

## Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 29, 2021 Meeting

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- Date/Time: October 29, 2021 9:00 AM
- Location: Meeting was hosted virtually on Zoom with a physical location at the ANR offices in Montpelier. Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).
- Subcommittee Members Present: Abbie Corse, Billy Coster, Alissa White, Ryan Patch, John Roberts, Charlie Hancock, Iris Hsiang, Jake Claro, Judy Dow, David Mears, Lauren Oates
- State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz, Ali Kosiba, Judson Peck, Marli Rupe, Pat Field (CBI)
- 9:00 AM Greeting, Review and Approval of [Agenda](#) and [10/22/21 Minutes](#)
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 9:05 AM Discussion of Next Steps
- Introduction to today's process shared by Jane Lazorchak. Final copies to be posted by end of day on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Comments made today (10/29) will be incorporated by lead authors prior to that time.
  - Subcommittee expressed widespread and strong frustration with the timeline and acknowledged that many members have felt this frustration since the outset. Subcommittee was informed that the Dec 1 deadline is unlikely to change at this point.
  - Council needs to discuss plan past December 1, and how public engagement and ongoing climate plan revision works alongside the capacity of the legislature. Subcommittee members expressed dread of ongoing engagement with the same level of time and energy past December 1, as the demands of this process have been very taxing.
- 9:20 AM Review of Narrative Language and Pathways, Strategies, Actions Write Ups.
- **Process:** Each writer briefly shared the write up and key points for each Pathway and then members commented for improvement. Language was projected on the Zoom screen. Pat Field facilitated conversations and individual Pathway leads will incorporate suggestions gathered from the Subcommittee by next Monday.
    - Mitigation led by Ryan Patch
    - Sequestration and Storage led by Abbie Corse
    - Adaptation and Resilience led by Alissa White and Billy Coster
    - Energy and Materials led by Charlie Hancock (biomass discussion incorporated in this Pathway). Current biomass proposal: neutral framing acknowledging that biomass is an important topic but that Subcommittee did not have enough time to discuss sufficiently to

come to consensus on a specific positive or negative proposal on this topic.

- Major focus of all conversations included discussion of how to promote equity in the design of these proposals and drawing attention to where that lens might be missing and need more attention.

10:50 AM      Public Comment

- Public Comment was received from Annette Smith, Jennifer Ramstetter, Cheryl Joy Lipton, Zack Porter, and Graham Unangst-Rufenacht.

11:05 AM      Continue Review

- Viability led by John Roberts. John requested that additional comments be shared with him in written form via email so he can ensure they are captured.
- Economics led by Abbie Corse
- Land Use led by David Mears, extensive conversation arose around equity and TEK within this Pathway.
- Education led by Iris Hsiang.
- Subcommittee circled back around to the Biomass discussion.

11:55 AM      Next Steps

- Jane Lazorchak shared upcoming timeline. Marli will pull together Sequestration drafts into one document and ensure consistent formatting, Jane will pull together Resilience drafts into separate document with similar process as that for Sequestration. All comments due Monday noon to the appropriate Pathway lead. Follow-up email will be sent later today (10/29) to ensure that all Subcommittee members have clarity on what is expected of them.

12:05          Public Comment #2

- Public comment received from John Brabant, Zack Porter, Jennifer Ramstetter, Jamey Fidel, Annette Smith, and Cheryl Joy Lipton.

12:18 PM      Meeting Adjourned

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