VT EJ JOINT Public Meeting-20260610_101049-Meeting Recording

June 10, 2026, 2:10PM

2h 48m 58s

Birch, Juliet started transcription

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 0:03

to a recording, especially if you're not a state of Vermont employee. So I'll take a minute for folks to hit that button to consent to the recording.

And, in the meantime, I will share my screen.

Good morning, folks. This is a public meeting of the Vermont Environmental Justice Advisory Council and Interagency Committee. It's currently 10, 11 A.m. I know that the feature now with having to consent to participate in the meeting once the recording starts is pretty

is new to most folks on this call. So if folks want to give like a thumbs up reaction to just say, I'm good, I have figured out how to consent to participate in the meeting, just let me know. I just want to make sure that I'm not getting started before everybody's ready.

And Carla, was that an intentional hands up or did you just hit the wrong button?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:22

Unintentional.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 1:24

Oh, OK, cool.

All right, so.

We'll start today's meeting with our community agreements. So if folks want to just give these five community agreements a little read to themselves, and when you're ready to move on and you've accepted the community agreements, please give a thumbs up. If there are any concerns, please feel free to unmute and voice your concerns.

I'm starting to see some thumbs up from folks.

I can't see everybody in the meeting, so if you give the little reaction emoji, that's really helpful because it'll come up on my screen even if I can't see you.

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:55
I saw quite a few, Julia. I think we're good. I didn't see any hands.

Birch, Juliet 2:58
All right. Great. Thank you very much. So moving on, this is our agenda for today. Today, as you saw over email, we're going to be focusing on the community engagement plan deliverable under the environmental justice law.
As you guys know, we have a subgroup of folks who, many of whom are here today, who have been working on a community engagement plan guidance document that we would love to share with you for your review and feedback. And that's what we're really going to focus on today. So we'll start with our approvals, which we'll go into in just a moment.
But then we'll do some brief updates, the community engagement plan reorientation, which will just be an opportunity to remind ourselves of the requirements of this deliverable and why it's important. And then we'll take most of this meeting to review and provide feedback on the draft community engagement plan guidance as it currently stands.

Davila, Victor 3:47
Ohh.

Birch, Juliet 4:04
There will be an opportunity for public comment around roughly 1130. Are folks comfortable with this agenda?

Mariana Sears 4:18
Yes.

Birch, Juliet 4:20
Very good.

Raimundi, Karla 4:20
Yes, a lot of thumbs up, Julian. I know you can't see your screen.

Birch, Juliet 4:22
Cool.
Yeah, I can't see everybody, so I appreciate the verbal yes. And the next thing I just want to take a look at before we move on is I do believe that we have quorum of both the advisory council and the interagency committee today.

Raimundi, Karla 4:28
Yes.

Birch, Juliet 4:45
In your agenda for today, there's several meeting minutes that are listed from the last couple of joint meetings that still require approval. And so I wanted to ask if folks could take a look at those and please vote yes or no as to whether or not you approve of those past meeting minutes from both 2025 and 2026.

Davila, Victor 5:22
We're getting thumbs trickling in.

Raimundi, Karla 5:25
Mhm.

Birch, Juliet 5:26
Thank you. I don't know why they're not popping up on my...
like in my presentation the way that they usually do. So thanks for letting me know.
Victor, if you could be my eyes, please let me know if you see thumbs from everybody.

Raimundi, Karla 5:42
Yeah.

Davila, Victor 5:43
Yeah.
I think I have now seen thumbs from most people.

Birch, Juliet 5:49
Okay, I'll give it another minute or two.

Davila, Victor 5:58
Okay, I'm going to pop the link for the agenda into the chat.

Birch, Juliet 6:03
Perfect, thank you very much.

Dave Pelletier 6:14
Juliet, can I ask a quick question while there's a moment to do so? Yes, sorry. Thanks. Dave Fellett here at the Agency of Transportation. I'm here with Marcella Dent today. I just seeing the slide deck reminds me, I was looking on the on ANR's excellent EC154 resource.

Birch, Juliet 6:17
Yeah, sure. Is that Dave?

Dave Pelletier 6:33
website and I can't remember, do you post the slide decks someplace after meetings as a resource?

Birch, Juliet 6:42
You know, honestly, some we do if we get asked to, but usually we just rely on the meeting recording. So would you like the slide deck from today's posted?

Dave Pelletier 6:46
Okay.
Okay, not necessarily. My question was just based on wanting to go back and find like a latest kind of deliverables. I know you've had nicely formatted slides occasionally where there'll be like a, it'll show the deliverable due dates and kind of informational things like that that are kind of
ongoing and longstanding. And that was what I was looking for. So no need to like post everything all the time. But that was my that was my inquiry. Thank you.

Birch, Juliet 7:23
Yeah, we can definitely send that out.
at the end of this meeting included in our follow-up email because you're not the only person who has asked for it. We just haven't sent it out to the full group. It's been like kind of a as asked for basis. So we'll send it out to the full group.

Dave Pelletier 7:39
Okay.
Thank you.

Birch, Juliet 7:42
Yeah, of course. All right, folks, are we ready to move on to our update section?

Jennifer Byrne 7:50
I'm so sorry. No, did we get an email with the information for this meeting? I'm not seeing it, but also this document can't open.

Davila, Victor 7:52
Oop.

Birch, Juliet 8:01
Okay, let me stop sharing my screen and see if I can send you.
One that will open.
We did send out an email in advance, so let's just see.

Jennifer Byrne 8:17
Yeah, I wonder what day was that because I'm not seeing anything in my Outlook.

Mariana Sears 8:22
Same with, same with me. I, I don't, I didn't get anything. I was just thinking, did I need something? And I look at my 2 emails. Maybe I did, but...

Birch, Juliet 8:23
Okay.

Jennifer Byrne 8:30
Yeah, me too.

Birch, Juliet 8:33
Okay, I've got an email sent out on Wednesday, June 3rd, but no worries. I just sent the agenda link in the chat. Please let me know if you can open that right now.

Mariana Sears 8:56
I'm good. I was able to open. Thank you, Juliet.

Birch, Juliet 9:02
Okay. And...
Jennifer, were you able to? Oh, yes, perfect. You said you could. Great. All right, let me go back to sharing my screen here.
Oops!
I'm opening everything but the slides.
What's happening?
Okay, as you can see, I was trying to read the instructions on how to make someone else a meeting organizer. Carla, you have your hand raised.
You're muted.

Raimundi, Karla 9:48
Good morning. Yeah, I was I was also going to add for trace benefit that we have the Environmental Justice Law Online Library, and the link is on that web page that you referenced at the beginning on the ANR Environmental Justice Law web page.
And in the folders, you will find all of the materials that are discussed in the meetings. So those documents that you are referencing about that contain the timelines, all of them are there and they're organized by date of the meeting.

Birch, Juliet 10:27
Yep.
Thank you, Carla. All right, so let's move on. Excuse me, I have a frog in my throat. We have a couple of quick updates we'd like to provide this morning. And I was wondering, Carla, in lieu of Kim being present today, would you like to

just quickly provide some of these updates and then I don't know if there's an advisory council member who would like to speak to some of these updates as well.

Raimundi, Karla 11:03
I am muted first. Sure. So first off, as the advisory council members present here may be aware of, on May 18th, 2026, there was an exchange
of ideas and communications back and forth between some members of the Advisory Council regarding Senate Bill 325 outside of a Warren public meeting. In doing that, the Advisory Council on advertently reached quorum.
Therefore, we are taking this opportunity today to properly notice and have any exchanges necessary here for transparency purposes.
So the email exchange, it's important to note that it stopped as soon as the environmental justice coordinators realized that quorum was met. And
The conversation is intended to continue here today.
So plans were made during that those exchange exchanges to address matters pertaining to actions of the council regarding 325.
So I'm going to open the floor now just to make sure that there's clarity with regards to process. And what we're trying to do here is cure some of those deficiencies that occurred during those exchanges.
in writing on May 18th.

Birch, Juliet 13:10
Yes, Jennifer, feel free to jump in.

Jennifer Byrne 13:13
Yeah, I guess I'd like to understand, so by deficiencies, so the advisory council, like we have an email chain, but what you're saying is if too many people reply to the email chain, which is what I think we all wanted, that's...
I, I, you know, if you could explain, like, what the problem with that is.

Raimundi, Karla 13:38
Yeah, so...

Jennifer Byrne 13:38
And what's deficient about it?

Raimundi, Karla 13:40
Sure. It's just a defect in according to the open meeting law. If an advisory body engages in exchange of business or discussion, substantive discussion of business of the council,

Vinson, Grace 13:47
Ohh.

Raimundi, Karla 14:00
outside of a properly noticed meeting, then it should be taken, that conversation should be taken to the public forum as per open meeting law. And what that means is that it needs to be noticed.
notice of that communication or exchange needs to occur because it is an open meeting. It's considered a meeting. Therefore, in Vermont, we need to have communications and substantive exchanges that are part of the business of the entity.

Vinson, Grace 14:24
Call.

Raimundi, Karla 14:37
in the public forum to allow for consideration of members of the public who wish to participate. And if there are no members of the public who are interested in participating, is for purposes of transparency.
Yeah.

Birch, Juliet 14:55
Just so I'll jump in here and say that the terms defect and deficient are both legal terms in this case. They're not like a moral or values judgment. That like it, there was just an issue where we reached quorum over email and so the public need to be made privy to that. And this is our opportunity to resolve that issue. But

Raimundi, Karla 15:06
And.

Birch, Juliet 15:17
Using the terms defect or deficient was, is not, they're just legal terms, not a values judgment. Mariana.

Mariana Sears 15:30
Thank you. So basically what we are saying is that we should talk about this right now. Am I understanding correctly?

Raimundi, Karla 15:39
Yes, if...

Birch, Juliet 15:39
Yes, if you could someone could provide a brief explanation of what was discussed over email, what the vote was, that would just be helpful to notify the public of the exchange that occurred.

Mariana Sears 15:41
Cool.
I...

Vinson, Grace 15:49
Is this where I can jump in, Carla?

Mariana Sears 15:50
Hey.

Vinson, Grace 15:54
Or Juliet, I'm not sure.

Raimundi, Karla 15:56
This.

Birch, Juliet 15:56
Don't worry about it, Grace. This is in reference to a different, this is in reference to

something that the advisory council discussed. No, you did, that did not result in a violation of open meeting law. So no worries. Go ahead, Mariana.

Raimundi, Karla 15:59
Ohh.

Vinson, Grace 16:00
Ohh.
Oh, I thought this was about mine. Okay.
Never mind, sorry.

Mariana Sears 16:14
So it would be a good thing to notify the public to read the email or someone who is closer to the issue within the council can, in a sentence or two, say what we were saying. I am not good.
to explain it by heart, particularly because I am not very well educated on what the Senate Bill 325 is about. But I do can share that we were just trying to offer support to the
efforts that are already undergoing that has to do with community engagement and prevent
are there expenses that seem perhaps not necessary given that there's already so much community engagement that has been constructed by so many partners and so many agencies? And I'm sure I'm missing something. And I know some of the council members may be able to explain this a lot better than me, but
I am giving you an intro, so...
That's it for me now.

Birch, Juliet 17:32
Thank you for sharing that, Mariana. And I don't know, Victor, I don't want to put you on the spot, but since you ultimately had submitted the letter to the legislature, if you wanted to provide a quick, you know, explanation, that would be extremely helpful as well.

Davila, Victor 17:51
An explanation of what was in the context of the letter or how things shook out.

Birch, Juliet 17:56
Oh, if you can, briefly.

Davila, Victor 17:59
Yeah, to the best of my abilities, there was a letter sent out that was co-signed by the whole of the advisory council, and that letter pertained to potentially helping to cinch up some financing towards the work we are doing so that we can better overlap causes. So those
There was an amount of money going towards trying to repair some of the issues of a different.
law basis that would have some amount of community engagement that was kind of meant to repair something that was lacking in that endeavor. But what it was trying to pay for is essentially things that the EJC is already working on through the law.
And if that money had gone to us, it would have made it
a little better as far as like the underfunding that kind of initially happened with the EJC. So the goal there was to just make sure that we could
kill more than, feed more than one bird of a scone, in essence. So let's try to line these things up correctly so that the goals that this bill is trying to address are funded towards a place that is already trying to address its concerns. So we sent that letter out.
I do not believe that the responses were met with success, but I might not be fully updated, but that is my understanding. So we tried to align goals financially and we sent out a proposal for that alignment.
And I think it was not taken up.
Is that correct?

Raimundi, Karla 19:45
That is correct.

Birch, Juliet 19:48
Jennifer.

Jennifer Byrne 19:51
Yeah, that's my understanding was that it was largely ignored and that the goal

being there, they did move forward with community engagement planning money for, you know, pretty niche topic. And I think it involves the Land Use Review Board. Like it's meant to give advice to a couple different agencies potentially. I haven't seen like the final language, but I don't think it was changed much. But our basically the EJ Council, we really didn't find out about this until it was way too late. So that's kind of where we were. We didn't.
We weren't brought in until they were already in the committee, like the reconciliation committee type thing that they do. So unfortunately, yeah, it's largely ignored. I think they reference the guiding principles that the people who are going to be writing the plan should follow our guiding principles, but there's no. integration with the rest of our work.

Birch, Juliet 20:56
Thank you. Go ahead, Janet.

Hurley, Janet 21:00
Sorry, this isn't part of the cure, I don't think, but just some clarification. Initially, S325 implicated the Land Use Review Board and to conduct this public engagement. But by the time the bill passed,
It was no longer, the board was no longer implicated. This is a public engagement plan for the legislature, so not for the Land Use Review Board. And I just wanted to clarify that by the end, the Land Use Review Board is not part of this public engagement.
endeavor.
that was part of the passed legislation.

Birch, Juliet 21:49
Thank you for sharing that, Janet. Oh, yeah, go ahead.

Hurley, Janet 21:51
Ohh, and one, one more, one more thing.
Also at the last minute, once the advisory council produced this letter, it was shared with me and the board was asked to weigh in. However, it was too late. We had, we had, we couldn't weigh in as a board because we had just had a meeting when I got that request.

Trey Martin 22:02
Play.

Hurley, Janet 22:19
It was already, it happened after the meeting, and we weren't having another meeting for another week. And by that time, it was too late to provide input to the legislature.

Birch, Juliet 22:23
Mm.
Thank you for that context. So obviously, this update was not the intended focus of today's meeting. We have another topic that we'd like to address in depth, but of course, this update is also an important one for us to address, especially considering open meeting law. And I just want to confirm before we move on, if folks have any questions, comments, concerns, clarification, anything related to this update before we move on.

Dave Pelletier 23:10
I just have a quick, I mean, a fundamental question to ask, and I don't, if it can't be answered quickly, I don't want to take too much away from the meeting, but I understand that.
There was content related to deadlines that was being presented, I think, as part of this, as part of S325. Is there a report on?

Birch, Juliet 23:29
Mhm.

Dave Pelletier 23:32
on any changes that were made or that we should be aware of as interagency committee and advisory council members. Thanks.

Birch, Juliet 23:41
Yes, great question, Dave. So the long story short is S325 did include both what this update is referring to, as well as the proposal to change a few of the deadlines under

the law. And I will let Carla, or under the Vermont Environmental Justice Law, I should be.

Raimundi, Karla 23:41
Yes.

Birch, Juliet 24:01
Clear, um, and I'll let Carla provide the, you know, what the results was of that.

Raimundi, Karla 24:09
Yes, thank you for that question. I would like to underscore what Jenny from the Land Use Review Board put on the chat, and that is that S325 does not yet have an act.
It has not been signed by the governor. So the contents of it are still, you know, bill proposals until they get signed into law. And as part of the process of introducing revisions to the deadlines, to some of the deadlines,
in the EJ law, there were several documents that were shared in email with all of the interagency committee members and the advisory council members. I will look to share those documents again once we
have confirmation that S325 has become law. But just very generally, the deadlines that we're looking at are the cumulative burden rule making and the creation of the mapping tool.
And the purpose for the realignment of those deadlines is that as originally captured in the EJ law, there was not sufficient time from the finalization of the EJ of the mapping tool from when the deadline of the cumulative burden rule was due to consider
outputs of the mapping tool to create the rule, which is odd in terms of, you know, what we know is helpful to come up with good, sensible, cumulative burden rules. So the proposed deadlines would allow sufficient time to
finalize the mapping tool, gather all of the relevant information that will be discovered and produced as part of the community engagement processes. And then we will finalize the cumulative burden rule. So those two are the really meaty deliverables that are realigned or restructured.

Dave Pelletier 26:41
Thank you, Carla.

Birch, Juliet 26:47
Okay, we'll take Jennifer and then Amy and keeping an eye on the time, I think that, okay, we'll take Jennifer, Amy, and Abby, and then we'll move on if that's okay. And hey, Kim, I see you're on now.

Jennifer Byrne 26:59
Okay.
I'm just looking at the last bullet here. It says to prevent this, that the advisory council should notify ANR ahead of time when quorum will be reached when discussing topics. I'm just like, how in reality should we go about doing things any differently than what we did? You know, we included ANR in our first email.
you know, and you all made it really clear in the email that, you know, once we reach quorum, we have to shut it down and post. And then we did. So I'm like, is there anything different that we should do next time? Because it's hard to know, like when you send an email and you say, you know, Victor was asking for everyone to approve. You want everybody to respond. So.

Raimundi, Karla 27:40
Yeah.
Yes.

Jennifer Byrne 27:43
What should we do next time?

Raimundi, Karla 27:45
Yeah. Thank you, Jennifer. I really appreciate that question. And I think it would be the first part, right? Like once there's action from the advisory council that's intended to elicit feedback from other council members that you would let the environmental justice coordinators know,
so that we can come up with the best path forward. And the best path forward, depending on the kind of feedback that you're seeking, may be to hold a public

meeting for special circumstances, like an extraordinary meeting or a special meeting.
under open meeting law. And then it would be publicly noticed and then the business could be undertaken as part of the conversations in the public forum.
But I want to mention that, you know, this is a new space that the Advisory Council is navigating alongside ANR. And I think just with a little bit more foresight, we can all work together to ensure that we're not running afoul of
Of the open mini log.
Thank you.



Redman, Amy (She/Her) 29:10
I, Julia, is okay. Bye. Two very quick reflections.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 29:14
Go ahead.



Redman, Amy (She/Her) 29:18
I am just coming into this, so just taking a step back and taking it in. I want to just like, I'm feeling a lot of gratitude for the AC mucking through this process to try and work together. And also, I am just feeling like this displaced burden on AC members trying to find funding to do the work. So I just want to acknowledge those things and I just am grateful that this work came together to put the ask in, even though it feels like it's been messy and that it didn't, this didn't work. And just also want to think about how can we support this moving forward. So just wanted to reflect on that.
And also I would love for Mariana and
Jennifer to have the community engagement documents. So I'm working on that, but if there's any ideas, I want to make sure they have those. Thank you.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 30:18
Amy, we just sent them the link to the public folder, so they have everything now. They should have everything now.

MS **Mariana Sears** 30:25
Yeah, thank you, Amy. I think I got it all. And my brief question now, knowing that time is, is it possible for the team members like Craig, who, yeah, you guys to

help us with understanding the time and this type of details so that next time there is an opportunity, we are better prepared and we can act ahead of time and
Yeah, we, you raise a flag like, wait a second, don't do this so that you don't mess it up. Is that something that you can do in your role or that's something that you're not allowed to do?

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 31:15
It's absolutely something that we can do. We do our best in every public meeting to be clear about the line between complying with open meeting law and not complying with open meeting law. But we can definitely have a conversation preemptively next time something like this comes up.
so that next time something like this comes up, you guys know what the correct steps would be to take so that we can avoid potentially running afoul of open meeting law in the future.

MS **Mariana Sears** 31:45
Awesome, thank you. And also a timeline. So also perhaps we can work ahead of
Um, because it feels like we were a little late to even...
present that even despite the fact that we, you know, interrupted this process that should have been done differently, we were all we were also kind of late or I don't know if it was kind of late or we were ignored for another reason or the letter was ignored for another reason or but I was wondering if doing things ahead of time would have changed the outcome.

BJ **Birch, Juliet** 32:21
I would defer to Carla on this, but I do think that the letter was on the later side, considering where we were in the legislative session. But I will also say that that is not within the role of the EJ coordinators to
kind of ensure that you guys are notified. We are not able to do legislative advocacy. We can just ensure that you guys follow open meeting law when you do try to communicate with the legislature. So that's something that we might not be able to solve for you. Sorry about that.

MS **Mariana Sears** 33:00
No, no problem. And my last question is, who could help us with this? Or do we have

to help ourselves? Like, that's something that we are supposed to figure out on ourselves.

Birch, Juliet 33:12
That's a great question. I wonder if there's a way I would defer to anyone else in this call, but if the legislature provides any sort of legislative briefings that are short and sweet and to the point, that would be easy for the AC to identify if they wanted to jump in. I see Janet might have a thought on that.

Hurley, Janet 33:35
Do you want me to jump in if I have a thought on that?

Birch, Juliet 33:40
I think that would make sense, yeah.

Hurley, Janet 33:41
Because I'm ahead of Kim and Abby, but I mean, I'm behind them. But so this S325 was...

Willard, Abbey 33:46
Go for it.

Hurley, Janet 33:55
The most politically fraught.
process that has occurred in Vermont in a long time. That whole, the whole fervor behind it was an uprising by rural Vermont. And there
It was.
I'm not sure that there's anything that the advisory committee could have done to insert themselves. It was moving at a pace that had to happen. You know, this was threatening the Democrats, like majority, basically. If they didn't do something about tier 3 and the road rule in the previous Act 181. And part of what happened was the legislature realized that they needed more public input before they suggest these kinds of solutions.
And so initially, they were putting it on the Land Use Review Board. Then they realized, well, really, it's the legislature that needs to do this public input before, you

know. And so then there was a scramble to try to figure out, okay, how can we do this?
And they heard from the Vermont Council on Rural Development, which does these community visits all around the state. And they've been doing it for more than a decade. And they're really successful public engagement efforts. And they kind of have this formula.
And then there was this effort to try to get the Land Access Opportunity Board somehow engaged as well. And I'm not sure that...
I'm not sure that the legislature had the...
the wherewithal to sort of try to make that work because of the pressure that they were under. And so I don't know if that's helpful context, but this, you know, and this happens, legislative sessions are crazy.
Legislators are drinking out of a fire hose the entire time. And yeah, for the advisory council to be engaged,
That's a good question. You know, the Land Access Opportunity Board is engaged, and maybe they could help. Maybe they would be willing to loop you guys in.
I don't know, but it's sort of crazy for my board, you know, like we're getting requests from different committees to come and testify and we have like, you know, a couple days to meet as a board and provide that testimony, you know, provide consent testimony of the board and
It's crazy. So I would reach out to Jean and Arnella and see if it's something, you know, that they're already engaged with, whether they could help the advisory council be engaged.

TM **Trey Martin** 37:27
Doesn't the final bill say that the Council on Rural Development is going to work with the Association of Conservation Districts and in consultation with you and the LAOB? That's the language I'm looking at.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 37:42
They just.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 37:42
It's actually NRCC who's the holder of the work.

Trey Martin 37:46
The words on the page say Vermont Council on Rural Development, VACD.
Land Use Review Board and Land Access Opportunity Board.
at line 16 of page 8 of the bill. Anyway, I just feel like if the LERB is in consultation, then as a covered agency, you can also say this is what the kind of engagement principles are. And I agree with you that LAOB is supposed to be engaged and there's lots of crossover.

Hurley, Janet 38:02
It's as passed.
Yeah.

Trey Martin 38:18
an interest between LAOB and the Advisory Council. So I think that's a good idea. Like there's a very large and upcoming opportunity.
to participate in that work. There's a whole bunch of steps lined up in the bill that those folks are supposed to do and we should be able to tap into that.

Raimundi, Karla 38:37
Mhm.

Hurley, Janet 38:38
Right.
Right. That's helpful, Trey. I was also, though, thinking that for future legislative sessions where issues might come up that might implicate the advisory council and how do they get involved sooner, right? How do they get wind of that sooner so that they can have effective input for the legislature?
So not just on this community engagement piece of S325, but yes, Mariana, you know, going forward, yeah.

Trey Martin 39:12
But yeah, I understand. I think getting into this will help to build the bridges that lead to more engagement with those community. Yeah. Anyway, we're saying same things and everybody's been skipping over Abby. So check.

Willard, Abbey 39:28

That's okay. I just feel like there's a whole lot to discuss in this topic and I don't know that we kind of like built the agenda to hold space for this. So maybe this is a topic for a joint agenda at an upcoming meeting. I'll also just very quickly say there are members in this
either advisory council or IAC that will be involved in the community engagement plan. And I think just keeping front of mind that AC perspective, I think could be valuable. And that there will be time between now and when that plan's due in January to kind of work on things.
Together, but I, I think if we keep my suggestion is that, like, I think there's other avenues off this call and in a future meeting to think this through and talk about it. Um...
without dismissing it, because I agree it's important. And my question is like not related to this. And so I'm also reluctant to bring my question up, but I put it in the chat and I will just say like, looking at the realigned timelines, I had a question as did our agencies EJ group on if we do not, if we no longer have an environmental benefits
annual reporting timeline for reporting, seeing that my recollection of the realigned timeline said that in January of 2029 is when we have an environmental benefits reporting on environmental justice investments and proportionality. So like that's a standing question that I have been just seeking some.
clarification on some of the realigned timeline information, which again, maybe can be communicated in an email or we can talk about at another time rather than using the space.
Today.

Raimundi, Karla 41:15

Thank you, Abby. I would really appreciate if we could have those conversations separately. We have a really packed agenda and it's really important for us to get the feedback that the subgroup, the advisory council members of the subgroup and the interagency committee members of the subgroup need to get from you all today so that we can move forward with the community engagement plan.
guidance so that the agencies have the information they need to put together their plans. I definitely support the suggestion of having more conversations around how

to plug in the Advisory Council when relevant pieces of legislation.
are being developed. There, you know, there are a lot of opportunities that I see, but they're all very limited in terms of time. Usually when the agency becomes aware or I become aware that there is a piece of legislation that's requiring environmental justice input,
is basically, as you all probably are aware, from this moment to like several hours later the next day. So it's very difficult to ensure meaningful participation from advisory council members in the creation of
pieces of legislation. We have, and I put it on the chat because I think this is really important as we move forward and think about the role of the advisory council with regards to informing what the General Assembly is doing, that
whenever we can, we do provide information about, you know, the scope of work that falls under the advisory council, the importance to center the voices of the members of the council to ensure that we're all, you know, moving forward in a way that
seems, you know, reasonable and effective and efficient, which is what Victor mentioned when he provided the summary of what the letter was responding to. So I put an answer on the chat with regards to what.
what ANR can do, has been doing and will continue to do. But I support having more conversations to integrate more the council into legislative processes.
And Abby, we will share timelines once we know what's, you know, going to happen with S3 25. You know, we do think how things are going to pan out, but you know, we just need to make sure we need to wait to make sure that we're not getting ahead of ourselves.
in terms of the technical assistance that we're going to be providing.

McIlvennie, Sarah 44:29
Go ahead, Kim.

Barrett, Kim 44:32
Are we in a place to pivot now?
All right, sounds good. Hello, everyone. Thank you for your patience. I apologize for being a little late. I had a family emergency, but I am here now. Everyone's safe. And yeah.
I helped kind of shepherd the process along to get this presentation finalized, so I'm

glad that I can that I'm here to move us through it. OK, Julia, are you OK to share your screen?

Birch, Juliet 45:05
Yes.

Barrett, Kim 45:06
Thank you.
Alright, so we're talking about...

Birch, Juliet 45:21
Is this where you want us to be?

Barrett, Kim 45:24
Yep.

Birch, Juliet 45:25
OK, perfect.

Barrett, Kim 45:27
I will also just pause and say there were a couple of people who had offered interest in sharing their screen, Juliette, so you didn't have to. Amy, since you're on the call, would you still be interested in doing that?

Redman, Amy (She/Her) 45:45
Yeah, absolutely. I think I can I think I can just take control. Does that do you want me to do that now or when you prompt?

Barrett, Kim 45:46
Alright, wonderful.
That would be great. Let's make it easy for Juliette. Thank you so much for doing that.

Redman, Amy (She/Her) 45:57
Let's try this.

Barrett, Kim 46:08
Many hands lighten the load.

Birch, Juliet 46:16
You should have control now, Amy.

Redman, Amy (She/Her) 46:22
Mhm.

Barrett, Kim 46:23
No, I'm going to share you on the document right now. Okay, cool.

Redman, Amy (She/Her) 46:25
Got it.
I see. It looks like I do, but I don't have the...
Power to advance slides yet.

Barrett, Kim 46:44
Right.

Redman, Amy (She/Her) 46:59
OK, let's see.
Juliet, do you want to keep moving just for a second while I'll pull up the slides and then...

Barrett, Kim 47:04
It's awesome.

Raimundi, Karla 47:07
Yes.
If I may like interject here, maybe we could just move forward the way that we are set up currently and then for the second half of the meeting, then we can do the control transfer so that we can cover.

the substantive material that we're looking to cover today. Does that work for everyone?

Barrett, Kim 47:34
Yeah, that works. Just wanted to give us a quick minute to try. Cooperation is everything. All right, so community engagement plan deliverable. The deadline is July 1st, 2027. This is going to be a recap for everyone. Covered agencies.

Raimundi, Karla 47:35
Thank you.

Barrett, Kim 47:52
their community engagement plans must describe how agencies will engage with environmental justice focused populations as they evaluate new and existing activities and programs.
They also must describe how agencies will provide meaningful participation in compliance with Title VI.
be informed by the core principles of the Vermont EJ core principles of community engagement, and then also be developed in consultation with the advisory council.
All right. What is community engagement? Community engagement are opportunities to connect and interface with community members. Meaningful participation. We have it defined here as all individuals have the opportunity to participate in energy, climate change, and environmental decision making.
And then what is decision making, their actions or choices by an entity that could alter the outcome of the work?
All right, and now I'm going to pass it off to Victor to talk a little bit about the Vermont EJ Community Engagement Subgroup.

Davila, Victor 49:15
Hello. So the Vermont Community Engagement Subgroup was developed in response to the AC and the IAC's agreement that the community engagement plan should share key qualities and context. The members who were working on this in the subgroup were from the AC, Jennifer Byrne,
Victor Avila, Maria Sears. From the IAC, we have Carla Ramandi. From covered agencies, we have Ricardo Erickson, Sarah McIlvaney, and Charlotte Safran. From the

CREJU, we have Kim Barrett.
And Juliet Birch.
Next slide. Cool.
The community engagement plan guidance was designed to help guide covered agencies through necessary critical thinking to develop their own community engagement plan. It provides strong recommendations for each plan to consider. It will not serve as a template, but can be used alongside technical assistance, consultation,
And inter-agency coordination, covered agencies who are here in the audience.
So how did the subgroup get here? The community engagement subgroup identified that the guidance must be structured to meet most of the COVID agency's needs and flexible enough to respond to the adaptive nature of engagement. It was designed to hopefully incorporate public
meeting feedback from the last two years, conduct in-depth reviews of pre-existing community engagement resources. The subgroup chose to heavily incorporate these pre-existing engagement resources as opposed to recreating work that has already been done. This aligns with principle one of the Vermont EJ Law's
core principles of engagement. We wanted to develop the draft CEP guidance as two options to convey overlapping context. So as a quick aside, there's going to be two documents. These are not meant to be compared side by side.
They are two different potential methodologies that will require independent feedback. So we are not comparing and contrasting. When we review this later, we are answering questions independently within each document.
So the next steps for CEP guidance development. The AC and the IAC will review two options to inform the next drafting phase. Subgroups will aim to deliver one final draft guidance in late July. The subgroup will also pay special attention to the need for covered agencies to have sufficient
Time for technical assistance.
The subgroup has identified that the drafting process must embody the same community engagement best practices we are asking covered agencies to use and principles that are reflected in the core principles of community engagement. The subgroup identified in their most recent meeting on June 5th that this might look like
pivoting and problem solving when things gain a sense of urgency. This means that the AC and the IAC will need to develop, will need to determine a time frame that

responds to IAC's implementation needs while allowing for an equitable and effective guidance development process.
Kevin.



Barrett, Kim 53:01
Thank you, Victor. So some important notes for review for today's review and discussion. Both review options that Victor mentioned include foundational content and valuable approaches. Also, they both include elements
that include previous input from the IAC and the AC. So what is our ask today? Our ask is that you review both options. They're called option A, option B. We're asking that you review them together to explore how the different elements and approaches work.
and potentially what's missing. And if you don't even get there, that's totally fine because we recognize this is a quick review and it's really more about the discussion and gleaning feedback from that. The task is not to determine which option is your preference.
So what is the outcome we're hoping for? We're hoping for the subgroup to create one draft guidance document that includes the strengths and the lessons from today's review of these two documents. So we'll leave being able to say, now let's craft one draft guidance that includes the strengths and the lessons that we learned here.
Does anyone have any questions on that? Does it feel clear?
Alright, cool.
Next slide, please.
Some additional notes. Again, today's review of the two draft guidance or the two draft options will be used to create one guidance document. And then also we wanted to share that each covered agency's community engagement plan, like that their document and also each of the covered agencies development process will have areas that the guidance cannot address.
So we're asking that, you know, covered agencies that you rely on our team, praise you, you know, your fellow AC and IAC members, your role partnerships, you know, to get as much help as possible to troubleshoot. And also reminding you all that that work can also start before this guidance comes out.
as well. We're always available and we've already started working with some folks to help get the process going. And then also, today's focus will not be on language or

word choice. And so the drafting team is going to work hard, like after we get this feedback, to work on plain language and
and all of that. So no worries to getting into that today.

Davila, Victor 55:53
Now, the different groups of presenters here today are going to be asked to give specific feedback so that we can best update these documents. For the IAC's focus, please let us know if you don't understand what a section is asking you to do. If you understand what a section is asking but do not know how to do it,
Or, if you find a section has been particularly helpful or clear, to highlight that.
For the AC.
The AC's focus, please let us know if there are important things missing to make engagement meaningful for communities, if there is context that you feel should be emphasized, or if there are areas that you feel are most successful. The AC members are trying to asking you guys to review from like a community member perspective. or a organizing working perspective with the State organization working with the State.
So the community engagement plan review and feedback, we're going to do this in two parts. There are recommended steps for a community engagement practice. That's the section that we're going to be first reviewing. What does this section do? It provides recommendations for best practices and key actions.
It describes each step in community engagement processes and provides recommendations for how to draft this section of the CEP.
Questions? Sorry, one second.
I'm going to send this to Sarah now for this section for questions to consider during her view.

McIlvennie, Sarah 57:41
Yeah, so this slide currently just summarizes what Victor had shared before the slide changed. So the sections that are the section we're going to start with, this is the three high level bullets of what that section will do. And Juliette, you can go to the next slide.
Okay.
I actually just want to start by having everyone like take a really big deep breath, because that was a very action-packed 68 minutes. And a lot of things were flying

around. And I'm just like really appreciating the dynamic, we shall say, of that.
So on this slide, there are high level questions that the subgroup was hoping folks could consider. So there's a first tier, right, which is like, what perspective, what hat are you bringing into this review? Are you a covered agency, either a rep or an employee of a covered agency or a state entity?
Or are you someone who's coming in more from a perspective of a community member or an organization, as Victor had said? Additional to those perspectives, we're hoping that as we look at these two different ways of presenting information, folks can think about like,
what in the content feels right, feels helpful, feels like I understand what I'm meant to be doing, and I understand how to do it. Same with the organization of the documents, what's helping me to understand what I need to do and how to do it, and what are pieces you feel like we should carry forward, and then perennially,

DV **Davila, Victor** 59:20
Yeah.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 59:22
exists the questions like is there things that are are there things that are missing that you want to let us know?
And I think if you go to the next slide, Juliet.

DV **Davila, Victor** 59:38
Yep.
So we're going to be going into the key steps outlined for this section. They are before the engagement, during the engagement, and after the engagement. For option A, the first document, that is going to be pages 13 to 26. For option B, part 2, that's going to be pages 7 to 16.
So we're going to take about 10 minutes now to review in silence. Then that'll lead into a group discussion for 25 minutes and then a public comment for five.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 1:00:12
And I just put in the chat, those links should take you to both option A and option B. Please let me know if they don't function.

Davila, Victor 1:00:26
And just as like a nice housekeeping, like when you're done reviewing the document, feel free to put a thumbs up.
Where you had your hand up?
Was that an accident?

Mariana Sears 1:00:45
No, no, I was just saying that I will.
But I understood the the direction. Thank you.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:00:58
Jennifer, we're taking this time individually to look through the two documents for 10 minutes and then there will be interactive discussion between.
Does that feel clear?
A very gentle two-minute warning for folks.
Okay.
It's 1121, so I'm going to pull us all back and then hand it over to Kim, just because we're having a little bit different timing than we had originally scheduled, but we are all flexible humans here.

Barrett, Kim 1:10:51
Yes, it'll all work out. Okay, so I think what would make sense is to give ourselves a little like space. So if there's a member of the public who wants to share a comment, we could do that now.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:10:51
Thankfully.

Barrett, Kim 1:11:10
If there isn't a number of the public online, then I would suggest that we take a five-minute reset to ourselves so we can process what we read and then come back fresh for a discussion. Hopefully that feels good for folks.
Is there a member of the public that would like to comment at this time?
Okay, it doesn't look like it. So you get five more minutes of time to yourself. We'll

come back and then jump into discussion. Enjoy, enjoy your little break, go to the bathroom, do what you need, get some water, and we'll see you back in five.
Alright.
Looks like everyone's back.
We're going to move into discussion. Sarah, how do you feel still about putting folks into small groups?

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:15:40
I think you had missed this part of the meeting, Kim, but we were struggling to figure out how to give me the permission to do so. And I guess...

Barrett, Kim 1:15:44
Ohh.
Bye.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:15:50
Um...

Barrett, Kim 1:15:50
You, right?

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:15:52
How are folks feeling? Would a full group discussion versus smaller groups feel okay?
We had had a plan around smaller groups, but...
Obviously, there's a lot of stuff going on.

Barrett, Kim 1:16:01
Go ahead, Janet.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:16:05
Go ahead, Janet.

Hurley, Janet 1:16:07
Sorry, I think given that we sort of sidetracked ourselves, if people are comfortable, I think it would be more efficient and better to do a full group discussion.

Barrett, Kim 1:16:14
Yeah.
Sounds good. And we could do a circle process. That way everyone gets, you know, heard. Yeah, that's a great compromise. Thank you, Janet. Make up for the time.
Okay, so just in the interest of time, I'll just call folks out. So

Raimundi, Karla 1:16:37
Okay.

Barrett, Kim 1:16:40
Let's see. How about someone from the AC? Jennifer, do you, would you like to go first? Is that okay?

Jennifer Byrne 1:16:49
No, I'm not prepared for that.

Barrett, Kim 1:16:52
Okay. Okay. Whoever would like to go first can start.

Safran, Charlotte (she/her) 1:17:08
This is Charlotte. I'm sorry. What, Kim, are you asking for somebody, I'm not prepared to go first either, but are you asking for somebody to provide just their general reflections or are one specific, answer one of the specific questions?

Barrett, Kim 1:17:22
Yeah, folks can share what feels most resonant to them. So that could be answering one of the questions. It's just your initial reaction. Yeah.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:17:51
Okay, I'm going to put the questions in the chat.
I I.
Appreciate.
So we had been thinking about going into woes, which Jennifer is talking about in the chat, because of some absences today that actually doesn't work out very well.

There are like key folks absent from most of the woes to make them IAC-AC groups. And so in lieu of that, and with now a smaller group, we are going to move forward, at least for this discussion with a

Raimundi, Karla 1:18:09
Yeah.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:18:22
group. Rose is working on Excellence Partners Charlotte, their ACIAC pairings and groups. I'm going to put the questions in the chat, but why don't we open it up with like what are folks' reactions? What is coming up? I know people have them. I know people are concerned about this deliverable. Like any information you have for us as a subgroup is very helpful.
Bye, bye.

McIlvennie, Claire 1:18:49
I was going to offer to go first since we were being a quiet group. So I will say I feel like
The content in both feels very similar to me. I'm not sure if it, not 100%, but like very similar and like across the board, very helpful in guiding this work. So I definitely feel like for me, like I didn't read through this and feel like there's a huge process piece missing that I'm looking for.
Um, and I will, well, I will say that I think...
In terms of thinking about how I would use this, like to support community engagement, I think option B maybe resonated a little bit more because I felt like I could almost turn it into like a checklist that I could hand to someone saying like, as you start planning for this process, like,
here are the things you should be thinking about. Like, especially in the shorter, I mean, maybe if I sat with them a little longer, it was a little easier to digest in the 10 minutes. But I generally felt like a lot of the content is there.
The second one seemed like it could be operationalized a little bit more in terms of like doing the work versus like the second one felt definitely more like a technical resource, like very valuable as well. And then my last piece of feedback was I noticed one difference was that I think the victory said not to compare them side by side, I'm going to do that.

briefly. The longer one included like examples of how agencies have done the work, which I found useful, but I really liked the reflection questions and the second one, which reminded me of the benefit spending guidance. And that was a piece of that guidance document that I really appreciated doing that work. So
And we'll pause there.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:20:52
Thanks, Claire. Just confirming, I think you said option B twice, but option A was the more like detailed technical assistance.

McIlvennie, Claire 1:21:00
Yes.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:21:01
Okay. Thank you. Go ahead, Amy.
Sorry, Kim, I'm not facilitating this conversation. I will stop.



Barrett, Kim 1:21:10
No, go ahead. This is, you're part of a subgroup. This is, we're doing it together. So this is great. It doesn't have to be just me.



Redman, Amy (She/Her) 1:21:14
Okay.
Okay, a few reflections. I don't know that I was totally on task with the page numbers, but I'm going to share my reflections. The top one being nice work to the subgroup. Thank you. These are so helpful and the content. So just huge shout out to the subgroup. Thank you.
One thing that resonated with me was applying the framework in different contexts. I think that was out of the page limits, but I wanted to say that, that that really resonated in terms of trying to work with regulatory programs. And so that was really cool to see. One question I still hold, and
And maybe this is to reconcile at the Department of Health is just like our identifying communities and being explicit in the guide. I think the guide that we have is really intentional around marginalized communities. I know that it does say environmental focused populations, but some of those definitions are still

I think less defined. So that's some questions and curiosities that I'm holding as it relates to this. And then I also love the template in the appendix. I forget which one it was. Those are my reflections. Thank you for listening.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:22:43
Go ahead, Carla.

Raimundi, Karla 1:22:45
Just want to read from the chat comments. Janet mentioned, agree with Claire, although I like some of the narrative context of option A. Grace found it very helpful. Option A was very helpful because my brain works better in outline and template format.
Abby likes the reflection questions. Trey had a meltdown of teams. And then Jeffrey, from an analytical standpoint, option A, compensation section, and its explicit centering of BIPOC communities is particularly.
attractive and option P, structurally superior as document architecture. Don't want to miss those comments in the chat. If anyone wants to expand on their comments, you're free to do that.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:23:38
Thanks, Carla.

Raimundi, Karla 1:23:49
Also want to capture that Sarah added questions to the chat to help the conversation. The questions are what content feels right, organization, structure, and what would you like to see carry forward in the next iteration of the guidance document?
And what is missing? What is something that in perusing those documents you would like to see?

Barrett, Kim 1:24:31
Go, Hanabi.

Willard, Abbey 1:24:32
Thanks.

I don't know that I have a whole lot additional to add necessarily around the documents at this exact moment, but to answer it and respond to the question of what I would like to see.
I find these guidance materials helpful in kind of deconstructing what this CEP deliverable is, but I will admit I'm also just still finding the collective task and deliverable overwhelming. And I wonder, I think I would find value in
some dedicated time and I don't know how this fits into kind of like capacity within our IAC meeting structure or even a joint meeting, but taking certain sections of the process and having a having discussion. So hearing kind of like real.
shared experience and best practices and successes or challenges and failures from any and all of you. As just a way to really capture kind of like the human in the process portion of these various.
kind of stages and phases of a community engagement plan. So I think that's more of a just like how we could operationalize some shared learning could be holding some time together.
To share what's what people have done and tried.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:26:13
May I ask a follow-up question?

WA **Willard, Abbey** 1:26:16
Yeah.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:26:17
So what is coming up as particularly challenging?

WA **Willard, Abbey** 1:26:30
Is that a question specifically for me, Carla, or is that for everyone?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:26:33
Yes, yes. I'm trying to ascertain what.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 1:26:35
Um...

Raimundi, Karla 1:26:38
What?
of the process.
comes up as challenging.

Willard, Abbey 1:26:51
I think my, I mean, I think that you could use the word challenge. I think I used the term overwhelming. I think what I feel is that.
I think there's a lot of steps in the process, which to me feels both a requirement of time and human capital. And both of, and each phase in the process kind of, or numerous stages in the kind of plan development process require engagement with other members of our agency.
that means additional time and capacity and scheduling capability to sort of like gather that input. You know, like even just like identifying communities, like I'm one person within an agency. I can outline communities from within my scope of work and with my specific team that I engage, but to identify the communities of our entire agency, that requires

Raimundi, Karla 1:27:25
Mmh.

Willard, Abbey 1:27:48
me to engage with other directors or with each other division within our agency because we do different work. Some of us do regulation, some of us do development, some of us do, you know, rule making, others do grant making. So I just am acknowledging that there's like a variety of just conversations that like in my mind as I read through these,
I'm trying to spin like, okay, like how am I, how the kind of the detail of like, how are we going to capture all those voices? That's just within our agency. And then I certainly feel, you know, if we will, if there's value in kind of gathering.

Raimundi, Karla 1:28:20
Mhm.

Willard, Abbey 1:28:29
perspective outside of our agency, you know, sort of like capturing some community thoughts from even outside the Agency of Agriculture, that is another kind of like process in developing the plan. So others probably have different reactions, but that's mine.

Raimundi, Karla 1:28:40
Yes.
Yeah, that's helpful. So if I may repeat back just for confirmation of understanding, is overwhelmed with...

Willard, Abbey 1:28:47
S.

Raimundi, Karla 1:28:55
Too distinct.
Steps one, the operationalization of the plan itself, which will require a kind of engagement within your agency that seems
difficult to...
to do. And then also with the process of standing up the community engagement plan itself,
due to the rigorosity that the process seems to entail. So it's the actual operationalization of the community engagement plan based on the guidance that is before all of us now. And then also the process of
creating the community engagement plan because it entails reaching corners of the agency that are kind of like hard to reach.

Willard, Abbey 1:30:07
I think that's a reasonable recap. Yeah.

Raimundi, Karla 1:30:10
Okay.
Thank you.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:30:14

I see Mariana, and then Grace, and then I saw Kim Sands, and then Victor, and then Janet.

Go ahead, Mariana, your first.

Mariana Sears 1:30:26

Thank you. I am.

When I was thinking from an advisory council perspective, as something missing is, and I think Abby may have touched upon some of what I'm trying to say here is, I'm concerned or I am interested in having some sort of coordination or somewhere in the plans that invites agencies to coordinate to a certain level or to a certain extent before, I mean, this is for implementation, not necessarily for the draft part, but I am not sure if I was able to find in either of the two versions a clear portion where it says, we need to care for these communities first and foremost. They are the protagonists and we need to make sure that we not 10 agencies of government to start engaging with them.

randomly without a coordinated effort. Because imagine if you are one of the communities that is impacted by all these agencies, which if you are a vulnerable community, you very, very, very likely are impacted by transportation issues, by agricultural issues, by environmental issues, by you name it. So imagine if all these agencies are trying to reach the same communities at the same time, with all these different beautiful plants and, you know, activities to engage, people may be overwhelmed. So I

The truth is, the best thing if we center the people at...

that are going to be impacted by this work is to perhaps have only one or two main ways of engaging and have all agencies participating in those activities.

and I'm not sure if that's even possible, but some sort of collaboration I feel like needs to be worked out or some space for collaboration needs to be worked out so that when all agencies begin to implement these great plans,

there's no overlap or there's little overlap or people out there feel like, oh my goodness, I have all these opportunities to engage now. And some of them are even compensating, so compensated. And I am concerned that it may be confusing or overlapping or overwhelming for community members.

especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voices we really want to center.

That's all. Somewhere, we could work or talk about that a little bit more or make sure that somewhere.
that is included.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:33:42
Thanks, Mariana. Go ahead, Grace, and then Victor.

Vinson, Grace 1:33:47
Yeah, I kind of just, sorry, I already said my comment mostly in the chat, sort of echoing what Abby was saying. And Carla, I guess this goes back to the meeting that I had with Kreju and, you know, thinking about who the ask needs to be directed to and how to involve directors and stuff.
But it's still, as Abby said, sort of overwhelming to think about as just one person. But I do want to vocalize that, like I find this guidance super helpful, especially the... example language, which I know we're not supposed to, you know, obviously copy, but it's super helpful and the resources and stuff. So thank you.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:34:34
Go ahead, Victor.

Davila, Victor 1:34:37
Just in response to what folks have been raising right now, would it be...
As a response to that feeling of a warmness when in communication with your own internal agency, would it then be helpful for the guide to include that a description of that level of engagement, like how that engagement with internal staff might need to be phased out, like how like step one, step 2, as far as like building out
a good workflow for making sure that that communication is happening smoothly internally. Is that something that would help cover that or is this more of a need for a clearer explanation of design and implementation? What would be more helpful?

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:35:35
I think folks can, if anyone has thoughts now, certainly, you know, respond or respond in the chat as things pop up. I think we'll keep moving with hands unless someone has a direct response.
Go ahead, Janet, and then Mario.

Hurley, Janet 1:35:52

Well, I'm next. Okay. Well, maybe partial direct response to Victor. Probably that wouldn't, I can't see how that would be helpful to the whole group because all of our agencies are different and have different roles and capacities and it would be too difficult.

To.

to make that work across such diverse structures, I think. So just an answer to that, but just thinking about what Mariana brought up and, you know, sort of engagement overload of our communities and how complicated this is because

all of our agencies are engaged in various statutory kinds of activities that differ. And, you know, those sections in both of the options that discuss rulemaking, permitting, and the various different kinds of situations,

All of those are so different for each of us.

It seems like it would be a really, I don't know if there can be sort of a clearinghouse that this group could sort of

hold as to where each of us are in certain engagement activities and whether that would be helpful, Mariana, I don't know. But it's very complicated across government to try to streamline this.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:37:44

Thanks, Janet. OK, Mariam, you are next.

Maryam Shabbir Abbasi (she/her) 1:37:54

Hi, everyone. Good to see you all after a very long time. I think some of my questions are already answered by Janet, but I still want to go ahead and put it out there.

Like my question was in terms of implementation too, like given the US standing on Paris Agreement and related funds to UN organizations and different states as well.

Once we put all the efforts to develop this community engagement plan, have sessions with them, whatever like methodology we opt to talk to our respective immigrant communities and know the environmental burdens, this plan is developed, however we agree to.

But for implementation, you need resources, so...

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:38:53
Yeah.

Maryam Shabbir Abbasi (she/her) 1:38:55
Otherwise, all this hard work and time would be kind of wasted if we don't get back to resources, don't get back to communities we would be involved with, you know, because eventually they would like to hear that what are the solutions for them, what the government or this agency would be doing for them to reduce their environmental burdens.
Yeah, my questions were around that, but also in terms of like developing community engagement, are we supposed to like develop community engagement plan for like each of our own communities or there would be like...
one document eventually for different immigrant communities in Vermont. For example, there are like Asians, there are like Mexicans, like they're like different immigrant community members. So if I talk about my community, immigrants like. How do we, how do we like?
I don't know how to put out there. So how do we plan to have different sessions with them? Because when I was thinking about community engagement plan, I was thinking to have consultation sessions with like community members. But since community members have like different languages as well, and they have language barriers too.
So there would be more than one session. So I was kind of looking for clarity that how many sessions we can have with different immigrant community members to come up with a, like to develop actually like a community engagement plan for our respective immigrant communities, if that makes sense.
Um...
And yeah, I think for now these are my two major concerns.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:40:55
Do you mind if I ask a follow-up question, which is...

Maryam Shabbir Abbasi (she/her) 1:41:00
Yes, please.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:41:03
Just making sure that I'm clear, like you're thinking about.

Hurley, Janet 1:41:10
Yeah.

Maryam Shabbir Abbasi (she/her) 1:41:24
Yeah.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:41:24
I think I will offer and then please push back subgroup that we haven't actually talked about, like community specific aspects of the plans. So that is, I just want to make sure that like I and the whole group here is that we haven't talked about that yet.
Thank you for bringing that up.
Thanks.
Charlotte, and then Carla, and then Claire.



Safran, Charlotte (she/her) 1:41:49
Thank you. I had a few questions and comments. First, Mariana and all, I want to, as a subgroup member, I want to make sure I understand, similar to what you had said, Mariana, or asked, and then I think what Jennifer put in the chat, am I hearing that it would be really, really supportive if this guidance offered, like,
Here are like the core values or commitments with which the entire state of Vermont is leaning into community engagement and then, you know, all the, and then.
In addition to those like core values and commitments, like here's, you know, what. can be differentiated depending on your agency. I just wanted to like get a thumbs up if like, that's what we're talking about, because there are core values and core concepts in both documents. And I think what I'm hearing is those clearly haven't risen to the top enough as shared core values across the state of Vermont.
Um...
And another thing I wanted to comment on regarding what Mariam just stated and what Sarah had stated, you know, there are some pieces in the plans that we haven't specifically talked about for sure there needs to be cultural humility and cultural responsivity based on the populations of focus.

for a certain community engagement activity. But there is those, there are those sections around do your research. You know, the state of Vermont is responsible for doing research, understanding how and when we have or have not interacted with certain organizations, communities of focus, priority populations.
And so I think I'm hearing that that section also needs to be elevated.
And then lastly, Janet and all, we haven't been using the word clearinghouse, but in response to what we are hearing from our state of Vermont colleagues in our community engagement community of practice, Sarah and I have developed a community engagement inventory tool
meant to reduce burden on communities with whom the state of Vermont engages. The idea is that this community engagement inventory tool, it will be the state of Vermont's responsibility to input types of engagement that are happening,
the engagement, you know, it's connected, you know, what agency or program it's connected to, what communities were involved and lessons learned. So that state of Vermont folks talk to each other and talk about lessons learned so that the burden is not put on community. So that will be referenced and
linked in whatever guidance because we're really, really hoping that, you know, again, we as a state of Vermont employees take on that, take on that burden so that we don't put it on.
on our communities who've already been harmed by us. So.
I'll pause there.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 1:45:06
Carla and then Claire, and then I'm going to pass it to Kim for a little bit of like a break and a time check after Claire.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:45:17
I didn't intend to have my hand up, sorry.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 1:45:23
It happens.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 1:45:24
Let me lower it.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:45:25
Go ahead, Claire.

McIlvennie, Claire 1:45:29
I feel like my mind has like bopped all over hearing everybody comment before me. So I'm trying to like reformulate my comment into like its current form versus where I started.
Which I think maybe I just want to vet that I'm understanding.
the deliverable we face next July in the context of this guidance versus like development of a community engagement plan for a specific initiative, which I feel like elements of this conversation have touched on both like the deliverable and implementation. And so I want to make sure that I'm understanding.
in a similar way that others are, which is that the deliverable we faced in July, which this guidance is intended to support us in creating, is an overarching community engagement plan for our agencies that will guide how we implement community engagement
Writ large.
whether that's just ongoing relationship building with community or within the context of a specific.
Project or initiative, and that it's not the same as.
That project or initiative specific engagement plan that I might develop for like a stream of work or like. As much as we try not are going to try and move away from this like one off like I have this funding and I need to develop a program and i'm developing a community engagement plan to support that.
That's correct, right?
Okay, great. Yeah, so I feel like maybe what is missing from my perspective, I think that's clarifying like what I put in the chat having heard Abby and some others talk about is like maybe some language that we could include in our plans that specifies that.
That, like, this is kind of a template for how our agencies will move forward with community engagement work writ large, and a part of that process is identifying, like...
who will be involved in what, you know, generally speaking, and it can, I think what I see in these documents is a template we can use to like copy into or start from. So

we're not every time we do community engagement, like starting from scratch of like, where do I begin? And so I think I just want to vet that that's the intention. and that I'm understanding it correctly and I think from that lens.
Most of the like template pieces are there, but maybe again, like some of the process of how do we actually get to the July 1 deliverable is what's missing, at least in the sections we reviewed today, which I haven't read all the documents writ large, so.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 1:48:28
That's a good segue. Oh.
Kim, can Abby go?

Barrett, Kim 1:48:34
Okay.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 1:48:36
I don't need to take up a lot of time. I'm sorry, Kim. I just, I appreciate the distinction and the clarification, Claire, that you're offering. The only kind of like related piece, which I think I want to just lift up is that.
Oh, I'm feeling, and again, we haven't had these conversations in our agency yet, but I am feeling that the various, before we'd have an agency, a collective agency agreement around the creation of a plan, there will need to, we will need to have some conversations around like the execution of the various.
Components, and what I'm trying to say about that, and I'm probably not doing this very clearly, is that...
If it's if the intent is for the agency to create a plan that would be.
utilized uniformly across the agency, recognizing we all do a variety of different work and we have differing responsibilities in various departments and divisions and sections. However, each organization is organized. I'm feeling like there's going to need to be a lot of conversation around
the different components, even though we don't have to actually do those various stages in the creation of a plan, everyone's going to have to talk about it and feel comfortable with it. And so that's a piece to me that's feeling like it's going to be time consuming and probably a fair amount of like negotiation and compromise.
So, and that may be different at each agency department level.

Raimundi, Karla 1:50:15
So when you say everyone, Abby, everyone within each agency.

Willard, Abbey 1:50:21
Yes.

Raimundi, Karla 1:50:22
Yes. Like the internal process of discussing elements of a community engagement plan and levels of confidence with the ability of the entity to actually implement those components.

Willard, Abbey 1:50:23
Yeah.

Raimundi, Karla 1:50:40
Indeed. Okay, yes, I agree. That definitely is an integral part of the process of developing a community engagement plan that
That the, you know, that the agencies, um, are looking to.
Implement, yeah, the viability of the components.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:51:07
I want to hand it to Kim. Yeah.


Barrett, Kim 1:51:08
Perfect.

Jennifer Byrne 1:51:09
So, okay.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:51:11
Go ahead.


Barrett, Kim 1:51:11
Jennifer can go and then I'll go after. Thank you.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:51:14
Okay.

Jennifer Byrne 1:51:15
Okay, great. Yeah, I'm thinking about like a step that the subgroup might be able to, like a next step or maybe something that could be even a part of this guidance document is almost like the pre-assessment that has to, and the work that has to get done within each agency. I'm thinking about like,
you know, it's going to be conversations, you know, potentially surveys, maybe like rolling out, you know, this tool or like the concept of a database where people can post their engagement work. But I'm wondering if maybe that's something we could like take back to the subgroup and think about.
sort of that entry point of like, from, okay, we have basically that we have a year. So, you know, in the next six months, like how do the IAC members move forward within their agency? Kind of just set out some goals. And then I would love to hash out some of these like,
what are the pieces of this that we think need to be more aligned across all the plans, really from each section, like what's important that we're collaborating on.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:52:29
Go ahead, Kim. I'm going to let Kim go. Otherwise, we'll never get the break, which is great.


Barrett, Kim 1:52:34
I appreciate you, Sarah. Okay, so this is a wonderful discussion. I want to name a few things. And it actually relates to what you just talked about, Jennifer. So obviously, we do have a couple more sec.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:52:36
Which is a great problem to have.


Barrett, Kim 1:52:54
sections of the document to look at. A reflection of mine is that a lot of the feedback that you all provided just now actually can be applied across the different sections.

So me personally, I'm not too, like I don't have a sense of urgency about saying we need to continue moving on.
at this exact moment. I think it's actually more important to talk about what happens after this meeting. And so I would like to break just to touch base on that, because if we move to additional sections of the document and then get to the end of the meeting without discussing that, it could
Kind of...
halts or slow down the progress that happens afterwards. So my question, first and foremost, is what would be the best way for everyone on this call to digest these documents like asynchronously and provide feedback? Because the subgroup really does need.
Like we have in part what we need from this meeting, but I think everyone can agree that more review is necessary. So if you all could give an idea of what you might need to do that, that would be helpful. And then the subgroup after this meeting, we could
circle up and say, this is the feedback we got. This is also how long it's going to take everyone to look at these documents. And together, like everyone on this call can make a commitment to help the subgroup, you know, either move forward with the timeline that we have right now or make adjustments that will.
that will respond to the needs that you all have. But those two things do need to happen so that we set ourselves up for success here. So I'm going to pull back and let folks jump in on that.

Hurley, Janet 1:54:53
Is it alright to jump in on that?

Barrett, Kim 1:54:56
Yes.

Hurley, Janet 1:54:59
I just want to say that both of these documents reflect really great work by the subgroup, and I want to thank all of you for putting it together. And to me, it's not that important which option. And I sort of trust that
subgroup to sort of make a decision between options here. And I don't know if that's partly what you were asking for, Kim. But yeah, I need more time to read through.

But I kind of wonder,
if we should wait until the subgroup sort of brings them together in some way. So I guess that's my initial thought on that.

Barrett, Kim 1:55:49
Yeah, I think, thank you. I think it could be all of that. Like if folks, if folks feel like within the next week or so that you could look at the document and again, it's not comparing, it's just these elements work for these reasons and whatnot. That'll still be helpful. So if you have feedback, just

Hurley, Janet 1:55:50
No.

Raimundi, Karla 1:56:01
No.

Barrett, Kim 1:56:07
please send it. And the subgroup, the next time we meet, will figure out what to do next. But my point is that I don't want the feedback to come in too late and then it'd be difficult for the subgroup to do what it needs to do, if that makes sense.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:56:38
Abby, to respond to your question, our next meeting is not next Friday because that's June 15th, but the following Friday, so the 26th.
June 26th, two weeks from this Friday.
Go ahead, Carla.

Willard, Abbey 1:56:53
It makes sense to me, sorry, just to jump in, but let's, and I don't know if you want all feedback by that meeting or in advance of that meeting so that like let's use the structure of how this group's already gathering to get you what you would need as feedback. So again, you have to let us know, does that mean you need it days before so all the comments can be assembled or do you just want all of it?

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:56:54
Oh.

Raimundi, Karla 1:56:56
And.

Willard, Abbey 1:57:17
submitted to you by the 25th and then that becomes the focus of your meeting on the 26th or do you want it a week in advance so you can try to incorporate those edits? Like I I'm not sure what works best for for the for the subgroup, but.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:57:34
Yeah, subgroup folks. I see your hand, Carla. I just want to make sure we answer this. Subgroup folks, what Turner, like how much time do you want with all the feedback before we meet on the 26th?



Barrett, Kim 1:57:56
So Charlotte says one week. Other folks, Mariana, Victor, Carla.
Hmm.

Mariana Sears 1:58:14
I don't know exactly because I am going to be in PTO, so I'm not sure right around that time. So I don't want to say something and then be subjected to just my. A week seems very reasonable.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:58:31
No.
Go ahead, Victor.

Davila, Victor 1:58:34
No, it just, it seems reasonable. So we can get more than one meeting in, because I assume that what needs to be digested will need to happen in more than one session.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:58:46
That's a good point.

Raimundi, Karla 1:58:50
I would like to know what Juliet, as a holder of this body of work for Creju, thinks about that amount of time based on all other commitments.

McIlvennie, Sarah 1:58:56
And.



Barrett, Kim 1:59:15
Yeah, I don't think Juliet is on the call.

Raimundi, Karla 1:59:17
That's right. Yeah, she had to step up.
I mean, looking at, you know, from my vantage point, a week seems reasonable based on my understanding of priorities.
But I think perhaps I'll touch base with Juliet and get back to the group. But it seems right now that that may be a reasonable amount of time.



Barrett, Kim 1:59:46
Okay, yeah.

Raimundi, Karla 1:59:46
Kim, if you have thoughts.



Barrett, Kim 1:59:48
No, no, that makes sense. I just wanted to make sure that at least everyone touched base on this in the meeting and then Juliet can.
year from there. But I feel like where you all answered my question. So if it's not clear, we can clear it up. Maybe like right at the end of the meeting. Do do we want to move into the next section and just continue can continue from there? And then if
If there are folks who haven't really shared too much thus far, then when we move to the next section of the guidance, if yeah, just saying I want to make, I want to make

sure that there's space for people who haven't had the opportunity to share in our next.
Discussion, Carla.

Raimundi, Karla 2:00:38
Yeah.
Thank you. I would like to wrap up the several comments prior to this moment that Jennifer shared that I also, my apologies, I think that capture some of what Abby has been sharing.
and others in the group. And it's about how the agencies themselves are going to organize and create structure behind this deliverable. And what I put on the chat and have mentioned in other meetings is that
that particular component of the work is considered currently part of technical assistance. So to the extent that we can have access to what
the specific challenges, concerns, barriers are. And then culturally, what resonates and what does not work within your agency.
then we're going to be in a better position to provide technical assistance that's responsive to your needs and ways of working. I think it's hard and very difficult to provide assistance across the board, uniform assistance, assistance in terms of how to operationalize, how to organize agencies around this one deliverable. That, you know, doing that,
just one approach I don't think will necessarily work. Janet mentioned earlier in the meeting that all of the agencies are very distinct. And culturally, I tend to believe that that is true as well. So
My hope is that in the next several weeks, we can start having those conversations independently with each of the agencies for us to better understand what the concerns are and how we can support.
the creation of those structures and the exchange of
work that's already been done.
so that you can take some of those lessons and apply them internally to your agency.
And I put in on the chat too that we started doing some of this work with Grace. We met with Grace and we talked about structurally what her agency needs and
how we can best meet that need.
So...
It would be great if we could do the same with all of the other agencies.

And then after those conversations, we can reassess the level of overwhelm, whether we've been able to ameliorate some of some of those feelings of overwhelm.
Or is there not going to completely dissipate because this is definitely an overwhelming and very complex deliverable?

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:04:15
Can I just ask, I guess I'm curious because ANR is leading this and also offering technical assistance. You don't have to answer this, but I'm very curious how this is going at ANR, given that you probably have the most touch points with community around environmental justice.
and all these topics. And oh my goodness, there's so many community engagement things going on right now from ANR, from like every division all over the place. And it is so not organized. So I'm just like, what, you know, I wonder about ANR itself and how is this working? Like going down to the divisions, DEC just led a whole
you know, information gathering process and I did an interview, you know, I took the call with them and they were not into, you know, they haven't been, I don't think, aware of any of this stuff from the EJ Council. So, yeah, curious about ANR's work here.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:05:20
Yes, we are. We are going through the motions of what Abby is anticipating is a challenge in her agency. It's we're organizing. We created a working group.
within the agency that has representation from all of the departments. And we are trying to not get ahead of what the guidance document is producing. But what we are hoping to do, Jennifer,
is to slowly expand awareness across the agency with regards to this one deliverable and the outputs of the deliverable. So we've produced a survey that was filled out by our Environmental Justice Network.
And we're also working with a drafting group to get us started in identification of common needs, common practices around engagement, and then spaces where more guidance is needed.
All of that information we are using to produce technical assistance. And we applied some of those lessons that we've learned and approaches that we're using to provide support to Grace. And we are

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:06:56
Ohh.

Raimundi, Karla 2:06:59
We are in incipient stages because like I mentioned, we really do not want to get ahead of the subgroup and the guidance document. But the goal is that as we enter in this phase of having a better understanding of what the needs, the challenges, and the barriers are specific
each of the agencies that we can take some of our challenges, some of the barriers, and some of the tools that we've used to overcome those barriers and challenges and share them widely with the covered agencies.
But this is not perfect, Jennifer, in any way. We are definitely very challenged, as you may all know, for resources and capacity. So, you know, getting to the corners of our agency, that's 600 plus.
staff people with many divisions is very challenging. But we're learning and what we would like to do is to share all of those learning lessons with each of the agencies as they apply to the concerns and challenges that they may face or are facing around this deliverable.

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:08:23
Thank you both, I think.
I think what feels helpful, baby, is I want to try to restate what I feel like I've heard from the group and ask you all if that feels accurate, and then offer a couple of options for the next 30 minutes. So restating what I feel like I've heard.
is a lot of good feedback already about this, but like specifically aimed at that first portion of the document or some people were adventurous and read multiple portions.
Follow-up questions I feel like I'm hearing are.
Maybe I don't want to say it that way. From the back and forth that I have heard around this piece of internal capacity and how are we going to look, like what is the community engagement to build the community engagement plan within each agency that's going to happen, that feels like a piece that I'm hearing.
And wonder, how do we do that on an hour on a year-long timeline? So I would offer, from what Claire had said of her summary, there is a deliverable of the law that

all covered agencies provide meaning.
equal opportunity for meaningful participation, which is defined, right? There needs to be.
conditions need to be met for meaningful participation to be an option.
That is going to be helped, like developed and institutionalized how people do that through a community engagement plan, which the development of which is also a deliverable.
In order to do both things.
These community engagement plans will have to have their own community engagement processes because we will have to talk with each of our agencies about building them. They will have to have community input and be uniform and supportive of communities to be successful.
They will also need to be both personnel policies.
because we are talking about culture change and they will need to have SOPs for how staff enact like specific processes in addition to culture change.
And I think I've heard questions on like all four of those pillars. And so I just want to name that.
Um...
I also feel like I heard multiple people say that they would like in the future for a TA to potentially look like holding more space for shared learning across the covered agencies.
Does that feel accurate?

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:11:10
Does to me.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 2:11:12
I offer that a little bit to like to elevate that because that is a very specific, I just want to name that that is very different than like one-on-one TA. And so I want to make clear that that's what folks are describing.
OK.
And then the third piece, sorry, Charlotte, is we do have two more sections that we haven't given you time to reflect on and then go through in detail. That is an option. Another option is like if people feel like there's a thread that's broader, that feels more helpful to follow. And so I'll just let you all kind of like percolate on those while

Charlotte shares, and then I'll hand it back to Kim.
Go ahead, Charlotte.



Safran, Charlotte (she/her) 2:11:55

Thank you so much. Yeah, I essentially put my question in the chat. You know, I think something that I'm, this is my first ever public meeting. I think something that I'm observing is that folks are bringing up really, really real concerns.
regarding, you know, promising practice, regarding, you know, this law that's put into place and how to meet the deliverables of said law. And from where I stand, there doesn't seem to be a great solution.
So I don't, as part of a subgroup, as a subgroup member, I don't want to pretend that I have a magic wand that's going to address, like some way we're going to format our word, some guidance that's going to address capacity issues, or the fact that we don't have standardized compensation practices across the state of Vermont, or the fact that we don't.
that agencies who don't have access to block grants have a really hard time compensating folks. So I think I would like to know.
understanding the very, very real barriers, what would be supportive for covered agencies to have in guidance, knowing that we cannot solve for everything.
Yeah, I would just, that would be so helpful.

MS

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:13:15

Bye, bye.

MC

McIlvennie, Claire 2:13:18

And.
One thing, this is just reiterating what I already said. Sorry if I'm just being a broken record in different words, but that's coming to mind is like assessing where you're starting from as you
But I...
I interpret these plans to both be like aspirational, but also needing us to do like a realistic assessment of like how we get from where we are to where we want to be.
And I know that other, I think maybe, Carly, you just mentioned the survey. I know Dave, who I think has dropped off, had mentioned V-Trans was doing a survey, maybe

VDH is also doing one. I know that in the prior conversation there are like some agencies who had developed some like initial assessment tools to try and figure out where everyone was. And I'd say like a practical aspect of this work could be just doing like.
where are you now and what are some steps that you know you're going to need to do or gaps that you know that you'll need to think about addressing as you move towards implementing the template or however we end up framing implementation.
pieces of this plan. And so that maybe is just like agencies who've already done started doing that assessment work, like sharing the surveys if they're open to it so that other agencies who haven't done that work yet don't start from scratch or other tools.
like that, that could be helpful. That's the one that's coming to mind, but that's feeling like for me as I reflect on like, what do we want to start doing sooner than later is that component of like, I can build the aspiration commitments piece, but I'm not going to get there if I don't kind of do a baseline assessment of where we all are right now.
And I think that will be a helpful communication.
data point as we all work with our leadership on this.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 2:15:38
Thanks, Claire.
Go ahead, Abby.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:15:44
Another thought that I'm having is.
I remember like the other big deliverable that we have had and kind of accomplished thus far as IACs has was the environmental benefits baseline spending report. And I feel like...
Again, the Agency of Agriculture went through our process and like how we were going to do that work. And I think
Maybe it would have been helpful to certain folks had we shared that earlier in the process with other IAC members to just sort of say, here's how we're breaking it down. We're going to talk to, again, and now I'm like switching to like imagining doing it for this deliverable that we're going to meet with our leadership and our directors. We're going to do a survey. We're going to, you know, like

like build from the baseline of where we are now, as Claire is saying, and then these are the actions and maybe even like proposed timelines and maybe having a few agencies that are feeling very clear about their process or are in the next couple of months feeling like they're going to get clear about their process could bring that and share that and then see if
rather than everybody having to make a plan for how they're going to create their plan, there's like some bits and pieces that we can pull from one another and say, wow, this is actually something I can just take and implement and like have the steps laid out.
So others have suggested that I'm just I'm saying it again also in just different words in a different way.



Barrett, Kim 2:17:35
Okay, great. Would you all like to move on to at least see if we can discuss the second section or where are folks at?

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 2:17:52
The other sections are process specific best practices and then sections of a community engagement plan. So that's more like introduction policy statement values and like how you draft the plan.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:18:10
Sure, I will note, I just think we're losing a lot of participation, but I think...
Let's keep going.



Barrett, Kim 2:18:21
Yeah, to your point, Abby, it's always possible to pivot when needed. So this is your meeting. So if there's a different direction that folks would like to go or something else that you feel like needs to happen to increase.
participation, like we don't want to just go down that road if it's not going to work for folks. So if folks are feeling burnt out or less engaged, if you could just share what you're needing at this moment so that we can make the best, so that you all can make the best of your time.

Hurley, Janet 2:19:09
Kim, what's left on the agenda?

Barrett, Kim 2:19:13
So the only thing left on the agenda is to go through another section, like of the document. So Sarah mentioned, there's two big sections. So what we could do is share screen again, show you a couple of more slides, and then do another silent review and then
discuss together. So we could choose to go forward with that. But Abby's reflection is correct that maybe that won't feel the best for folks. And we have 30 minutes left. So just wondering.
what the majority of folks would like to do at this point.
Okay.

Hurley, Janet 2:19:54
Yeah, and maybe noting that several people have left the meeting. Do we still have quorum?

Barrett, Kim 2:19:59
Mhm.
Yeah.
Yeah, we, I think we do.

Hurley, Janet 2:20:15
Okay. Okay.

Barrett, Kim 2:20:17
You do?

Hurley, Janet 2:20:19
I mean, we could, we could do that. I just, I wonder if...
If giving us time to...
to do that separately now and provide feedback directly to, would we provide it directly to who would be the point person to provide that to?

Barrett, Kim 2:20:33
Really?
I think sending it to Juliet and I works and then we can get it to...
We need that.

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 2:20:49
The sub subgroup, yeah.

Barrett, Kim 2:20:52
Mhm.
Excuse me, and to clarify, Janet, are you saying that perhaps we could use the next 30 minutes for folks to just do their own review and then share thoughts afterwards?

HJ **Hurley, Janet** 2:21:07
Yeah, I don't know, just because so many people have left the meeting.

Barrett, Kim 2:21:07
Yeah.
Yeah.
How do folks feel about that, Carla? How do you feel about that?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:21:18
I defer to the majority.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:21:25
Another thought that I'm having, if I can just jump in, is that I...

Barrett, Kim 2:21:26
Yep.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:21:31
Feel like I just need like a little bit. Maybe there's maybe what would be most helpful for me is to like have a little bit of a...
Timeline.

discussion. So like so for example, we've said feedback to the subgroup by next Friday. So they have another one week before their scheduled subgroup meeting to kind of aggregate feedback. Then.
I wonder, like, do we want to say certain agencies that are feeling they're either confident or moving forward or feeling clear about their process that we want that to them to kind of prepare some timelines and process documents that they might want to share with other IAC members at an upcoming meeting?
Or even when would the final guidance be shared with back with the IAC and the AC? Like I think that's probably, frankly, at this point, what would be most helpful for me is to kind of like use the collective knowledge that's still here in the room to kind of like make a plan rather than.
take 30 minutes to review the document because I'm already hearing that if folks are going to send comments, they have a week to do that.
Um...
Yeah, that's where I'm coming from.



Barrett, Kim 2:22:55
What? Yeah.
I'd like to just see if anyone else has thoughts and then we can decide on that.
Okay, sounds like folks agreeing.

Willard, Abbey 2:23:19
Actually, I have one more thought. I also just want to like double, triple check on like our July 1 deliverable. So that's 20 days away. So I just also, which has nothing to do with a community engagement plan. So I do just.
Want to make sure we know, and then...
Yeah, and then our January one, January deliverable is not that far away either. So I guess I, this is what I do when I'm feeling overwhelmed is like I have to make a plan based on what we need to get done and how it's going to get accomplished on deadline. So those are things that are all in my mind right now.



Barrett, Kim 2:24:04
Thanks for sharing, Abby. Carla, I feel like a couple of questions that Abby had are things that you could speak to.

Raimundi, Karla 2:24:19
I can speak to the July 1st deadline.
July 1st, 2026, basically tomorrow. So as you all know, we had meetings in an executive session to talk about how we are proposing
to get to that deadline.
After those conversations that were had with both the advisory council and the inter-agency committee, we met with all of the general councils for all of the inter-agency committees, all of the inter-agency committee members. And where we're at is that we are
Deal?
at a point where we need to hear back from some agencies regarding preferred approach. Internally, the Civil Rights Environmental Justice Unit, we are in the process of drafting
a response that would be considered responsive to the deliverable.
I know that that may not be completely satisfactory.
But that's what I have to offer.
At the moment.

Willard, Abbey 2:25:57
I think Jennifer's asking a great point of just like, how do, is there a time to take to bring AC members on this call up to speed?

Raimundi, Karla 2:26:13
Up to speed. Sorry, let me let me open the chat again.
If someone could read from the chat.
Why?

Willard, Abbey 2:26:28
Yeah, I think it's just more context around like what is this July 1 deliverable? What is this proportionality kind of statement around environmental benefits? What does that even mean?

Raimundi, Karla 2:26:29
You're referencing Abby.

Yeah, sure.
Oh yeah, I said this comment about, I don't remember that deliverable in the law.
Can you explain? Yes, it is section 600.
Five subsection H, and it's the deliverable that has to do with agencies establishing agencies making a commitment to.
distribute proportionately based on the baseline spending report. So it's part of the series of benefit spending and allocations of the direct funds that were identified by agencies in their
Benefit spending reports.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:27:50
So it's the setting of a goal and so each agency is being asked to what write write some kind of statement that it's their goal. Is that how it's?
Yeah, I'm not sure if the AC is involved in this at all or should be aware of it.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:28:10
Yes, this was discussed in executive session with the advisory council, Jennifer, and with the IAC, and then with the general counsels from the IAC. And yeah, let me pull up the language.
In statute.
Because I don't want to miss.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:28:31
Yeah, I have the language right here. I just put it in the chat.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:28:35
Perfect. Thank you.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:28:37
Must have missed that one.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:28:37
Yes, correct. It shall be the goal of the covered agencies to direct investments proportionately in environmental justice focused populations.

Jennifer Byrne 2:28:47
Right. And so, I mean, it being the goal of the agency is just that. It's just a goal. So what, how is it being like interpreted by you all? It's like, like it seems like each state agency is going to write a statement. Is that sort of what this is?

Raimundi, Karla 2:29:00
Well, that's part of the discussions that were had with the general counsels for all of the agencies. As you may remember from conversations that we had in executive session, there are parts of this deliverable that we need to be particularly mindful of, and that's what we're navigating currently.

Jennifer Byrne 2:29:19
Oh, see, that's the only part I remember from executive session is talking about the definition. I don't remember anything really about this deliverable in the executive session. I thought it was really only focused on like race.

Raimundi, Karla 2:29:34
Yes, and that relates to this deliverable as well. So you're correct.

Jennifer Byrne 2:29:40
Okay, but there wasn't like another executive session where we talked about this. That's the only part I didn't get that it related to this at all.

Raimundi, Karla 2:29:47
Okay, I see. Yeah, there was an executive session where this one deliverable and the approach that the agencies are comfortable taking was discussed, and that was in executive session. And so where we're at right now is after conversations with the interagency committee members in executive session, we had conversations with all of the general counsels for all of the covered agencies to further discuss
this one deliverable. That conversation included the Attorney General's office and the Solicitor General for the agency, for the state. So status update is those conversations are ongoing and the approach has yet to be
Consolidated.
Okay, so I see your question. So I guess I'm trying to get at what next. Each agency

does what by July. So there are two different approaches that were discussed. We are still, like I mentioned, getting to consensus regarding the approach.
that the agencies were going to take.

McIlvennie, Sarah 2:31:19
but that each agency will produce something by July 1st.
to meet the deliverable deadline.

Raimundi, Karla 2:31:26
that we are having conversations about what agencies will do.
By July 1st. Correct.

Hurley, Janet 2:31:41
Um, Carla, can I ask a question about that? So,

Raimundi, Karla 2:31:42
Yes.
Sure.

Hurley, Janet 2:31:46
That's.
21 days away.
Um...
If the land use review board is going to...
endorse whatever comes out of this. It has to be, we have to do that and we have to get it on a meeting agenda. And our.
We are we are maxed out dealing with regional plans right now, so I don't know what what's anticipated for having, you know, for having something come out of that by July 1st, but just if...
if we can get as much forewarning as possible.
As a board, that would be helpful.

Raimundi, Karla 2:32:42
Yes.

Ronis, Jenny 2:32:43
Just looking at our calendar, that would be like, we would need to know by the afternoon of June 23rd so that we could get it into an agenda that would be duly noticed for an open meeting.

Raimundi, Karla 2:32:44
Understood.
Our goal is to have a communication out to covered agencies after further conversations with some general counsels.
next week, if possible. Again, this is a deliverable that's sensitive in nature, and it entails conversations outside of ANR and outside of our general counsel's office.
expounds to AG's office and Solicitor General's office.

Ronis, Jenny 2:33:35
Certainly, yeah. We just have a drop dead date that we're working with.

Hurley, Janet 2:33:41
So can I add, though, that during this legislative session, I heard from multiple legislators in all of these machinations and whatnot around S325 and Act 181 that Nobody pays attention to our deadlines. Why do you? Why do you feel like you need to?
They told me that. And so since the language here just says it shall be the goal, okay, then we're bound by that language starting on July 1st, 2026. So maybe we don't need to be too worried about.
getting something endorsed by the board before July here. So just putting that out there.
If the intention is that you want us to do that before July, then yeah, Jenny's drop down, drop dead date for us is important, but maybe we don't need to worry about it that much.

Raimundi, Karla 2:34:49
I appreciate that as an alternative, and...
My level of confidence in terms of having information before the 23rd is robust in terms of how we're going to move forward. But again, there are conversations that

are outside of...
what I can control and just given the nature of the deliverable.
We just need to follow through with process and guidance that's been provided to us outside of the agency.

Hurley, Janet 2:35:25
Yeah.
The only other thing is gone from the 17th through the 21st and Jenny's gone even longer. But so people are away for summer vacations. So

Raimundi, Karla 2:35:44
Yep.

Hurley, Janet 2:35:46
Anyway.

Raimundi, Karla 2:35:53
Thank you.
Are there any other questions about this deliverable? I know my answers are not satisfactory, and I recognize that. We definitely can offline. I'm more than happy to share more. And if there are any other questions, please feel free to reach out.
to me and we can we can definitely have more conversations about it.

Willard, Abbey 2:36:25
Thank you, Carla. I appreciate that.

Barrett, Kim 2:36:36
Yeah, this is great. I'm wondering if other people have questions just generally or other things that they've been concerned about or want to share about. This is a good time to do that.

McIlvennie, Claire 2:37:02
I would just highlight the second part of Abby's timeline question, which I don't think we need to discuss today, but would advocate for
being on at least an IAC agenda and whenever we meet next, whether that's July or

August.
acknowledging I may not be here for those meetings, but someone from the department will be, because for those who don't know, I'll be out on leave starting in July, but around the January 1st deliverable or under reporting on EJ actions our agencies are taking and just whether or not
If we just having a discussion about that deliverable, knowing that it will take a little while to develop those reports internally and making sure we're all on the same page about what the expectation is to the extent there is one beyond the words and statute would be helpful.

Barrett, Kim 2:38:07
Sounds good.
Other thoughts and questions?
Are folks feeling burnt out when ending 10 minutes early feel good to everyone?

Willard, Abbey 2:38:23
I'm fine with that. I just want to add the third timeline question I offered for discussion or decision making is around this deliverable, the CEP deliverable. If we could like build that a little bit of a timeline of like when the guidance we think would be finalized, when we might want to talk about some potential.

Barrett, Kim 2:38:29
They.
Mhm.

Willard, Abbey 2:38:42
agencies or departments bringing kind of process time frames to share if people liked that suggestion.
So that was only my other.
Timing question.

Barrett, Kim 2:38:54
Hmm.
Yeah, thank you for bringing that up. I had forgotten you said that. I think that's important. I also think I'm not going to leave that. Like, I think it'll be easier if folks

just jump in and share their thoughts. But I think that'll be more efficient. So please take the time that you need to

Raimundi, Karla 2:38:56
Mm.

Barrett, Kim 2:39:15
especially IAC members, if you could jump on and contribute that, it'll help us answer Abby's question.

Raimundi, Karla 2:39:26
Yes, so with this one question, I am able to provide a little bit more information.

Jennifer Byrne 2:39:27
I went.

Raimundi, Karla 2:39:34
So I am happy about that. So let me just share what we have right now, and then we can have conversations about whether that sounds good, it's reasonable or not, based on the conversation that we had today. So we had initially anticipated July, the end of July, last day of July.
for the subgroup to share guidance, a final version of the guidance. And during this period,
It is our intention to identify which agencies would like to engage in more one-on-one robust conversations around the deliverable needs, challenges, barriers, and support needed to overcome those, schedule those.
The purpose for the July deadline is that it'll give a year for agencies to organize themselves around the deliverable and implement the guidance.
in the creation of your plans. So that's what we have for timeline. I am wondering whether that still seems to be one reasonable.
and also if it addresses some of the things that were shared earlier today regarding the overwhelm that this deliverable comes with.
for some of the agencies.

Barrett, Kim 2:41:18

Thank you. I also want to add to that the subgroup also had mentioned, because I think it's important to recognize that recently the subgroup had, you know, discussion around how long does it actually take to, like,
go through this process, not just going through the motions of developing the guidance, but modeling, like actively modeling these principles. And so saying that to say, I think it would be really helpful for members of the subgroup who feel, you know, from their perspective, might feel like this timeline, that there's room
for that there's wiggle room essentially, but the fact remains that the IAC is concerned. And so I think that it's important for both groups to communicate right now together on it, not to like create too much pressure. But what I don't want to happen is that we end the meeting and there isn't really connection around that. And then
Our unit has to kind of step in without understanding where everyone is at, so...
I would appreciate it if someone from the subgroup, particularly the folks who were, you know, like very passionate, rightfully so, about figuring out how best to incorporate these best practices around community engagement and how can you communicate to the IAC
what that actually means in terms of timing. That's important here.

JB **Jennifer Byrne** 2:43:01
I mean, I'll just say I think it's great that we have a little under two months to keep working on it as a subgroup and incorporating some of these things. And then I could see, like maybe in the guidance document or maybe, but like through the subgroup, a type of sketch outline of a timeline for like the next year that then, you know, agencies can input onto that timeline. But
I feel good about having two months to get this finalized.

MC **McIlvennie, Claire** 2:43:36
I'm not on the subgroup, although someone from my agency is, but I just also wanted to share the thought that like, because this isn't a formal deliverable, the guidance document, it's something we're developing to like support the overall process. Like I personally as an IAC member don't feel overly concerned about having a
polished, approved, like guidance done by the end of July. I think it'd be great to see like the next iteration of the guidance, but to me, it doesn't feel like the work we're

doing as agencies can't move forward in some of the ways we've talked about today in place of like a perfect guidance document. Like I feel like
We've already talked about today how like so much of the content we need is there. It's really just making sure it's in an accessible format and filling some of the gaps and that like that work can continue into the fall, even if it's not fully complete at the end of July. So to me, that timeline feels great to see another draft and then like really start collaborating on the work that we need to do to
Act on it.

MS **McIlvennie, Sarah** 2:44:59
Hi, all, I was taking notes.
Thank you, Kim, for the prompt. I think the thing that feels like it would be the most helpful for me, and I know there's IAC folks who aren't on the call anymore, is...
is like asking for like real specificity of what is your question.
Like, what is the prop, what is the thing that you are trying that you are not able to do? And I'm like, get it coming back to Victor's question early on in the discussion, because I think there are so many layers to this deliverable. Like, if you can be as specific as possible about is it literally writing a plan? You know, I'm not going to restate them, but like.
What are all, which piece is it that is so helpful to us in giving feedback? But otherwise I feel comfortable about the timeline.
I think the sooner we can get more explicit information, our group is very good about like working through it when we get it.

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:45:53
Mhm.
And if I may add to that, that it would be really helpful in the sharing if there is a separation between the guidance itself in terms of content, structure,
and what may be missing from the operationalization or implementation of the guidance itself and the internal structures and what may be needed within each of your agencies to get to the finish line. So if we could
clearly identify those two distinct areas and what fall, what may fall under those areas that will be really beneficial, both in terms of creating a reasonable timeline, because what I am anticipating is that
We are not going to be moving.

at the same pace collectively, right? There are some agencies that have already started this work maybe two years ago.
There are agencies that already started engaging their staff and had held have hold. workshops, for example. So it's important for us to separate content from in the guidance from the operationalization of the guidance and concerns in those areas. So that then we can address technical assistance and then substantive support by the guidance.



Barrett, Kim 2:48:02
Okay, any other last thoughts before we close?

RK **Raimundi, Karla** 2:48:17
I have one, gratitude.
Thank you all.
Thank you all for sitting through this. Thank you all for your patience. Thank you for the feedback, for the engagement, for the passion. It means a lot that we're here. doing this work as a collective.



Barrett, Kim 2:48:47
I agree. Thank you all. Enjoy the rest of your day.

MC **McIlvennie, Claire** 2:48:52
Thanks, everyone.

WA **Willard, Abbey** 2:48:56
Thank you.

◉ **Watson, Britaney** stopped transcription