

Vermont Climate Council May 16, 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 March 7, 2022 minutes
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The Council approved the minutes.

11:10 AM Just Transition Reflection – [Approach for Youth Engagement](#)
Iris Hsiang, VCC

The Secretary of the Agency of Administration shared a [letter of appreciation](#) for Councilor Iris Hsiang to commemorate her service and final Council meeting. Councilor Hsiang gave a [presentation](#) on a proposal for youth participation in the Vermont Climate Council. The Council supported the initiative.

11:25 AM Public engagement – what we’re hearing ([Presentation](#))
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute and Just Transitions Sub-committee members

Jane Lazorchak presented on the [Revised Public Engagement Strategy](#). David Plumb followed up with a [summary](#) from the Public Engagement sessions held on April 12 and 13. Council members went into several small-group breakout sessions to review the input received from the public engagement sessions as well as the public engagement strategy. Key points of conversation from the debrief included:

- Finding resources to get things done and making sure to prioritize key needs
- The importance of communicating in a consumable way to the public complex analysis and research, along with the impacts of that research on the Council’s work
- Finding the right balance between public engagement to improve program implementation and public engagement regarding policy recommendations.

12:10 PM BREAK

12:25 PM Rule-making: Advanced Clean Cars II and Clean Trucks
Secretary Julie Moore, ANR

The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) along with a Megan O'Toole from DEC gave a presentation on [Low and Zero Emission Vehicle Rulemaking](#). Key points of conversation included:

- The proposed plan is adopting California's measures and rules; Vermont doesn't have leeway to make its own version.
- Roughly speaking, the rule will meet roughly a third of the transportation sector's 2030 goals. There is still more data that needs to be analyzed and understood before firming those details which will be put in the technical support document.
- ANR will file proposed rules with ICAR on July 1, 2022 with a planned adoption by the end of 2022.
- Materials reviewed were working drafts. As soon as more data becomes available then evaluations of emissions, health, and economic benefits will be completed prior to filing proposed rules.
- There will be public engagement around these issues over the summer.

12:45 PM Subcommittee Updates
 Subcommittee Co-Chairs

Subcommittee co-chairs provided updates on work of subcommittees and task groups. Comments and questions from Councilors focused on the following topics:

- The Science and Data subcommittee will have 7 new members join including 1 youth member. The draft of the Life-Cycle RFP is in finalization and will be shared when ready.
- The Transportation Task Group is focused on public engagement. The group is looking towards a possible technical analysis but working on getting the budget to do so. The timeline for looking at recommendations in the fall is not being reconsidered at this time.
- The Biomass Task Group is working on scoping and prioritization based on the tabled issues from last year. A main goal is to elevate everyone's baseline understanding.
- The Rural Resilience subcommittee is working on the Municipal Vulnerability Index and the Climate Toolkit. Most of the work for those items are happening at the task group level. The Toolkit task group is working on pulling together resources for municipal resources as well as working with technical providers to help connect communities to amplify their climate efforts. BGS will be working with regional groups and other state agencies to help with messaging and information regarding the Climate Toolkit. The Municipal Vulnerability Index task group will be posting their RFP soon for people to bid on.
- The Just Transitions subcommittee is focused on public engagement and integrating guiding principles into the Council's ongoing work. In addition, they are working on how to bring the guiding principles into conversations with legislatures and policymakers.

1:10 PM Council Workplan for Remainder of 2022 and Lessons from the Legislative
 Session

David Plumb, CBI

The Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) gave an [update](#) on legislation and budget items with ties to the Climate Action Plan. Following that presentation, the Council reviewed a [proposed schedule of meetings](#) and work for the remainder of the year. Key points of the conversation included:

- The Council agreed with the suggested approach - 3-hour monthly meetings from September through December.
- The transportation and biomass task groups will be working on recommendations for discussion among the Council for a possible addendum to the initial CAP.
- Regarding the failure of the Clean Heat Standard in legislature, ANR does not plan move into rulemaking on this issue. There is time in the framework as proposed by the GWSA to have continued discussion about thermal sector reduction needs.
- The Cross-Sector Mitigation subcommittee would like to have conversations with members of the administration about recommendations on paths forward for transportation, biomass, and building. Some members expressed concern about Vermont's ability to meet its emissions reductions target with key initiatives, such as the Clean Heat Standard.
- The Council should look to opportunities to bring in new members of the legislature to help with education and better inform legislative ideas.

1:50 PM Public comment

The following members of the public participated in the public comment period:

- Cheryl Joy Lipton
- Dale Azaria
- Robb Kidd
- Ben Edgerly Walsh (in chat)
- George Gross

2:00 PM Adjourn

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