

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting
June 6, 2022 – Minutes**

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

Staff Present: Catherine Morris, Jane Lazorchak

Minutes By: Jane Lazorchak

11:30 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [May 2 Meeting Minutes](#)
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The minutes were approved.

11:35 AM Work Planning for the Steering Committee
Catherine Morris, CBI & Jane Lazorchak, Director, GWSA

What does success look like this year for the Council and what are necessary milestones to ensure we are on track?

- Biomass and Transportation Addendums are critical components for the Council to consider this Fall.
- Need to also think about how to bolster the existing recommendations in the CAP that haven't been taken up
 - E.g., Clean Heat Standard timeline in the legislation that didn't pass, could be reconsidered again
- Consider changes to the GWSA to raise up resilience & adaptation as much as mitigation
- Budget recommendations to the Administration
 - Consider research and analysis needs and funding levels for CAP actions such as weatherization and EV charging

What foundational presentations would be most helpful to have ready for discussions in the fall?

- Consider a presentation on the timeline for ANR to act through rule-making versus legislative action
- Budget Considerations
 - Presentation of the analysis of the highest impact, biggest bang for the buck on investment of mitigation actions through the mitigation supply curve analysis

- Need to have actual amounts to be able to give suggestions for inclusion in Governor's budget – i.e., what additional analysis needs to be funded; not actual action steps that need to be implemented
- Need to go beyond research and analysis to identify what else needs to be done
- Presentation from Joint Fiscal Office on economic report and next steps
- Need a clear understanding of legal implications of what happens if we don't meet the statutory requirement
 - i.e., when is ANR obligated to act through rule-making?
- ANR legal counsel could provide a memo, but is not counsel to the council
- May need more independent legal advice on what the options are for the other agencies, the Council, etc.
- Need to review legislative gaps

Discussion on planned [public engagement](#) and how it can inform Council work:

Jane highlighted ongoing public engagement work to consider how it influences ongoing work planning and priorities of the Council.

12:35 PM Update on Contractual Work
Jane Lazorchak, Director, GWSA

- There are currently two RFPs posted for the life-cycle analysis (LCA) and municipality vulnerability index which ANR anticipates moving to contract in August
- Received funding from USCA for agricultural emission analysis and have drafted the RFP. We will be engaging the task group to review the draft in the coming weeks
- ANR is working with the Agency of Transportation on greenhouse gas reductions analyses. We are working to align the task group recommendations with other initiatives in AOT which would lead to a broad transportation sector analysis in 2023
- Working on a RFP for facilitation services for long-term Council support and public engagement

Specific Biomass Task Group Discussion:

- Jane shared the [scope](#) and [chart](#) where the tabled actions from Ag & Eco Subcommittee are being considered
- The task group has struggled with the scope of this group as there is a lot of overlap with the LCA moving forward
- The scope includes a definition of biomass for the task group which is limited to woody biomass

Jane proposed that the LCA will consider biofuels and with that information the Council can decide how they should be taken up once we have that information. The Steering Committee discussed the proposal and agreed with it as is but recognized the following considerations:

- Biomass is broader than woody biomass and we should consider renaming the task group
- Concern that the Action Plan must adapt as new knowledge becomes brought forward, particularly traditional ecological knowledge
- Need to consider the source of the woody biomass and how it is procured. Consider limiting the geography for sourcing the wood
- Steering Committee agreed to proposal put forward to focus narrowly on woody biomass in electricity generation and other biofuel issues will be considered and delegated by the Council when the LCA is completed.

12:55 PM Review and Approval of New [Subcommittee Members](#)

New members were approved.

1:00 PM Steering Committee Meetings for July, August, September

Jane will work to set meetings on Mondays at this time for the upcoming three months.

1:05 PM Public Comment

Public comments were made by Cheryl Joy Lipton, Senator Chris Bray, Ken Jones, Kai Mikkell Forlie.

1:15 PM Adjourn

###