

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Feb 14, 2022 – Minutes**

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

Steering Committee Members Present: Kristin Clouser, Jared Duval, Liz Miller, Lauren Oates, Chris Campany, Julie Moore

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

Minutes by: Marian Wolz

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11:00 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Review and approval of [January 10 meeting minutes](#)

- Minutes approved as drafted.

11:05 AM Review of proposed Vermont Climate Council meeting in March

- Staff proposed that the next Climate Council meeting be scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Staff reviewed proposed agenda items for the next Council meeting:
- Proposal to have a standing item on Council agendas for updates from Subcommittees. Other Steering Committee members supported this addition.

*Just Transitions Reflection*

- No additional proposal yet for the Just Transitions reflection for the March Climate Council meeting. Due to the length of the Climate Council meeting, staff proposed having the public engagement update as the Just Transitions reflection. Steering Committee members supported this proposal.

*Proposed technical analyses and budget implications*

- Staff provided a walkthrough of the proposed technical analyses and budget implications. This document was prepared at the request of the Council.
- The budget proposes that more than \$500,000 is needed for future work beyond what is currently budgeted. The Governor's recommended FY23 budget includes a onetime \$75,000 to round out the remaining required technical analysis.
- Administration must support the Governor's budget and as such there will need to be a clear process on how to approach this due to the constraints of the Administration.
- It was raised that that Council should be prioritizing based on importance and urgency with consideration of funding available from other sources. Further discussion was had about why the Municipal Vulnerability Index and the Measuring and Assessing Progress Tool were prioritized for the FY22 budget. Administration spoke to those two items being specifically called out in the GWSA and are therefore viewed as priorities for remaining funds for this year.
- Steering Committee members raised the confusion around recommended and required technical analysis, noted that this distinction will be important to prioritize.

- Steering Committee members raised that perhaps a notice should be drafted to let the legislature know that there is a broader conversation around budget that is coming but needs more time to play out.
- Recommendation to have subcommittees fill out the list of needed technical analysis to ensure there are no gaps in needs based on the CAP. Ahead of Council meeting, staff will email co-chairs to make sure all recommended technical analysis pieces are included in the unfunded table.
- It was noted that if a request to the legislature for additional funding will be made, that should happen in the next one to two weeks due to the ongoing work in the legislature.
- Prioritization should be done in sequence – first understand all the technical analysis needs by reaching out to subcommittee co-chairs, then present the legislature with the full list of technical analysis needs and the associated estimated costs above the existing funding, if any. Once the full request for additional funding, if any, is requested and appropriated, then a discussion can occur around the prioritization for analysis.
- Steering Committee member Chris Campany volunteered to draft a letter to be sent to the Legislature that outlines the draft proposed budget needs as presented today, and will identify that the Council is working on an additional budget request but will need more time to develop that request.
- Staff and Secretary Clouser will check in on how to help work on this letter from a procedural point.

#### Public engagement activities

- Staff reviewed the public engagement proposal developed in consultation with the Just Transitions public engagement task group.

#### 2022 VCC Workplan and meeting schedule

- Staff reviewed the proposed Council meeting schedule through June.
- Proposal is to meet next on March 14<sup>th</sup>, and meetings in mid-May and June.
- Steering Committee members did not note any concerns with that proposed schedule.

12:29 PM Confirm meeting schedule for the Steering Committee

- Staff suggested a monthly meeting on Mondays for the Steering Committee.
- Steering Committee members did not note any concerns with that proposed schedule.

12:30 PM Revisions to Sub-committee membership

- Staff reviewed major changes to subcommittee membership that need Steering Committee approval:
  - TJ Poor (June Tierney) has stepped down as co-chair of the Science and Data subcommittee and will be joining the Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee as a member.

- Meghan O'Toole (Julie Moore) will be joining the Science & Data Subcommittee as co-chair.
- Sarah Phillips (Sean Brown) has stepped down as co-chair of the Just Transitions Subcommittee but will be remaining on the subcommittee as a member.
- Abbey Willard (Anson Tebbets) has agreed to serve as co-chair of the Just Transitions Subcommittee.
- Steering Committee approved the subcommittee membership changes.
- Staff reviewed the survey that will be used to gather nominations for new subcommittee members for the Rural Resilience & Adaptation, Science & Data, and Just Transitions subcommittees. The [survey](#) will be shared with Council and subcommittee members tomorrow 2/15, and will be open for one month. Members are encouraged to share with their networks.

12:33 PM Additional Items

- A question was raised as to whether state staff are able to assist co-chairs in compiling a list of needed technical analysis, due to the constraints on the Administration in participating in budget conversations beyond the scope of the Governor's proposed budget.
- Administration members responded that state staff are able to participate in those conversations as long as they are providing information in an advisory capacity, as they have been throughout the process.
- Steering Committee members proposed a special meeting this week to ensure the Steering Committee is able to review the letter to the legislature. Steering Committee agreed to meet at 8am on Wednesday 2/16.

12:25 PM Public Comment

- No public comment provided.

12:30 PM Adjourn

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