

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting
March 6, 2023 – Minutes**

Zoom Virtual Meeting: Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)
Steering Committee Members Present: Liz Miller, Kristin Clouser, Lauren Oates
Staff members present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz
Minutes by: Marian Wolz

- 12:30 PM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [February 17 minutes](#).
- Minutes approved as drafted.
- 12:35 PM Preparing for the March 13 In-Person Council Meeting
- Staff reviewed the [draft agenda](#) for the March 13th Council meeting with the Steering Committee.
 - Staff noted the draft agenda currently has the meeting running from 9:30am-2:30pm but the calendar invitation only has the meeting running until 2pm. Staff will address that discrepancy and will adjust the calendar invitation to last until 2:30pm.
 - Committee requested clarification that the [one-pager](#) will not be approved by the Steering Committee, but rather presented as a tool created by Climate Action Office staff and facilitators to help guide the conversation. Members requested that this be clarified at the top of the document to note that this one-pager was created by state staff and facilitators to help guide the discussion with the Council.
 - Staff reviewed the proposed [2023-2024 Worksheet](#) for use at the March Council meeting.
 - Committee members noted a concern about public meetings and whether small group breakouts can be held in that setting and how the logistics of that will be handled. Staff will follow up with ANR General Council and if there is an issue with compliance with Open Meeting Law, staff and the facilitator will adjust the meeting agenda to host that conversation in Plenary.
 - Committee member requested that the process road map, background on the transportation and biomass work, and ANR capacity memo be hyperlinked in the one-pager to allow easy access for preparation materials.
- 1:15 PM Biomass Task Group Recommendations Update and Process Question
- Staff provided an overview of the process to develop draft biomass recommendations and the anticipated next steps from the Just Transitions subcommittee regarding how the Guiding Principles and Equity Scoring Rubric are used moving forward.
 - Just Transitions Co-Chair and liaison to the Biomass Task Group clarified that the first assessment of the biomass TG recommendations was a first pass, and

was meant to still be reviewed by the entire TG and the subcommittee (preliminary first draft).

- Climate Councilor David Deen made a request that the draft biomass recommendations be returned to the task group and his rewrite is shared with them.
- Question from staff about how to handle revisions from Councilors to recommendations from task groups before being brought to review by the entire Council.
 - o Steering Committee recommended forwarding David's revisions ahead of the Council meeting in April and to discuss those and other Councilor comments and revisions in April.

1:30 PM Public Comment

- Annette Smith and Cheryl Joy provided public comment.
 - o Comments focused on:
 - A reflection and feedback on Council decision making process and a request that process be discussed at the March meeting.
 - The biomass recommendations and when they will be considered by the full Council.

1:45 PM Final Reflections and Adjourn

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