

Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting
Jan 10, 2022 – Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting – Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)

Steering Committee Members Present: Kristin Clouser, Jared Duval, Liz Miller, Lauren Oates, Chris Company

Staff members present: David Plumb, Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz

Minutes by: Marian Wolz

1:00 PM Welcome/Overview of Agenda

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Agenda reviewed and approved.

1:05 PM Review and Approve [Minutes from the 12/22](#) Meeting of the Steering Committee

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Minutes approved as drafted.

1:07 PM Review draft of the annual GWSA Report to the Legislature

Jane Lazorchak, Director - Global Warming Solutions Act

- Staff provided an overview of the GWSA Report. Report is required by the GWSA, the Council must submit a report to the General Assembly by 1/15. Staff prepared a draft report for the Steering Committee to review and approve on behalf of the Council.
- Steering Committee members raised concern over language in the second to last paragraph on the last page – “voluntary, incentive-based programs are preferred method of transforming the thermal and transportation sectors”; Steering Committee members noted disagreement with this statement. Noted that voluntary actions are included for consumers, but requirements are included, particular in the thermal sector. That language could be revised to state that voluntary programs are being recommended for consumers but regulatory programs are proposed as well.
- Staff noted the intent was to signal that the Agency of Natural Resources is on the hook for meeting emissions reductions, and the legal tools to do so. Staff suggested this could be revised to represent better the requirements for ANR. Steering Committee member Jared Duval volunteer to share specific language for a revision .
- Recommendation to revise the second bullet in the opening paragraph to read, “...established the Vermont Climate Council, responsible for the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Plan”
- A question raised over whether the Steering Committee has authority to approve this on behalf of the Climate Council.

- A concern was raised that the last page of the report contains a couple of places where Steering Committee members could see issues. Steering Committee members requested additional time to review and edit. Steering Committee members also suggested that the last page of the report could be deleted, this was supported by multiple Steering Committee members.
- Steering Committee agreed to share the report with the full Council, and to review the report at the Climate Council meeting on January 24th. Recommended that a note to the legislature would be drafted that stated the report will be reviewed and approved for submission to the General Assembly on January 24th.
- Several Steering Committee members offered to review a rewrite of the last page.

1:27 PM Workplan for 2022

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Overview provided on 2022 work plan ideas – VCC, and ANR focus areas, as well as how work will get done at the Council and subcommittee level.
- Steering Committee members questioned whether the RFI and RFP, and if those were considered required technical analysis. It was clarified that those two components were not considered required as they are not required in the GWSA.
 - A concern was raised around characterizing those additional technical analysis pieces as “nice to have”; Steering Committee members made the case the GHG lifecycle analysis (RFI) is necessary for meeting the obligations in terms of emissions reduction tracking for the GWSA.
- Request raised that composition, development, and coordination of work groups should be transparent and raised at Climate Council meetings, so their makeup is clear to members of the public.
- Request to add a bullet to the slide that notes task groups will provide updates at Council meetings when subcommittees are providing updates.
- Request that Council meeting materials be provided at least two weeks in advance of Council meetings.
- Proposal to shift to quarterly Council meetings – request to keep that schedule flexible, especially if there is a need to meet more frequently due to revision deadlines.

1:51 PM Agenda for January 24, 2022 Council meeting

David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Staff proposed that there are three items to include in the Climate Council January 24th agenda:
 1. Just Transitions Reflection
 2. Self-evaluation
 3. 2022 Workplan
- Request to add discussion of January 15th legislative report to Council meeting agenda.
- Request to include time on agenda to hear relevant updates from subcommittees.

- Suggestion to have Katie Buckley from VLCT present on the ARPA Treasury changes on how municipalities can use ARPA funding. This item will not be added to the agenda, but it can be flagged for the Council if action is needed.
- Recommendation to add a legislative update to the Council agenda. Request to keep the update high level and strategic for the update.

2:07 PM Public Comment

- Cheryl Joy Lipton provided public comment.

2:08 PM Adjourn

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