

**Vermont Climate Council
January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: January 9, 2023 12:00 PM
Location: Zoom Meeting
Members Present: Bram Kleppner, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Kristin Clouser, Lily Terry, Liz Miller, Michele Boomhower (in place of Sec. Flynn), Richard Cowart
Minutes Prepared by: Cameron Hager and David Plumb

12:00 PM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Agenda was approved by the Council.

12:05 AM Review and Approval of [Nov. 14 2022 Minutes](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The minutes were approved by the Council.

12:10 PM Just Transition Reflection- Farewell to Departing Councilors
Parting Reflections from Councilors stepping off

The Council took time to share thanks and appreciation for several Council members departing due to their appointments ending. Departing council members present Chris Company and Catherine Dimitruk shared parting comments, such as thanking the Council for all the hard work as well as encouragement to get together in-person and meet with Vermonters on the ground as they continue the process. They both look forward to what the Council will accomplish in the months ahead.

Jane Lazorchak, Vermont's Climate Action Officer, mentioned that the three vacant seats on the Council represent the fuel sector, rural communities, and municipalities. If Council members have suggestions for those seats, she encouraged them to reach out to the Speaker's Office with said suggestions.

12:25 [Annual Report](#) to the Legislature
Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Office, and David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Jane Lazorchak reviewed a draft Annual Report to the Legislature from the Vermont Climate Council, including a handful of changes made in the most recent draft. Those changes were

accepted by the Council. Councilors suggested several other revisions. Changes below were approved by the members of the Council:

- Regarding the hyperlink to Biomass Task recommendations
 - Based upon feedback from members of the Public (which came later in the meeting) and other Council members, the decision was made to leave the hyperlink in and add a sentence stating, “While individual council members have attended meetings of the task group, the Council as a whole hasn’t had a chance to deliberate on them, or make a decision about them, and will discuss them once we have the new appointments, because those voices are particularly relevant to the conversation.”
- Carry forward the paragraph in the Transportation Memo about the Carbon Reduction Strategy
- Change the title at the bottom of page 7, under the subsection 2 from "Mitigation Cost Curve Lifecycle Analysis" to "Marginal Abatement Cost Curves Report" (as is, it does not use the actual name of the report and could confuse the difference between the MACC report and the Lifecycle analysis happening re: GHG emissions).
 - In that same section, change the line describing the MACC report at the top of page 8 from: "This report provides additional analysis of the costs over time for the measures needed to meet our emissions reductions requirements." To "This report provides additional analysis of the projected net costs and savings over time for the measures needed to meet our emissions reductions requirements."
- Fix the date on the Clean Heat Standard veto.

12:35 PM Meetings in 2023
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

David Plumb and Jane Lazorchak led a discussion on a possible in-person meeting for March 13th. This meeting will focus on the process and strategy for the Council in 2023. A majority Council members expressed support for a tentative March 13th date to be held in central Vermont. Council members suggested having a half-day meeting as well as a request for a hybrid option for those who cannot or do not wish to join in person that day.

In addition, Council members suggested having a meeting ahead of March 13th to discuss the Biomass Task Group recommendations but noted possible difficulties with the three vacant Council seats, given how important those specific voices are to the issue. Members suggested if those seats are filled quickly enough, then the Council can revisit having a meeting to discuss those recommendations.

12:50 Public Comment

Four members of the public made comments, which included:

- Careful with language: On P. 3, the “working lands” language is offensive. Also, look for the offensive term, “low-grade lumber”.
- Clean Heat Standard (p. 4): Advocates who have concerns about biomass haven’t been sufficiently listened to or incorporated. It will not be possible to address climate without addressing biomass.
- Biomass: The draft recommendations from the Biomass Task Group should be included in the report, with a note about the work that has happened. The Council has waited too long on this issue.
- Concerns around missing BIPOC voices: The Vermont Renews BIPOC Advisory Council is disappointed that their letter from September 22nd, 2022, has not been discussed. Some BIPOC members feel that they have been tokenized in the Vermont Climate Council process, and have had a bad experience on a sub-committee. More front-line community members should participate in the Council.

The Council discussed these comments and engaged in conversation with some of the commenters. The discussion influenced the Council’s decisions (described above) on the Legislative Report and meeting schedule.

1:30 PM Adjourn

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