

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee and Subcommittee Co-Chairs Meeting
Sept. 7, 2021 – Minutes**

Location:	Zoom Virtual Meeting – Meeting was recorded and posted online .
Physical Location:	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount Room NL D215
Steering Committee Members Present:	Chris Company, Jared Duval, Julie Moore, Lauren Oates, Susanne Young
Subcommittee Co-Chairs Present:	Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Catherine Dimitruk, Erica Bornemann, Kiah Morris, Peter Walke, Richard Cowart, Sue Minter and TJ Poor
Staff Present:	David Plumb (CBI), Cameron Hager (CBI), Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz
Minutes by:	Marian Wolz

- 3:00 PM Welcome/Overview of Agenda
Review and approval of [August 19 meeting minutes](#)
Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute
- August 19 Minutes approved as drafted.
- 3:05 PM Climate Action Plan Drafting Process
Lauren Oates & Chris Company, Steering Committee members
- Chris Company introduced the revised [CAP Drafting Proposal](#).
 - Concern was raised that the first sub-bullet of the proposal: *promote equal treatment of adaptation, mitigation, sequestration, and building resilience*, did not adequately give weight to the greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation requirements laid out in the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).
 - Members clarified that the intent was to ensure there are text and components in the Climate Action Plan that support strategies and actions around each of the three areas of work, recognizing that each are integral to delivering the CAP as described by the GWSA. Trying to be explicit that all three components are important to the final work product.
 - Recommendation to change the bullet to state: “...flow of content; ensure inclusion of strategies that promote adaptation, mitigation, sequestration, and resilience, pursuant to GWSA 592(b)”
 - Steering Committee members voiced support.
 - Concern was raised that a self-selected group of Councilors will be moving the topics they feel concerned about while the CAP needs to address all elements in the GWSA.

- Concern was raised around transparency; Council is operating under Public Records Law and Open Meeting Law that need to be followed. Would like to see recognition that those laws will be followed in the proposal.
- A question was asked on capacity; how is the expectation around time commitment going to be relayed to Councilors at the Council meeting next week.
- Concern raised that state staff would be assigned work by Councilors.
- Suggestion to change second to last bullet to: “Raise specific issues that require SC and/or council review and discussion”
- Request that staff share a plan for state staff drafting of the CAP at the next Climate Council meeting. A concern was raised around accountability; unsure how the Agency of Natural Resources can provide a plan B if volunteers do not meet the deadlines for writing as laid out.
- Members responded to the concerns raised; the idea behind the proposal was that there are people on the Council have the capacity and resources to help write the plan, which is an alternative to needing to hire a contractor to write the plan. To the concern around state staff working on the plan, there was a proposal to have both a Councilor and state staff person assigned to write specific sections so that if a Councilor is not showing up on the assigned timeline, the staff person could ensure that section is completed on time. Noted that this proposal was originally raised in July and that the proposal has been revised with support from state staff; unsure of the additional capacity this group will be able to provide at this point in the timeline.
- Members noted that one of the intents of this proposal was to ensure that there is consensus between staff and councilor support on components of the plan, so there is not gridlock as components of the plan move to the Council for approval.
- Member noted it would be helpful for the full Council to understand why there is a proposal to move from a plan written by staff with review by Councilors, to a plan written by both staff and Councilors.
- Recognition that the CAP drafting proposal was set forth to address a concern that the plan may not be written by councilors. Offered that it may be better to think about a process for review and engagement from Councilors.
- Members noted they felt like the structure was not something the Steering Committee could agree upon and as a result there was a recommendation to pull the proposal from consideration before the Steering Committee and Climate Council which was agreed upon by Steering Committee.
- Members resolved to discuss the process for review and engagement of Councilors in the drafting of the Plan. The bullets of the CAP Drafting Proposal will be used to outline what the Council will need to see, but the proposal for a specific task team will not be pursued.
- Recommendation and approval to move the review of the September 14th Climate Council agenda above the prioritization agenda item due to time constraints.

4:00 PM Sept. 14 Climate Council agenda
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- David Plumb reviewed the draft agenda.
- The agenda item for review and approval of the CAP Drafting Proposal will be adjusted to reflect the discussion of the Steering Committee meeting.
- Science and Data Subcommittee Recommendations item on the Climate Council agenda will be at 3:15PM; Update on IPCC AR6 language and science will be at 3:45PM.
- Requested change to the GHG Accounting agenda item to read, “GHG Inventory and Supplemental Accounting”.
- Recommendation to move the Just Transitions agenda item update below the CAP drafting item on agenda – if time doesn’t allow, Just Transitions Subcommittee will invite people who have specific concerns to attend a Just Transitions Subcommittee meeting so those conversations can be had outside of the Climate Council meeting.
- Staff requested clarity on what is requested for a proposal on CAP drafting for the Council meeting.
 - Members clarified the request is for staff to develop a presentation to the Climate Council that pulls from the CAP drafting proposal on the elements the Steering Committee would like to see, but to pull the proposal for a specific committee to do that work.
 - Recommendation that staff get those proposal pieces to Councilors as soon as possible so they have time to review before the meeting on Tuesday.
- Steering Committee approved the September 14th Climate Council [draft agenda](#) with the above changes.

4:20 PM Guidance for Sub-Committees – Plan to support consistent analysis and prioritization as sub-committees develop/refine their Pathways, Strategies and Actions
Jane Lazorchak, Director of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA)

- Proposal by Secretary Moore to extend the Steering Committee meeting to 4:50PM to allow for time to review and discuss the guidance for subcommittees.
- Suggestion to have Steering Committee members provided written feedback on the proposal before the Climate Council meeting.
- Jane Lazorchak reviewed the proposed framework for prioritization of actions and the questions laid out for the Steering Committee on the proposal.
- A question was raised on when this prioritization analysis needs to take place. Staff clarified that the hope and expectation is that subcommittees are able to get to the level of determining which actions are ready to implement, and then over the course of the next

month (October), work to further refine prioritizing those actions with the prioritization process laid out.

- Members noted that the Council should ensure there is shared clarity around the definition of actions that are ready for implementation. Noted that meeting the mitigation reduction criteria should not be up for discussion. May need to have an expansive definition of “ready to implement” that helps to define those actions that may need further research.
- There may be some actions that need further detail to specifically define if actions meeting the criteria laid out.

4:50 PM Public Comment

- Chase Whiting provided comment. Full comments may be viewed in the meeting recording.

5:00 PM Adjourn

Agenda items not discussed:

- Consultant assistance to facilitate application of the Just Transition Guiding Principles and rubric
- [Engagement Event Schedule](#)
- Agenda development process for Steering Committee meetings

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