

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council November 12, 2021 Meeting

- Date/Time: November 12, 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, Judson Peck, Ali Kosiba, Bob Popp, Marli Rupe, Pat Field (CBI)
- 9:05 AM Greeting, Review and Approval of [Agenda](#) and [11/05/21 Minutes](#)
- Agenda and minutes were approved, with the addition of a second, earlier public comment and discussion of the definition of forests.
- 9:08 AM Thanks and Appreciation – Co-Chairs
- 9:12 AM Pathway Author’s Issues to Raise.
- Pathway A: Folding in parts of Pathway F on land use (David and Ryan)
 - Subcommittee did not recollect context for this concern, moved on.
 - Pathway A: VCC comments on Renewable Standard & planting trees and forest products (all)
 - Subcommittee came to consensus that intent is to recommend revisions to the Renewable Energy Standard to incorporate tree planting activities. Billy Coster will draft.
 - Pathway B: Land Use Planning & Climate Office (David & Alissa)
 - David shared background and Alissa projected revised language and edited as Subcommittee discussed. Subcommittee decided to split apart recommendations for Interagency coordination from recommendations for a central Planning Office. Subcommittee continued previous discussions of whether these offices make more sense within framework of existing Agencies or as a separate and distinct Executive branch. Consensus was not reached, differences in opinion will be provided within the recommendation.
 - Pathway B: Other changes (Alissa and Lauren)
 - Alissa presented on some confusing paragraphs or sources of contention, including language related to invasive species. Subcommittee came to consensus on some simplified language.
 - Cross-Cutting Education (Iris and Judy)
 - Judy presented on a recommendation related to Vermont agencies updating their language for equity. Subcommittee determined to incorporate reference to Guiding Principles.

- Subcommittee discussed hope that Equity matrix was being used deeply across Subcommittees, and concern that it might not be due to time constraints

10:30 AM Public Comment #1

- Public comment received from Cheryl Joy Lipton, Zack Porter, Annette Smith, Mark Whitworth,

10:45 AM Pathway Author's Issues to Raise. (continued)

- Cross-Sector language around a centralized climate office was projected and Subcommittee discussed. Subcommittee mostly agreed with this language, with minor changes, but preferred that more specific language developed by the Subcommittee be folded in.
- Pathway F: No net loss to net gain for wetlands language (David)
 - Revised language presented by David. Subcommittee came to consensus to support this language.
- Pathway C: Biomass (Judy and Charlie)
 - This work was developed collaboratively by Judy and Charlie with the assistance of Kiah Morris.
 - The Subcommittee supports this phrasing, tweaked some language to address some criticism from the VCC, and discussed ways to uphold this language in the face of likely opposition from the larger VCC. Subcommittee came to consensus on the revised language.
- Pathway E: Economies: (Abbie) Questions from VCC on how some actions are relevant to climate?
 - Abbie shared that she will make edits to clarify the importance of food security in the face of climate
- Pathway F: VCC comments on siting renewables on ag/working lands
 - Subcommittee discussed and made some small edits to clarify language and address VCC comments.
- Ag Mitigation: VCC comments on net versus gross emissions and wood vegetation (Ryan)
 - Subcommittee discussed and made some small edits to clarify language and address VCC comments.
- Judy Dow resurfaced discussion about the definition of forests in the carbon budget, and whether clear cut areas should count in the Carbon budget. Subcommittee discussed.

12:03 AM Public Comment #2

- Public comment received from Jennifer Ramstetter, Zack Porter, and Cheryl Joy Lipton.

12:15 PM Meeting Adjourned