

**Vermont Climate Council
March 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

11:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

11:05 AM Review and Approval of [Jan 24, 2022 minutes](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The Council approved the minutes

11:10 AM Just Transition and [Public Engagement](#) in 2022
*Just Transitions Sub-committee co-chairs
Jane Lazorchak, GWSA Director*

A councilor and member of the Public Engagement Task Group described the [three-pronged approach](#) of planned meaningful engagement in 2022 around climate action. Key points from the discussion included:

- Council members praised the approach
- One councilor suggested that communication and messaging be adapted, given the dramatic changes occurring because of the war in Ukraine and shocks to energy and commodity markets.
- Task groups working on transportation and biomass should look to coordinate with this effort to engage Vermonters around these specific issues.
- Councilors would like to have a kit of materials that would allow people to do their own outreach presentations.

11:50 PM Sub-committee updates (including update on [task group work](#))
Co-chairs of Rural Resilience; Ag & Ecosystem; Cross-Sector Mitigation & Science and Data Subcommittees.

Subcommittee co-chairs provided updates on work of subcommittees and task groups.

Comments and questions from Councilors focused on the following topics.

- Biomass. Concerns about the scope of this conversation. Concerns about ensuring this conversation is inclusive of different voices, keeps a just transition lens and tries to bring different people along. Interest in building from work to date and also using data from life-cycle analyses and other studies that might not be ready yet, raising questions about timing.

- Join meetings of Subcommittees? A question about whether subcommittees should find a way to work together to review the results of task groups and grapple with tough issues.
- Transportation: Councilors agreed with a request from the task group that more time is needed before presenting a recommendation. The group plans to present recommendations in the fall.
- A reminder that the nomination period for new subcommittee members is open until March 15.
- The Request for Information around life-cycle analysis received five submissions.

12:20 PM BREAK

12:30 PM Budgeting and technical analysis
ANR Secretary Julie Moore and Jane Lazorchak

The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) gave an [update](#) around the current and proposed budget for climate action and the work of the council. Also, a list of technical analyses outlined in the Initial Climate Action Plan (CAP) was presented, along with their respective potential costs and sources of funding. Key points of the conversation included:

- The proposed budget includes funding for several studies required by the Global Warming Solutions Act and has about \$100,000 of unallocated funds to support additional technical work identified in the CAP.
- The list is missing a study requested by the CAP: a climate change impact assessment on Vermont’s commercial sector.
- Regarding prioritization for the unallocated funds, several councilors expressed support for funding the life-cycle analysis. However, councilors agreed to push the decision on prioritization to the Steering Committee.
- Since there are multiple potential overlapping sources of funding, it would be helpful to see these options in a different visual format.
- Going forward, the Council agreed to start working on budgeting for any additional technical analysis work in October, so the Council’s recommendations can be considered prior to the Governor issuing his recommended budget. Also, one councilor asked that the Council follow a more traditional approach to budgeting by first identifying the full potential costs, then prioritizing. Another Councilor expressed concern that the Council was experiencing “mission creep” on this issue, as the statute does not create a role for the council around funding decisions.
- The proposed budget includes about \$215 million of funds for climate action.

2:00 PM Legislative Update
 Jane Lazorchak, GWSA Director

The council was out of time on the agenda to receive this update, which will be sent via email.

2:05 PM Workplan and meeting dates for 2022

The Council briefly looked at a [meeting schedule](#) for the remainder for the year. Councilors provided no immediate comments.

2:10 PM Public comment

No members of the public offered comments

2:15 PM Adjourn