs point of view in terms of having to rotate people and not be having them really understand what's going on.
Can be a a problem?
So they want to have like, fewer people who are serving as the, quote UN quote chair.
For them, that would require one or two or three Advisory Council members doing more.

And yeah, so there's a lot of questions like that of like how the my question is sort of what are we trying to solve for like what's the function?
What's a functioning council look like?
How would we like to see it and then maybe work backwards from there?

RH **rich holschuh** 1:16:00
Mm-hmm.

M **Mariana** 1:16:04
Yeah. I I I don't have a lot of experiences with consoles.
And and I bet that there there are a lot of models out there.
So I think.
We should try to come up with whatever we think might be good for us. What I feel is like.
That we are not independent.
Well, that we're very depending dependent.
On on, on, on, on a train that is rolling and we're like we're riding on this train and we need to move forward because these are this.
This is what the law says.
So whereas a Council seems like emerges from the relational experience of people, and then they start.
Moving the train forward, but that's what in my in my mind, imagination. That's what a counselor is is people that get together because they know each other. They trust each other.
They have experiences together and they create something out of that.
For me, here is kind of the opposite.
If there's something created and we are just a part that we've been told that we need to contribute to this part, this train, that's this thing that is moving.
So that's that's why I feel that sometimes we're a little on the loose and if we could take a little bit of ownership in some of this.
Process it could.
Perhaps gives us a little bit more of.
I don't know of.
Maybe a feel of empowerment.
Or maybe I feel like we are less on the loose.

But at the same time I.
Yeah, there's there's a law that and and the dates and all that structure that is around us and I'm not sure how to.
Yeah, I don't know where I'm going.
I can see myself rambling, so I'll stop.

rich holschuh 1:18:10
I'm embracing the silence.

Mariana 1:18:14
Totally.
Then one more thing that I can say is that.
For my, I participate in this space as part of my work.
So I do have a set amount of time that I know that I that I am allocating for this work.
And it doesn't matter to me if I if I am chairing a A committee or or I'm using it for a small group or for this in this joint meeting.
Things if we decide that that my energies, if we decide as a Council, as a group, that I could be used, that I could use this time in a different way, that we all decide because it's needed by the group, I'm happy to do that. Like for inst.
When you said Jennifer a minute ago, it seems like there are concerns that we will be doing more work.
Because if we chair something or or if we, you know, are developing agenda so whatever it is that we.
Need to do.
For me it will if it's the same amount of time as sitting in meetings.
I don't mind doing some other work.
Perhaps these long meetings could be shorter in a way to give us room for doing some other format or some other work I don't know.

rich holschuh 1:19:51
I understand that there.
'S things that need to be done and deadlines to be met.
But three hours is a long, long meeting.
For me.

Mariana 1:20:04
Hey, sue.

rich holschuh 1:20:11
It's a.
It's a perpetual quandary here.
There's things that have to be done.
And there's some staff that's doing them. And then the rest of us are, although I I do say that I do observe that the agency.
Committee members seem to understand what's going on, but then again, it's.
I don't know.
It's it's.
Within their, their body of experience or their wheelhouse.
Or I don't know what you call it.
Umm.
I don't even understand what some of the words are that get tossed around.
The the office jargon.
I mean, I do. I do.
But they're just unfamiliar to me.

Mariana 1:20:55
Yeah, when they are put together in a long presentation, my my mind cannot follow.
I if I grab each word or if we stop in each thing, maybe I can, but.

rich holschuh 1:21:00
Yeah.

Mariana 1:21:06
Yeah, I see what I mean.

rich holschuh 1:21:10
It.
Yeah.
To make random random observations all over the place.

But it it's interesting that when we were talking about something like environmental justice, which talks about real impacts to real people.
It's not. Doesn't seem very real.

Mariana 1:21:33
Totally.

rich holschuh 1:21:35
Yep.

Mariana 1:21:37
Jennifer, you've been from the very beginning and around this work. What were you? What were you envisioning or what?
What was the the visions of the people who put together this law for this cancel?

Jennifer Byrne 1:21:50
I mean, yeah, I can't.
I can speak for myself, but.
I I feel like in terms of this Council being able to do exactly what rich just said.
I'd like go back and remember how you said it, but you know really it's about like serving people so like connecting resources to what people need, like in a more efficient way as a government. Since like, there's so many overlapping silos of resources.
And it makes everything more complicated.
The kind of in terms of resource distribution that more people would have access to to resources, and the question is how and and it's like it's the interface between the government and the people and how they communicate.
And through this Advisory Council, you know, it could be a way just like the first meeting that we had of the Advisory Council, where people showed up and, like, made public comment.
For several times they did.
But there really was a number of them who had stories to tell, like they were basically was like their last or maybe first, like place that they could go to, like kind of report.
Like, this is what's happening in my community.
This is like on our street like this where we need help.

You know, like being able to direct to who needs, how do we prioritize like the funding that is available.
Maybe there's more.
Maybe there's less, but there's money available and.
Somehow it gets out the door to people.
So how do you like, you know, find the people that need the money?
First of all, make sure they're through the process and have the applications, and that's the kind of stuff that we do with farmers is like filling out their application and stuff. And it's just there's a process for everything.
So it clogs the whole system.
When things are siloed, I could go on that ramble, but I guess for the purpose of this like.
I think it would be really good for us to at least have like.
An agreement that when we start, we go around the like we have to hear from each other somehow and I think that's the only just like thinking about this process proposal, it doesn't have to be as detailed.
It's kind of like legally, like right now.
It's just kind of uncomfortable, but it's like if we could even break this down to like 3 bullet points, we could probably do that in a sense.
Kind of knowing what it means and how we want to operate as a group.
And also taking public comment like actually encouraging people to like, report stories like we should be cataloging like qualitative stories and seeing where, like, where are the problems. I would love to have like a huge database of problems. I've shared my broken things list before like we have.
A spreadsheet.
It's open to all to add to, but you know just things in the system that blockade, you know, like kind of the flow of of money and food.
And people.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:24:51
Hmm.
Broken things list, huh?
I see the message from Kim. We're getting called back in 6 minutes.
Yep. Thank you, Jennifer.

Jennifer Byrne 1:25:28

I I put it in the chat.
I don't care who sees it.
This is just how I catalog.
It's kind of out of date, but it has nothing to do with this, but just to show that like there, I think that there are points where we can be gathering data to make fixes. If we're speaking to more people and getting their input into decision making and.

rich holschuh 1:25:33

And.

Jennifer Byrne 1:25:44

So that's where like the EJ map you know really could be a tool to hear from people and for people to hear from their government about like.
There's, you know, a permit that's available for public comment over here to maybe to expand.
The Lun feller to do all number of things. There's permits, you know, delivered every day.
But do you know about them?
And so that's kind of where this Advisory Council would, you know, could help to sort of make sure that that's connecting to their communities and they have a way in to sort of report these complex problems that, you know and they need assistance like technical assistance or Finan.
Assistance both.
And that's what the government's for.

rich holschuh 1:26:29

That's quite a list.
Wow.
Hmm.
Imagine if everybody did this. Wow.

Jennifer Byrne 1:26:52

And then we can use AI to process it and it would take like a moment we could actually make things better.

rich holschuh 1:27:15
So when you were you mentioned a few minutes ago about, you said condensing this to three bullet points to pick a number. And when you when you were talking about this, are you talking about the governance document?
OK.
Yeah, that might be.
Certainly a place to start.
Not sure we're going to do that right now.
We got 3 minutes left.
Welcome back.

Mariana 1:28:23
Sorry.
My computer decided to leave me before I could plug it in.
Did I miss some silence or did I miss conversation?

rich holschuh 1:28:37
Jennifer had suggested that perhaps.
A place to start with this governance document would be to sort of extract and she may be working on this at the moment.
Extract 3 major points just to make it a little more accessible and presentable.

Mariana 1:28:52
Oh yeah.
Yeah.
Yeah, totally.
That's a great idea.
And and sorry, Jennifer, that we kind of end up looking at you as.
A as a guide guidance person here.
I hope we're not overburdened you.

Jennifer Byrne 1:29:13

No, and it's like however, I can be like assist but just like use me where I'm needed and then like that I think that that it could function as you know like more of like can like that each Council member truly is like a a beacon like a.
Focal point. Kind of like like connector to, you know, a wide array of programs.
Or services. I mean information you know, like there's critical information and that's what, you know, the other side of it is like.
With environmental justice is access to information and resources.

Mariana 1:29:49
Yeah. When?
When you just I'll mention Rich, do you want to say something?
I tend to jump in, but please I don't.
I don't mind being stopped.

rich holschuh 1:30:00
No, no, go ahead.

Mariana 1:30:01
Great when Jennifer said.
I'm just gonna because my daughter not to bother my coworkers. But when Jennifer said.
That she wanted to be a BB staff.
Of problems and and so that we gonna start.
Trying to yeah, listen to people.
See what we can do.
That made me make me think that.
That is why I joined this this when I joined, I thought, yeah, we're going to be listening to people as a Council and trying to tell them what to do. Somehow, even though I I thought at the beginning I didn't think I had any experience to connect people.
With resources, but environmental justice resources.
But I actually think that we have advanced a lot.
Not in our knowledge.
Of some of the resources, or at least we have met some of the agency people that can connect people with resources.

So I would love to just start by creating a space.
Kind of like not waiting until all this deliverables.
That sounds so technical. It's almost like we have to prepare all these structures before actually listening to people and actually doing something for people. It feels to me.
So I would love to.
To have some time in our public meetings for invite people to come and say whatever it is that they are facing in their communities and we could at least listen and try.
To.
Yeah, to direct them to some of the resources that are already available.
And walk the walk with them as opposed to.
Continue to work on all these deliverables that create this, this.
Structure for later identify these people and these problems and.
And yeah, I I feel like a part of me.
That's that's not want to wait until that time. We could start doing things right now and have a little bit of us our space to share with people more intentional.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 1:32:19
Are you guys still with me bringing everyone back?
I don't want to cut you off if you have anything else you want to finish up.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 1:32:35
I'm just putting the document in the chat with like 8 like bubble down. You know bullet point and maybe like a next step would be like to make sure we have.
A consensus on the Council around, you know, a simplified process of how we meet together and then at least we can move on from there.
And I don't know.
I think there's still that conversation about like, this whole rotating chair thing.
I think it would be lovely to be facilitated by a different person.
And every time like, I don't think that that's a problem and we're trying to keep up as best we can.
So yeah, I think it could work.

RH **rich holschuh** 1:33:10

Jennifer, looks like you need to add sharing privileges.
Yeah, there it is.
Key steps.

Barrett, Kim 1:33:40
OK, sounds good.
I'm gonna close the room.

rich holschuh 1:33:44
All right.

Barrett, Kim 1:34:15
Hello everyone.
Hope you all had a good conversation over there.
Let's go ahead.
There's no members of the public on the call right now.
How would you all feel about taking like a 10 minute break?
I don't folks want to eat food.
Does that timing feel good? 10 minutes.
OK.
Let's come back at 3:55.

Raimundi, Karla 1:46:18
I should have started the meeting by saying Happy RTO week.

Birch, Juliet 1:46:26
For for you, Mariana, since you're not a state of Vermont employee, that's the return to office.
I don't know if you know the governor is having us work hybrid three days a week in office, so it's very exciting to say the least.

Mariana 1:46:43
Is today the first day the official first day?

Birch, Juliet 1:46:47
December 1st was so Monday of this week. Yeah.

Mariana 1:46:50
I see.
So now every every state employee has to be in office three days a week or vice versa.

Birch, Juliet 1:46:55
I think there's some exceptions depending on the type of employee, but not a lot, yeah.

Raimundi, Karla 1:47:00
Select.

Mariana 1:47:00
I see.
Yeah. Gotcha.
Well, you'll have a lot of fun, more fun time though.

Raimundi, Karla 1:47:06
Yeah, yeah, some things are impacted.

Birch, Juliet 1:47:06
Yep, definitely.

Mariana 1:47:07
Maybe.

Birch, Juliet 1:47:09
Mariano, by the way, I love the color of your sweater.
It's like a nice emerald.

Raimundi, Karla 1:47:15
Jewel tongue.

Mariana 1:47:15
Thank you. I don't even know where I got it from. That's my reality.

Birch, Juliet 1:47:22
That's lucky though.
You got. You got lucky. Wherever it came from.

Mariana 1:47:26
I am.
I am an awful recycler.

Raimundi, Karla 1:48:08
We're a time to come back.
Welcome back folks.
Juliet, would you like us?
Would you like to take us to the next portion of the agenda while?
Kim come comes back out.
There she is.

Barrett, Kim 1:48:44
Hello everyone.
I think it makes sense to just kind of readjust.
We have less AC folks on the call.
And so I think it might actually make more sense for you all to share debrief now.
Of just what you all discussed, whatever you want to share. But I think most important.
Would be any administrative next steps like any decisions that were made, and then what steps?
Each body needs to take to move forward.
Jennifer.

Jennifer Byrne 1:49:49

Yeah. Hi.

So I don't think any decisions are made per southeast.

There's a document in the chat, but I guess I would wonder. The document is to to basically simplify what we had before and to a basic process.

But I kind of wonder about like, even when we come back together as like as, like a interagency maybe having a similar kind of circle process because it's hard to know like.

Who's to speak?

And it could be quick, it could be brief.

People can pass, but like when we.

Yeah.

Raimundi, Karla 1:50:23

So what is the document that you put on the chat, Jennifer?

1.

Jennifer Byrne 1:50:37

It was a of simplification of the other kind of process. We're still trying to figure out like the process for.

Like how we can all like be here and, you know, serve this Council.

Raimundi, Karla 1:50:53

So it's a governance structure for the AC, because there there's the.

Jennifer Byrne 1:50:58

Yeah. And when I'm, I guess when I'm requesting or like offering or like asking is like if one of the main things in this list is just like that we use a circle as a council.

Like at least once, maybe twice in the meeting.

Like, begin the meetings.

End the meeting so that everybody at least has a chance and they can speak for as long as they want their members and of the Council, and that's their time.

And yeah, so I guess what I'm saying is it would be helpful to in the interagency.

Agency Council relationship to have a similar kind of thing.

Birch, Juliet 1:51:35
I just I think that, you know, interagency committee members should weigh in here if they're interested in something like that.
But I just wanted to offer towards the end of this meeting, we'll talk a little bit about kind of how we're thinking about structuring next year and our meetings for next year. And part of that is thinking about Jennifer, the proposal that you guys are talking about for.
You know, having rotating chairs for the Advisory Council and I think.
We could definitely incorporate something like that into any time where the Advisory Council is working with the interagency.
Committee as well. It's definitely feasible.

Jennifer Byrne 1:52:14
Go on.
And the document is we were just trying to simplify them.
That was part of the discussion when we were away.

Barrett, Kim 1:52:33
OK.
Any anything that IC members want to share before we move on to all collectively working together.

Raimundi, Karla 1:52:45
I would like to since.
The circle process was mentioned for the AC.
Perhaps we could start now.
Right.
And we should do the circle process, if that's OK with everyone.
So, Jennifer, are you complete with the updates? OK.
Who would like to go next from the Advisory Council?

rich holschuh 1:53:16
I'll. I'll go ahead.

Raimundi, Karla 1:53:18
Greg, thank you.

rich holschuh 1:53:19
I don't have a lot to add. This is rich.
I think as several of us on the Advisory Council.
And I I I want to embrace again the fact that we're we still continue to have. We have a hard time with attendance.
It's hard to get folks to show up these meetings, and so it's not a lot of us here.
So we we can only speak for ourselves and I think that attendance might be a reflection of the fact that.
There's a lot going on.
It's hard to follow and.
This governance.
These governance suggestions are an attempt to sort of bring some grounding from.
Our or my?
Rather plebeian position.
I have no idea what's going on sometimes.
And.
It's it's, it's hard.
So we're trying to, yeah, I I my comment was that with environmental justice.
As as an idea, we're talking about real impacts on real people and I think a lot of the folks who are impacted would have no idea what we're talking about here.
It's it's. It is what it is.
Laws are like that.
Governmental structures are like that.
The disconnect is profound. Often.
So that's it.
Circles are great.
So I'll I'll step out of the circle now and turn it over to Mariana perhaps.

Mariana 1:55:04
Sure. Thanks rich.
I'll take the term now.

Yeah, my hope would be is that we can try to.
Break a little bit that structure, that disconnect us so much and get some how more connected. Let us be creative and hopeful and within the structure, let's create something a little bit more flexible like the bamboo. You know it's there. It can move with a win, but it.
Still is there so.
I don't know.
I'm trying to have a hopeful stance.
And yeah, the the circle is one for instance. So I'm glad that we're starting this way and.
Yeah. And let us continue to bring ideas that make us feel less lost or lost and more empowered and more connected to each other.
And I pass it to Rebecca.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 1:56:14
Hey, Rebecca, it sounds like your mic might not be working.
We can't hear you. Sorry.

WR **Walsh, Rebecca** 1:56:18
Sorry, I forget that I have to keep speaking specifically into this little thing.
Here is this share circle for the AC members specifically or for all the Members on this meeting.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 1:56:33
Now.

WR **Walsh, Rebecca** 1:56:36
OK.
I don't specifically have anything to add at this time.
But I guess I should pass the circle along to another member. I can pass along to Abby.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 1:56:57
Rebecca.
I too like this idea of.

Kind of a circle space.
My kind of reactions and reflections of right now are I feel very.
Distracted by the deliverables as a covered agency.
I wouldn't say that.
I feel very connected to the ACE to to you as AC members and other AC members that aren't here.
We've carved out a little bit of time to connect with other covered agencies on specific tasks.
Just been nice outside of joint meetings.
But really, I feel like all of my EJ time is focused on.
Our own agency's creation of documents and internal communication and really needing to comply with the timelines and the tasks that have been outlined in Act 154.
And it does sometimes feel like.
There's this race to just like.
Stay on top of those deliverables as opposed to that, like back up and take that bigger look at what are we doing together?
What was the original intent?
How might this be implemented and change our culture or our actions?
I'm happy to pass it to Jenny.

RJ **Ronis, Jenny** 1:58:50
Abby, I find myself shaking.
Or like not big, big head nods to everything you said about.
Just like I I I literally in another window right now, have a very terrible draft of a baseline spending report. 'cause. I'm like, well, we're thinking about it.
We're talking about it.
It's and I and I want to make sure that I and my organization are thinking about environmental justice.
Not in terms of like you're saying, like, meet the deadline. Check the box.
But actually.
Fundamentally, engaging and evaluating the processes that we have and are, you know, getting credit for, for processes that we have and then improving them as well, so.
I don't have a great solution, but I feel very connected to my fellow IC organizations

and appreciate everybody and their insight.
So I will pass this to Amy, if that's OK.

RA **Redman, Amy (She/Her)** 1:59:51
Thank you.
Oh my gosh.
I am so thrilled.
About just getting to see the process guide and the circle.
Idea.
Yeah, and rich, I'm also thinking about what you said in terms of just like the how confusing and complex and layered the state work is. And I feel that too.
I'm like what?
What is going on?
And part of it is 'cause. There is a lot and part of it is because it feels disconnected to me.
I'm not saying that's what you were saying, but when you were talking, I was like.
So anyways, I'm reflecting on this.
Like how we be together, how we do the work feels so important. And so taking pause to to, to connect and to get and everyone to have a minute to share feels really, really valuable and important.
And I'm just so grateful.
Well, for the AC members, bringing this to us right now.
Wants to go next.
Door Dave may pass to you.

PD **Pelletier, Dave** 2:01:08
Thank you.
Yeah. Everything that's been said resonates with me.
Definitely. I don't think I have anything more to add, but.
The kind of race to the next deliverable thing strikes a chord with me, definitely, and it's not.
It's not.
It's not that it's a purely technical exercise by a long stretch. I feel like connected to the work and thinking about the work with meaning and with heart and with appreciation for what we're trying to do. And it is.

I think it's a little, maybe a little indicative of just our greater work world and just world in general of just over like a little bit of overwhelm going on maybe.
On a personal level right now too, so there's a little bit of that. Like I want to.
To have more bandwidth and time and less intensity around deadline for this work.
And it's not.
It's probably not going to happen.
By chance.
So I'm just feeling like doing forging ahead, doing the best we can and trying to.
Trying to like Marianas said kind of remain remain as as kind of hopeful about chipping away at something that's that's big and kind of took a long time to kind of establish itself trying to turn that back around, maybe maybe bigger than I understood it to be when.
We first embarked, so thank you.
Claire.
Can I pass it to you?

MC **McIlvennie, Claire** 2:02:59
Yeah. Thanks, Dave.
I don't know that I have much to add.
I think I really.
Appreciate hearing everything that the AC members have reflected and just resonate very deeply with everything that I see members have stated. I think I feel very similarly.
It's almost like I understand the specific tasks that.
Are being asked of me in their deadline, but it even with that general understanding often feels quite overwhelming to actually situate myself in.
So yeah, I will just say plus one to everything that the other IAC members have reflected about how doing this work right now feels.
And I will pass it to Bob.

DB **Donohue, Bob** 2:03:58
Yeah. Yeah. The benefit of going after everybody else is they pretty much have captured all the sentiments I have.
So I have nothing of value to say.
So go ahead, Sarah.

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:04:13

I I will see to Carla 'cause I to make sure all the IC folks get to speak 'cause. Abby technically speaks for agency of AG.

But thank you, Bob.

Raimundi, Karla 2:04:24

Thank you, Sarah.

I would like to.

Take the time.

To say that I understand, you know, how challenging the implementation of this law is, it is very challenging for.

For our little unit to juggle all of the deliverables and try to.

You know, with a lot of hearts show up to the meetings and.

Just communicate the best we can.

What was given to us handed down to us in the best way possible.

As as as a member of the interagency committee, I do also have to say that I would love to feel a lot more connected to the Advisory Council.

And.

The IT is very difficult to do that.

When when we don't have but I don't have the opportunity to engage with you on a regular basis.

I recognize that that there are a lot of things that impact our ability to show up or not.

You know, as I was sharing with Kim and Juliet.

Juliette, I am like you know, I am in this period right now like surrounded by context and I cannot just, like, leave things behind and not be there as well like in my personal life.

So I do understand how difficult it is sometimes when one is like juggling 1000 things and then this is another thing that is very complex and feels disjointed and feels like handed.

Down and not meaningful? Perhaps, but the purpose is actually the complete opposite, right?

I would like to offer as a as an option for for folks to feel less, and I and I wrote it down an idea to help folks feel less lost.

Is.
To schedule time with us, with Kim, with Juliet.
With me individually, collectively.
To just talk about the law, talk about the deliverables.
And engage with with what we're wrestling with.
It is very real.
The overwhelming is very real.
It's felt.
I feel it to my core.
This task of just keeping things.
From not collapsing feels very daunting.
And I feel.
That the Interagency Committee has a real shared understanding of that struggle because we feel it every day.
We are very passionate about the work. I am very passionate about the work, so I'm gonna speak about myself when I know this from having conversations with others here.
And.
And.
I want to do more.
I want to.
Engage more. I want to work with you all more.
I am open always to exploring ways in which we can do this together.
And I would really like to feel an ally ship between Advisory Council members and the interagency.
The committee members and.
I think we can work more on that, but an important step is to show up whichever way it doesn't really matter, but just to show up somehow.
You know the best way that is possible.
And yeah, we'll we will take it from there.
So just offering reach out schedule meetings, we we meet with some Advisory Council members regularly.
And you know, we're happy to do that anytime, anytime.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:09:13

I just wanted to jump in and say I think this is really relevant to.
You know, I I'm hearing everyone say that they want to be more connected across the two bodies and I was wondering, Sarah, if you would be willing.
I don't want to put you on the spot, but last time that Sarah joined a public meeting last month, Sarah and Ricarda very kindly Ricardo's from the Department of Public Service.
Very kindly offered to help us pick up that buddy system conversation that we've been having.
They also renamed it to something very relevant, so I would, I don't know, maybe pass it to Sarah to talk a little bit about, like how we could maybe get that system up and running so people feel like they have an ally, a friend on the other side.
Of the aisle.
Not that we're on opposite sides of the aisle, but you know what I mean.
Sarah, is that something you'd be willing to talk about a little bit?

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 2:10:10
Yeah, definitely.
I'm gonna pull up Ricardo's e-mail so that I can talk more accurately about this.
So after the the last join meeting Ricarda who works with Claire and I both offered capacity as like IAC members but working with covered agencies to take on coordination of the idea of a body system.
It was actually ricarda's idea, so I will take no credit for that.
To change the name to be.
From Adrian Marie Brown's emergent strategy, which is working on excellence partners or woes, woe as an acronym.
And I can put some language around that as its own framework in the chat, but she and I have created some draft.
Draft language and have an updated very simple form for the AC members to kind of get an idea of.
Who is interested in this optional way to engage with the IAC and then just kind of understand the capacity availability and then we're hopefully gonna start working to pair up some ICU members with AC members and then have more of a structured?
More of a structure to kind of support that relationship, which could be like sharing prompts with each pair, or kind of asking each pair to figure out how they wanna structure their space and focus like what they want to focus on.

In that relationship.
And so we're hoping to start testing it out soon with ample space for feedback from both eyes members and AC members.
That's the update.
I'll put some of the language from emergent strategy in the chat as well.

Birch, Juliet 2:12:02
Thanks Sarah.
You're awesome.

Barrett, Kim 2:12:19
Could everyone go in the circle?
Anyone missing?

Mariana 2:12:27
Well, if you and I don't know if you and Juliet wanted to.
Do a reflection. You're more than welcome.

Barrett, Kim 2:12:38
Thank you, Mariana. Yeah, just listening.
Very intently.
Yeah, I hear you all I share.
Some of the same feelings, I think.
I think if we're all describing, feeling overwhelmed and we're all wanting to also feel, it sounds like more connected.
I think it could be helpful.
To think about what collective care looks like in this space, and maybe in the context of your.
New system where you're gonna be pairing folks up.
Maybe that could be also a great space for you all to talk more specifically about like.
Maybe with your pair figuring out what it looks like, how do you lean on each other when you feel overwhelmed?
Because I think truly some of these things.
Could be improved by just putting yourself out there a little bit more.
And also trying to build and invest really into that into the relationship building piece

of this.
We can definitely try to support by creating more time and space.
And I think the circle process was really helpful because like in this meeting, because we've already kind of started talking about what it could look like to collaborate more.
And.
So yeah, those are my.
Those are my thoughts right now.
Yeah. And I think just one other thing about the feeling lost.
I would love to know more.
You know, because.
I think some of us have named that part of the feeling lost just comes from everything that we're all managing as people, as individuals, as professionals. And then we have this law that we're navigating together.
But yeah, just wanting to know more about what we can do.
Because of course, like we want to provide information and make sure that we do presentations every now and then, but if that's what's making you feel lost.
What, what else can you do?
Or is it just feeling lost because it feels like there's so much going on?
No need to answer those questions, but that's those are my reflections.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:15:26
I don't really have anything additional to share.
I'm just processing and.
Honestly.
I I will share this.
I'm just gonna be vulnerable.
I am kind of feeling really sad that everyone is kind of in this, like solemn space right now.
I would love for us to get to a point where, like we all feel comfortable enough that we can, like, sit not just in the things that aren't working, but also sit with the things that are working.
So I think that we've honestly achieved a lot this year and I don't wanna end the year on a note where we don't take a moment to pat ourselves on the back for that 'cause. I think as much as there's a lot to improve on you guys have.

Also worked your tails off this year, like genuinely in in the face of a lot of really awful things that are happening outside of this space.
And you have every right to acknowledge that just as much as the things that need to improve too.
You guys are awesome people.
So sit with that.

Barrett, Kim 2:16:38
Yep, definitely.
Are there any other thoughts around?
Collaboration. Do you all feel like you want to utilize the the circle process to explore what your relationship could look like?
Is that something that folks still have the energy to do?
This would have been your unstructured time, so I just want to really defer to where you all are at.
So I think our team can just step back for a second and then you all can decide what feels good for you.
The meeting ends at 5:00.
We can end earlier if that's what folks want to do.
Our team just has a couple of updates that we do need to take about 5 minutes to share.
So give you space for a SEC.

Mariana 2:17:51
I think you can go ahead, Jennifer.
Is is it open time to chat? I think so.

Jennifer Byrne 2:17:57
Oh, OK.

Barrett, Kim 2:17:57
Yep, this is your time.
Yep, this is your time.

Mariana 2:18:00
Yeah.

Jennifer Byrne 2:18:02
Just wondering about like for the Advisory Council members who receive payment because they were there were like many.
Rappers. I'm sorry I gotta toddler on me, but what I'm asking about is because there wasn't quorum in this meeting. Like, do Council members who come receive a stipend for those meetings.
I think we ask that and we're gonna get to the bottom of it. Maybe before, but kind of wondering about that.
Specific scenario.

Birch, Juliet 2:18:37
Sorry, I'm just going to jump in, Carla.
Correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding is that yes, you would still receive a site bend for this at the same hourly rate that you would for your work outside of public meeting or within public meeting.
I know that if there's quorum you get paid like a full 8 hours or something to that effect, but yes, you would still get paid the stipend regardless of quorum.

Jennifer Byrne 2:19:05
I know I I don't think I've done that in a very long time, but I would just wonder if other people are actually doing that and getting paid and what the rate is. That's all taken care of.

Birch, Juliet 2:19:17
So the rate is $50 per eight hours of work, which I think shakes out to like $6.25 per hour.
I will withhold commentary on that and the quality of that. I I you know.
I'll stop talking.
But yeah, it's about $6.25 per hour.
There are folks who submit expense forms if you're interested in submitting an expense form and getting compensated for this work.

It's all in our public meeting or our public website. The resource library. We can send that information to if you're interested in filling out an expense form and getting it fulfilled.

Jennifer Byrne 2:20:02
Right. And then I imagine there's like an upper limit, I mean we can't always be charging time.
That we spend on this.

Birch, Juliet 2:20:12
I'm not aware of an upper limit.

Jennifer Byrne 2:20:13
Is that right?

Birch, Juliet 2:20:15
I'm not aware of an upper limit.

Jennifer Byrne 2:20:17
There must be some kind of budgetary constraint.

Birch, Juliet 2:20:21
I think that's part of the purpose of the meeting. Cap is the is the meeting cap is in part a financial consideration for.

Jennifer Byrne 2:20:29
Right. But I'm. I'm talking about the outside hourly rate. You're saying that, any, anything we do outside of like 8 hours, we get paid in these public meetings, we get paid an hourly rate of like $6 or so and something something to that effect and that we.
Could charge those hourly times.
I'm just trying to understand 'cause I I know I don't understand.
I wonder if other Advisory Council members, it was, and there was a lot of meetings this month even.
Which was sort of unexpected, I think for many.

Birch, Juliet 2:20:58
Carla, do you wanna jump in?
I saw you had your Mariano.
You may have something to add to that question.

Mariana 2:21:03
Right, I can share quickly what I've been doing and I thought that I was going to do the same thing at the end of the month.
I fill out the form and I think when it's a, it's a scheduled meeting. It's $50.00 and and I then add up the hours that it takes me to work outside the meetings, like in reading emails, reading materials and I calculated based on more or less the.
Time that it takes me and I put $6.25.
The monthly checks.
Comes to like 75 dollars $90.00 sometimes depending. I mean, I mean I guess this month there's two meetings.
So I guess that will be 100 at least, plus whatever hours.
I usually put hours for emails and readings.
La La la and make those lines.
I thought that everybody was doing the same, but if not, and if I should do something different, please let me know.

Birch, Juliet 2:21:58
You're following the rules exactly right, Mariana?

Mariana 2:21:58
And I'm happy to.

Birch, Juliet 2:22:00
And you don't have to change anything.

Mariana 2:22:02
Cool and I can help Jennifer.

Birch, Juliet 2:22:02

That's right.
For public meetings, it's $50.00, and for anything outside of public meeting, like if you had to prep for an hour or if you're involved in a selection committee like Mariana is, then you also would put in the individual hours, which gets paid at the same rate as.
The 8 hour public meeting rate.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:22:18
And my question is like to Infinity and beyond. Like what's the end point?
How much time can each person do?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:22:26
Well, if you're working.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:22:26
None of us are from the business office, so we don't have the answer to that question.
But my understanding is we haven't gotten to a point where anyone's like edging towards a meeting or towards a cap in terms of how much they're charging the state.
So it hasn't really come up.

M **Mariana** 2:22:44
I I being so that you have a sense of what I've been doing, I put like two to three hours for communication purposes and two to three hours for reading materials.
Something like that.
I don't remember what I've done every month, but I look back in my calendar and if there's a crazy number of emails, I put two hours.
It's just one or two emails.
I put one hour.
I guess it's a little bit of a guesstimation.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:23:15
OK.
Well, if it's not being the budget caps not being reached, that could be something that like for advisory councils to know kind of just a heads up that like there's more

opportunity to do more and be paid.
Other other Advisory Council members, you know, just to be like, hey, if you put in the hours, you know that this is and I'm sure there's some kind of deadline of when the money should be spent. You know, thinking ahead.
'Cause, I know some might choose not to take the saving.
Like me, I'm already paid, so it's best for the.
Just type in to go somewhere.

Mariana 2:23:56
Well, I I I bring my students to kind of like me back to my organization for the course that they may.
So that's what I've been doing so far and I I wouldn't have too many more hours than what I already contribute.
But I don't know what reach what's your do you have?
Do you have a situation that you're concerned about?
Cloud or?

rich holschuh 2:24:29
Well, this is one of the things where.
I'm not keeping up very well.
I haven't built at all and I I should probably do that because I think similar to you, I would take that.
I would take those funds around and apply them to.
Funding my ability to be here 'cause I'm responsible for raising my own funds and I'm not.
Because it's it's a lot to keep up with.
So thank you for the.

Raimundi, Karla 2:24:59
If I may offer rich something we've done in the past for other Council members is we would fill out their.
Reimbursement forms, because they had some sort of constraint. So that is something that we're more than happy to do. And with regards to the CAP in terms of hours, Jennifer, we're not.
We have not reached that limit yet, but if you're thinking perhaps that this will apply

to you or someone else, if you could provide the question in how many hours it is that.
You're thinking of billing.
That may seem excessive to you.
So I can actually, you know, touch base with our staff people. I mean with our business office folks and see whether there is a cap.
I don't think in statute there is a limit.
And.
Our our budget is not.
It's not split like that.
So the encouragement is for Advisory Council members to build the time that they work on, and the commitment is that we will pay that if there is an issue.
With our ability to pay that, I would have been made aware of, but up to this point, we have not had that issue.
But again, if you envision this being an issue for you.
Please let me know and I'll make sure to have answers for you before you actually do the work that you know you say like Infinity and beyond that you may think may not be covered because this is really important for us is compensation and the compensation is in.
So we don't want to under underpay for services that are for, for actions that are actually for time that is actually invested in advancing the implementation of this law.
So this is this is very important for us.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:26:55
Could I just super clarifying question in terms of billing?
So if there's not a quorum and I know it's annoying to have to like think down to this level, but I just to be clear. Like if there isn't a quorum and this this doesn't count as an Advisory Council meeting, then we would get paid the lesser rate.
Or like the different we would charge it differently, right?
Like it would count as a different thing or.
Is is this just gonna be a meeting?

BK **Barrett, Kim** 2:27:37
I don't know the answer to that question.

Birch, Juliet 2:27:37

Maybe.
Yeah, I don't know for sure either, and maybe I'm wrong and I'll take responsibility if I'm wrong, but I am just gonna say that in the past, you know, we've had difficulty reaching quorum. And I would say you should still charge it as a public meeting.
That's maybe that's a personal perspective.
Maybe I'm wrong, but that's what I think would be the appropriate thing to do.

Raimundi, Karla 2:28:10

Been doing and.
Now that you're raising the question, perhaps.
We will do differently.
But I would not want to do that.
As I mentioned already, the the per diem is very inadequate, so I would like to.
Continue.
Compensating for labor at the highest.
At the highest.
Great. It may be the case that.
Technically, a lower rate should be provided.
It may be the case, but because we've decided to not do that, this is something that we have not really looked into.
But if if there is interest and there are reasons for to do that, I don't really see them because we usually don't have.
Problems with how many hours Advisory Council members are contributing?
We will continue to incentivize folks to contribute to the work.
That they can.
And we will continue paying at the rate that we are currently paying.
I will investigate whether.
The actual rate if there's no quorum, therefore not a meeting for advice to the Council members, is less.
And then I will get receive guidance on whether that means that then we should be paying less.
But again, I don't see the the benefit of doing that because that's not what we've been doing, but.

You know the regulations are the regulations on the laws, are the laws.
So if that's the interest, then we may end up having to do that.

Barrett, Kim 2:30:29
OK. Are there any other questions on this?
I know we wanted to kind of use this time for some relationship building.
Maybe we can do that next meeting.
I think we can share.
I'm gonna turn my camera on, but I might look weird because this room is extremely dark.
Yes. So just honoring where we all are at.
Our team will share our quick update in the follow up e-mail.
And if anyone else doesn't have anything else to share.
I think we can end a little early, Carla.
Does that sound good to you?
Do you have anything else?
Like I said, I think we should do our our update via e-mail, but just leaving it to you if you have any last thoughts.

Raimundi, Karla 2:31:32
As usual, a lot of gratitude to you all for showing up, even when things are hard.
And you may be feeling lost, I I imagine.
How difficult that may be, and I do appreciate the commitment to the work and the ability to just stick with it.
And again, I would like to encourage you all to.
Reach out what I think I'll do is I will send all of Advisory Council members an e-mail.
And ask whether you know you would like to meet with me to talk about the law, the implementation, the goals, the way that.
You know, we've been.
Doing this work and envision doing it next year.
But.
You know from a human to other humans.
Umm, please reach out like I care about you all. And like I said, the more we are working together to achieve the goals of what this law intends to achieve, the better off we're all gonna be.

So that's all I have.
There's an update regarding scheduling for next year that I thought was very important.
And to get your reflections on.
And I and I, you know, e-mail may not be the best because if you reply then you know the whole quorum and all of it.
But I think.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:33:19
We can talk about it during the next meeting next week too.
Yeah.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:33:22
Yeah, I think we can wrap it up here.
I do have to say that I am just not.
Feeling prepared to just talk business like that.

BK **Barrett, Kim** 2:33:36
Yes, exactly.
OK.
Well, thank you all.
We will see you next week.
Take care.
Take good care of yourselves. Thanks.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 2:33:51
Thank you. Bye.

RA **Redman, Amy (She/Her)** 2:33:52
Thank you.

SC **Smythe, Collin** 2:33:53
Thank you.

◉ **Barrett, Kim** stopped transcription