

Just Transitions Subcommittee Meeting 1/5/2023- Minutes

Present – Sue Minter, Abbey Willard, Marion Wolz, Mona Tolba, Sebbi Wu, Danielle Bombardier, Liz Medina, Claire McIlvennie, Indra Acharya, Kelley Klein, Abba Guenther, Chase Whiting, Sarah Phillips, Kashka Orlow, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Virginie Diambou, Alice Peal, Anna Meija, Carey Hengstenberg

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

No meeting minutes from 11/17/22 without a quorum

Committee members to share discussion highlights from 11/17/22

- Highlights include a recommendation to draft a memo to the VT Climate Council on ways to engage and collaborate with the Just Transitions Subcommittee given our charge in the GWSA and development of Guiding Principles and rubric

Committee membership and leadership update

ANR Updates:

- Jane talked about ANR's new Environmental Justice Office, directed by Karla Raimundi. It was suggested that Karla should come to a future meeting of the Just Transitions subcommittee.
- Posting for Climate Office Community Engagement Specialist. Jane will forward job announcement
- Contractor selected for Facilitation of council and community engagement. Jane can't share which bid was selected until the contract is finalized, which is anticipated to happen by the end of the month.

Climate Council Updates

- Chris Company is no longer a member of the Climate Council, 8 House appointments expired in November. 5 of the 8 councilors are seeking reappointment, there are now 3 vacancies awaiting appointments from the House. List here of current appointments: <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/about/membership>

JTSC changes

- Sebbi Wu will remain on the committee as he is still a resident of Vermont, although his new job has him doing work in some other states.
- Sue Minter – Would like to step away from the Chair position, she has limited capacity. Another councilor would need to take this position. Kelly may be willing to step in for a transition period but also has limited capacity.

Check in on schedules, meeting dates and times

- Abbey asked if current time of meetings Thursday at 4pm work for people, is there a better time and day?

- A doodle poll or beginning the meeting 30 minutes earlier was suggested. A poll will be sent out.

JTSC Role Review

Reviewed Draft Memo on Role of Just Transitions to the Climate Council

- Discussion of when, and how other subcommittees should bring equity analyses for proposed recommendations to the JTSC.
- Questions about who does the work related to applying the [Guiding Principles](#) rubric?
- Add to the proposal that JTSC update the rubric and scoring matrix annually. Equity metrics may change over time, this is an iterative process
- Add “ensuring robust public participation”
- It was suggested, and supported that the subcommittee should periodically “test” the rubric on climate legislation, or other policy proposals examples could be the Clean Heat Standard or the Biomass Task Group recommendations
- Suggestion that there should be a simple infographic for councilors to look at representative of the Guiding Principles

Discuss Biomass Task Group Recommendations

Consensus was reached among the task groups members to advance recommendations to the council. There is one item that is a decision point for the council on how to move forward with recommendations related to existing biomass electricity facilities. They were supposed to be presented at the council meeting in December that did not happen. It will be on the climate council’s agenda in the future, most likely in March.

- The Biomass Task group will be invited to attend the next JTSC meeting in February.

Public Comment

- Cheryl Joy Lipton – interested in biomass task group recommendations. Interesting that the biomass task group recommendations have not been given to the council. The Clean Heat Standard as proposed last year was not equitable to people, natural lands and ecosystems. Concerned that equity review isn’t going on in the climate council and the subcommittees
- Alice Peal – As chair of a planning commission, issue of social equity and justice comes up at every meeting she attends with different regulatory entities. She believes the information discussed in this committee is helpful.

Climate Council Updates

Brief sharing from Claire about the Public Service Departments process for establishing a public engagement plan. Decision to add to next agenda for more detailed shared and discussion about how the JTSC influenced and inspired the process at Public Service.