

Vermont Climate Council Jan. 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time:	January 24, 2022, 11:00 AM
Location:	Zoom Meeting
Physical Location to Attend in Person:	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount NL D215
Members Present:	Anson Tebbetts, Bram Kleppner, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Kristin Clouser, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter, Lauren Oates, Brian Gray
Sub-committee co-chairs:	Billy Coster, Peter Walke
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Marian Wolz
Minutes Prepared by:	Cameron Hager and David Plumb

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

Agenda was approved by the Council.

11:05 AM Review and Approval of Dec 21, 2021 [minutes](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Minutes were approved by the Council.

11:10 AM Just Transition Reflection [\[Presentation Link\]](#)
Wandi Bruine de Bruin, University of Southern California

Wandi Bruine de Bruin gave a presentation on new research on bolstering public understanding of climate change by helping scientists and policymakers use more relatable language. After her presentation, Council members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment. Key discussion points included:

- How to deal with multi-lingual and multi-cultural experiences? Continue to think about key audiences and focus on simple English. Use the Readability index tool and design check list, which she will send to the Council to have.

11:30 AM Update on Legislative Testimony and Process [\[Link to Report\]](#)

Jane Lazorchak, Director, GWSA Director

Jane Lazorchak provided an update on the legislative process and the testimonies that have occurred thus far. The Council also approved the annual report to the legislature that is required by the GWSA with the following changes:

- Change the middle sentence of the last paragraph to: “The regulatory actions required by the GWSA that ANR would be able to impose to meet emissions reduction requirements would be more difficult and consequential to Vermonters if the legislature does not enact the programs and expansions to programs in the CAP.”
- Include a cover note that makes reference to that same point

11:40 AM Council self-evaluation and reflection – Lessons we’re taking away from our 2021 work that can shape our 2022 Workplan [\[Presentation Link\]](#)

David Plumb, CBI

Marian Wolz showed initial findings from the survey that was sent to Council members and sub-committee members as well as key staff members. Afterwards, Council members discussed those findings in smaller, breakout groups. In the plenary discussion following those breakout sessions, key discussion points included:

- There is a shared desire to have time to get to know each other better. The virtual environment has made everything more challenging. An opportunity to get to know each other would make the next year of work perhaps easier or at least more efficient, if trust is built over time.
- There is a need for more work planning and clear expectations. We should be clear as soon as possible about the deliverables the council will be accountable for this year.
- More effort is needed to help people engage fully in the Council process. There was too much learning “on the go” last year. People doing this work need to be met where they are and supported.

12:35 PM BREAK

12:50 Land Acknowledgment [\[Link\]](#)

Bram Kleppner, Councilor

Bram Kleppner described the process of writing the Land Acknowledgment out of the Council’s December conversation with Judy Dow. He read the Land Acknowledgment out loud to the Council. Council approved the Land Acknowledgment. Many councilors expressed deep appreciation for it.

1:00 PM **Updates from Sub-committees**
Sub-committee co-chairs

Sub-committee co-chairs each gave an overview of their activities thus far. Key points of those overviews are recorded below:

Cross-Sector Mitigation

- Cross-Sector Mitigation has been active in the legislature this year with many testimonies.
- Cross-Sector Mitigation is thinking of more ways to engage with Vermonters on its work.
- A working group was set up on transportation, and another will be set up on pending biomass issues. These groups include (or will include) members of multiple sub-committees. An initial policy memo on transportation is being circulated.

Science and Data

- Last week, Science and Data met for the first time in 2022. The focus was on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Life-Cycle Accounting.
- The sub-committee is looking into funds to conduct several identified analyses.
- Subcommittee composition was a key discussion point. TJ Poor is stepping down as Co-Chair. In addition to looking for a co-chair, they are looking more broadly at membership.

Ag. and Ecosystem

- There has been no meeting thus far, but there will be a meeting on February 4th.
- The subcommittee will focus on work planning, membership, and composition.

Rural Resilience

- They are meeting for the first time on January 25th. The agenda is focused on work planning, statutory requirements, the municipal vulnerability index, and the municipal climate resilience toolkit. In addition, they will also be working on their membership.

Just Transitions

- Sarah Phillips will be stepping down as co-chair. They are looking for suggestions – as per the process adopted by the Council, must be an administration official or designee.
- They established a working group on public and stakeholder engagement
- There is a concern about the compensation issue related to working on the subcommittee and the Council at large

1:25 PM **Workplan for 2022 [\[Presentation Link\]](#)**
David Plumb, CBI

David Plumb and Jane Lazorchak presented on the 2022 workplan. Council members were asked to provide comments and questions regarding the workplan. Key discussion points included:

- Many Council members felt that quarterly meetings would not be enough to complete the amount work in the near future. On the other hand, some Council members felt quarterly meetings would be beneficial to balance workload and to address the burnout factor mentioned previously. Jane will make a proposal to the Steering Committee based on the conversation.
- Members of the administration in the Council will likely need to recuse themselves on specific budget recommendations or requests to the legislature.
- On funding issues, a suggestion was made to follow three steps: make a list of funding needs (studies, etc) identified to date, the Steering Committee would then come up with a draft budget for activities that go beyond the admin budget, and that recommendation would be presented for full council to review. Council members were receptive to this suggestion.

2:00 PM Public comment

The following individuals made public comment:

- Emily Thompson

2:10 PM Adjourn

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