

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: October 20,2022 4:45-6:15 PM

Location: This is a special in-person meeting hosted at 20 Gable Place, Barre, VT Community Capstone Action Office (large conference room) AND hybrid option via Teams

Subcommittee members present: In person – Sue Minter, Indra Acharya, Sarah Phillips, Liz Medina, Kashka Orlow; Virtual – Abbey Willard, Anna Guenther, Mona Tolba, Kelly Klein, Virginie Diambou

Staff present: Amanda Carlson, Claire McIlvennie, Carey Hengstenberg, Jane Lazorchak

Minutes by: Sarah Phillips

Guiding Principles activity group work

On arrival, members online and in person reflected on the Guiding Principles in an activity developed by Indra. The questions to guide reflection were:

- What does this guiding principle mean to you? The communities you represent?
- How does it relate to the lived experiences of Vermonters?
- How does this guiding principle uplift and empower marginalized communities?
- What does this guiding principle look like in practice?
- Are there any places where you have seen this guiding principle in action?

Welcome & Check In

The agenda was reviewed and approved. The minutes from 9/15 were approved.

Climate Council Updates from 10/17 Meeting

Abbey and Sue presented, with Virginie's support, the JT proposal and recommendations for funding and activities to the Climate Council. It was well received.

4 of the 5 subcommittees put forward budget recommendations – some other subcommittees endorsed JT recommendations. All five memos, with a cover memo will go to the Governor to include as a budget recommendation. The Climate Council had consensus on the need for ongoing administrative support for the Council, which will also be included.

The Governor develops a budget recommendation for State Government, which is presented to the legislature. Ultimately, the legislature will review and develop a budget.

Director Lazorchak provided an update on the other work of the Climate Council, which includes the work of the Biomass task group and planned work this fall.

There was a question about the status of utility assistance currently, given the concern around energy burden. Sarah Phillips provided a brief update from DCF on the current status of funding and concerns around energy costs, and offered to follow up with additional information.

Municipal Vulnerability Index – The ANR Contract has not been executed yet to begin this work, as well as the life cycle analysis. Both contracts include engagement plans.

Clarified vision for Just Transition Subcommittee (from 8/18 discussion)

The group reviewed the stated purpose/focus from the August discussion.

It was expressed that when there isn't movement towards implementing the Just Transitions principles (like lack of engagement efforts) it is really frustrating. Some members expressed concern with being identified as an "advisory committee".

The issue of needing additional outreach and engagement with the immigrant and other marginalized communities was lifted up again.

There was general agreement that the role of the JT Subcommittee is to hold the Climate Council and Executive Branch/Implementers accountable, and perhaps this bullet could be revised for different emphasis.

There was a suggestion that the JT Subcommittee could develop a workshop to educate others on the JT Principles.

There was discussion that being advisory is only meaningful when groups are not coming to the committee for advice. Also the JT Subcommittee has not yet presented itself for this purpose yet.

There was a suggestion that perhaps the JT Subcommittee could begin to draft advisory memos proactively or make collective statements on particular issues, rather than waiting for others to come to us.

Public comment

There was a comment by Alice Peal (on the Rural Resilience SubCommittee) reflecting on the work in her local community to bring an equity lens to work at the local level.

The Subcommittee decided not to discuss the Guiding Principles exercise tonight, but they will be typed up and shared with the group. Members were asked to reflect on the Guiding Principles before the next meeting, which is helpful as we think about continuing our conversation on our Subcommittee purpose.

The Subcommittee adjourned at 6:10pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 11/17 – Virtual.