

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Aug 15, 2022 – Minutes**

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

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

Staff members present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz

Minutes by: Marian Wolz

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11:35 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [July 11 minutes](#), confirm Sonja Reilly to Ag & Ecosystem Subcommittee.

- July 11<sup>th</sup> minutes approved as drafted
- Staff suggested a change to agenda; suggestion to move the discussion on the legal memo above the budgeting process overview agenda item.
- Steering Committee members approved the appointment of Sonja Reilly to the Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee on recommendation from Agriculture & Ecosystems co-chairs.
- The Committee on Committees has appointed Lily Terry to the Youth Member seat on the Council. Lily will join the Council's meeting this fall.

12:00 PM Memo on legal services options for the Council  
*Ed McNamara, General Counsel, Agency of Natural Resources*

- ANR General Council provided an overview of the content of a [legal memo](#) that will be shared with the Steering Committee later today.
- Steering Committee member commented on the need to have the legislature revise the GWSA to allow for the temporary provisions of open meeting law to be made permanent.

11:35 AM Budgeting process overview and opportunities for Council input  
*Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration*

- Steering Committee member Secretary Clouser provided an overview of the process the Council could follow to submit budget requests for consideration to the Administration to include in its budget request to the Legislature.
  - The week of October 10th is when the Administration is asking for budget submissions from Departments and Agencies. Final budget decisions are communicated in December both for the Budget Adjustment and FY24 budget.
  - The September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Climate Council will be a critical time for the Council to consider budget priorities.
  - The Council is not beholden to the deadlines given to Departments and Agencies, but in order to submit requests to be considered in the Administrations budget

request, late October/early November would be the latest a request could be submitted to the Administration.

- A question was raised around the date for the October Council meeting and whether that needed to be moved to meet the deadline laid out by Secretary Clouser for submission of budget priorities.
  - Secretary Clouser noted that if decisions were made at the October 17<sup>th</sup> Council meeting and shared shortly thereafter, that would be well within the amount of time necessary to be considered in the budget process. Noted that the October Council meeting would be too late to start considering budget items, that conversation would need to begin at the September meeting.
  - Stressed that there need to be decisions made from the Administration in time to communicate with the Council and inform their own decision making around budget priorities.
- Recommendation to ask subcommittees to prepare budget priorities ahead of the September Council meeting so the Council can begin to prioritize and consider recommendations.
- Suggestion to share with subcommittees an [overview of the budget process](#) to ensure all members have a general understanding of the budget process.
- Suggestion to have the Steering Committee and subcommittees agree that the recommendations coming out of subcommittees should be tied to the legal requirements of the GWSA and implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
- Staff will communicate the capacity limitations that state agencies can bring to the Council's work to manage additional budget requests.

12:20 PM      Planning for September Climate Council meeting  
*Jane Lazorchak, Director, Climate Office*

- Staff reviewed the [draft agenda](#) for the September 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.
- Recommendation to adjust the agenda to use the 1pm item, Update on Budget Process Timeline, not for a presentation from Secretary Clouser, but rather to hear from Subcommittee co-chairs on the budget recommendations they developed.
- Recommendation to develop an overall fiscal target and individual targets for subcommittees to guide development of recommendations.
  - Question from staff about whether it makes sense to have that target guided by the capacity of agencies to manage additional funding and work. Agreement from Steering Committee members on this approach, and a reflection from a Steering Committee member that there may be recommendations coming out of subcommittees that do not fit with recommendations coming out from the Administration.

12:40 PM      Public Comment

- The following members of the public participation in the public comment period:

- Cheryl Joy Lipton
  - Kashka Orlow
- Key comments offered during public comment included:
  - The public is thankful that the Council is changing how public comment and changes due to public comment are considered and shared.
  - Concern that Vermont has already done a lot of study and technical analysis, and some of the budget requests from the Council should be for implementation.
  - Reduction of energy use should be a top priority across the board.

12:50 PM      Final reflections

- Recommendation from staff to continue to use the 11:30am-1pm time block and to have a Steering Committee meeting staggered between the Council meetings starting this fall. That would mean the next Steering Committee meeting would be September 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am.

1:00 PM      Adjourn

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