

Vermont Climate Council October 19, 2021 -Minutes

Date/Time: October 19, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location: Zoom Meeting
Physical Location to Attend in Person: Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive,
Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount NL D215

Vermont Climate Council members:

Abbie Corse
Anson Tebbetts
Bram Kleppner
Catherine Dimitruk
Chris Company
Erica Bornemann
Iris Hsiang
Jared Duval
Johanna Miller
Joe Flynn
Julie Moore
June Tierney
Kelly Klein
Chris Cochran
Liz Miller
Richard Cowart
Sean Brown
Sue Minter
Susanne Young

Sub-committee co-chairs

Billy Coster
TJ Poor
Peter Walke

Staff and support:

Jane Lazorchak
David Plumb
Cameron Hager

Minutes By: David Plumb, Cameron Hager

1:30 PM **Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda**
Secretary Susanne Young, Agency of Administration

Agenda was approved by the Council.

1:35 PM **Review and Approval of Oct. 12, 2021 minutes** [[LINK](#)]
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Minutes were approved by the Council.

1:40 PM **Just Transition Reflection**
Maggie Gendron, ANR

Maggie Gendron described the initiatives at the Agency of Natural Resources around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

1:55 PM **Public Engagement Overview – Key Themes Emerging in Conversations Across Vermont**
Cara Pike & Meredith Herr, Climate Action / Sarika Tandon, Rise Consulting

Cara Pike, Meredith Herr, and Sarika Tandon led a [presentation](#) and discussion on the public engagement work done thus far. Council members had a wide range of thoughts regarding the process and Mentimeter poll was used to collect Councilors key takeaways from the findings, which can be seen at the bottom of this document. Points of the discussion include:

Discussion

- Many commented that a lot of work has been done to engage the public on these issues and the input offered is helpful. Many suggested the Council must continue to engage the public after December 1st.
- Many councilors commented on the time pressure imposed by the Dec. 1 deadline to produce a Climate Action Plan, and how the public senses that time pressure, and how it works against some of the principles of a just transition. The engagement after Dec 1 should be structured to address these fundamental principles.
- Councilors noted that many Vermonters haven't weighed in on the issues yet and may not understand how significant they are.
- Council members were asked to recognize the demands placed on ANR in the GWSA that could result in court enforced actions that could be detrimental.
- Councilors asked if they could see the raw data and also potentially filter data by geography or other attributes.

3:15 PM **Option of In-Person Climate Council Meetings**
Jane Lazorchak, GWSA Director

David Plumb and Jane Lazorchak led the discussion on In-Person meetings and the timeline of future meetings. After some initial questions and discussion, a poll was used through Zoom to gauge people's interest in that meeting. The results of the poll indicated that most Councilors, as well as observers present during this meeting, were not comfortable with attending an in-person meeting.

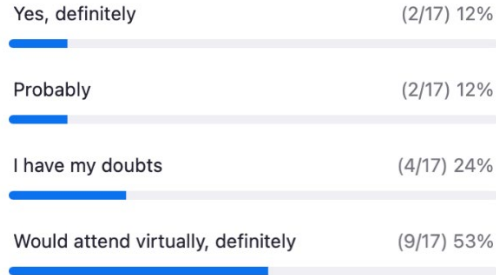
Zoom poll results when just Councilors were asked to answer the poll

In-Person Meeting

Poll ended | 1 question | 17 of 43 (39%) participated

1. We are strongly considering a hybrid (virtual and in-person) meeting on Nov 16th in the afternoon (1:30-6pm approx.) to work through the toughest issues. In-person participants would be masked and the venue quite large. Would you be willing to attend? (Multiple Choice) *

17/17 (100%) answered



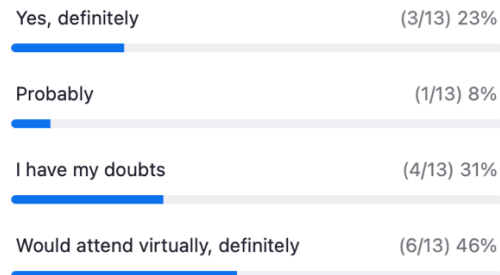
Zoom poll results when meeting observers were asked to answer the poll

In-Person Meeting

Poll ended | 1 question | 13 of 43 (30%) participated

1. We are strongly considering a hybrid (virtual and in-person) meeting on Nov 16th in the afternoon (1:30-6pm approx.) to work through the toughest issues. In-person participants would be masked and the venue quite large. Would you be willing to attend? (Multiple Choice) *

13/13 (100%) answered



3:45 PM Public comment

The following members from the public made comments:

- Annette Smith
- Abagael Giles, VPR
- Stephen Crowley
- Ben Edgerly Walsh

4:00 PM Next Steps and adjourn

Mentimeter Results

What is the biggest message jumping out at you from this summary of findings? (A short phrase or sentence please!)



Meaningful policy and real actions are expected.	We need equity and education in this plan, and we have not done enough to move at the speed of trust in this process	Equity, clean energy, and working lands/land management matter a great deal to Vermonters (or at least those participating in our process).
Plan is rushed. People left behind.	The results related to personal impacts of climate change illustrate the importance of accelerating building resilient communities!	The issue of the deadline. Sometimes in deeply critical moments it is imperative to slow down. The work of a just transition is slow, deliberate, intentional. There are many Vermonters who already live in crisis.
So many comments seem very broad regarding society overall, which is fine. However, the legislative mandate of the GWSA is specific with deliverables in just a few weeks. How does all this sync up.	That having conversations about actions absent information on cost likely yields different results than if people were asked what actions should be pursued if they had to pay for them	1. Process is too short for full citizen engagement, particularly for full BIPOC engagement. 2. The people at the the public events are deeply anxious about climate change.
consistent support for TCI and continued need for improvement around BIPOC inclusion in decision making	We need to do more to include BIPOC voices and build trust.	Concerns about climate migration. Is VT prepared?
It is difficult to interpret responses without the geographic, demographic and socio-economic breakdowns.	Vermonters strongly support meeting our climate responsibilities, and there is specific support for/ alignment with many of the recommendations emerging from the subcommittees (weatherization at scal, performance std. for heating sector, TCI-P, etc.)	Many existing public policies -- weatherization, broadband, clean energy, rural transportation support, to name a few, -- appear confirmed as priorities from the public engagement process.
There are a lot of thoughtful, compassionate people in VT. They'd like to see equitable, bold action. There may be a disconnect b/t cost effectiveness and key GHG beneficial strategies and the public's interest. There ongoing input will be important	Vermonters want bold and equitable action across a range of climate solutions. There is tension between urgency to address climate and the speed of the CAP process	Equity concerns ranking so high. Transit being relatively high compared to electrification.