

**Vermont Climate Council
November 10, 2021 -Minutes**

Date/Time: November 10, 2021, 9:00 AM
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
Brian Gray
Chris Cochran
Chris Company
Erica Bornemann
Iris Hsiang
Jared Duval
Johanna Miller
Julie Moore
June Tierney
Kelly Klein
Kristin Clouser
Lauren Oates
Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux
Liz Miller
Richard Cowart
Sean Brown
Sue Minter

Sub-committee co-chairs:

Billy Coster
TJ Poor

Staff and support:

Jane Lazorchak
David Plumb
Cameron Hager

Minutes By: David Plumb, Cameron Hager

9:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda
*Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building
Institute*

Agenda was approved by the Council.

9:05 AM Just Transition Reflection – Public Engagement after December 1
Jane Lazorchak, Director GWSA

Jane Lazorchak presented an overview of the public engagement strategy for after the December 1st deadline for the initial CAP. Points of discussion on the public engagement strategy are recorded below:

- Council members suggested they do not want to produce a substantive update of the CAP until the Council has fulfilled its public engagement goals. The Council should recognize that there are people who could provide valuable experience and the Council needs to engage them.
- Council members noted that it could be hard for some councilors to be involved because the legislative session will be happening at the same time.
- Council members are open to deliberative polling, but there is caution that it needs to be done in the right as it only works if participants actually deliberate and learn together.
- Council members want to be careful with the word “marketable” as it is problematic. The CAP could be made more understandable and transparent in another way without that word.
- Council members would like to know if Climate Access has (or can) propose a process for how the Council incorporates robust public feedback into the next iteration of the CAP. In the absence of a recommendation from them, council members would like to see the Council take up development of that process in the near future.
- Council members stressed that Council members should be there in person for any future engagement events.

9:30 AM Continue Full Council discussion of key topics from pathways, strategies and actions proposed by Cross Sector Mitigation, Rural Resilience and Adaptation and Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittees
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

David Plumb continued the conversation from the November 9 meeting. Members of the Cross Sector Mitigation, Rural Resilience, and Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittees answered questions and discussed recommendations from the council. Key points of discussion are recorded below:

Agriculture and Ecosystems

- On **woody vegetation**, council members asked for clarity on agroforestry and silvopasture on existing lands. The sub-committee clarified that there will be no cutting of forests to make pasture systems. The focus is on the integration of woody tree species in existing pasture areas.
- On **equity and access to existing programs**, council members were concerned about the equity for many of the actions that point to existing programs at AAAFM. The sub-committee said that equity does need to be more deeply integrated into the overall document as they could not do the fully equity screening. There are efforts underway to

reduce barriers with state programs. Councilors suggested adding a little more nuance into the existing documents as it reads that the work on equity is already done.

- On **coordination of Federal Policy with other states**, the Council suggested strengthening alliances with other Eastern states to help programs work better for Vermont. The subcommittee mentioned that there is some participation with other states in the region that work with the Agency of Agriculture. They will strengthen on that comment and include the recommendation suggested. This might work better in the sequestration or cross cutting section.

Cross-Sector Issues

Electricity

- On the issues of **equity and PUC**, council members were concerned about the recommendation as there is a reliance on PUC. Council members would like to know more information surrounding this idea. The subcommittee suggested that this should be taken up as a cross-cutting issue related to DEI and EJ training as well as process improvements across state government.
- On **the level of GHG emissions from certain renewable resources including biomass**, the subcommittee mentioned that this was addressed in the text and to follow recommendations from the Science and Data subcommittee. There are conversations around designing different options for everyone while looking at the trade offs for the public. Ultimately, the subcommittee wants to be transparent and making sure to enhance the GHG inventory around the electric sector.
- On **chemicals**, Council members expressed concern surrounding the usage of chemicals, specifically relating to pesticides and herbicides. Ultimately, council members felt this was a matter of acknowledging and recognizing the impacts of chemical usage and asking the Science and Data Subcommittee to better address these issues, especially because the Greenhouse Gas Inventory does not include chemicals. The state does keep lists of chemicals that are used, which would be a starting place. Ultimately, better data around these chemicals are needed to make more informed decisions.
- There was a reminder that this process of the CAP needs to be iterative nature as more information will come involving all of these issues that will need to be addressed in the future.

10:50 AM **Public comment**

The following individuals made public comment:

- Matt Voss
- Stephen Crowley
- Zack Porter
- Annette Smith

11:00 AM **Next Steps and adjourn**

David Plumb presented the next steps for the council. These can be seen below:

- There will be a meeting next Tuesday at the normal time and then another meeting of the Council next Wednesday.

DRAFT