

Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting
November 28, 2022 – Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting – Meeting was recorded and [posted online](#)

Steering Committee Members Present: Jared Duval, Chris Company, Julie Moore, Liz Miller, Lauren Oates

Staff members present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz, David Plumb, Cameron Hager

Minutes by: Cameron Hager

1:30 PM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [Nov 7, 2022 minutes](#)
David Plumb, CBI

- Minutes were approved.

1:35 AM Response to [Joint Fiscal Office](#) regarding prioritization
Jane Lazorchak, Direct, Climate Action Officer

- **Specific action:** Recommendation by Steering Committee members to [submit the following updated version](#) of the response to the Council for approval.
The Vermont Climate Council respectfully notes our present lack of capacity to provide further prioritization regarding our recommendations for one-time funding in the state’s FY24 budget ahead of the beginning of the legislative session. While we understand the benefits to the legislature of further refinement and prioritization of funding recommendations, this will require a level of engagement of our subcommittees, steering committee, and Council as a whole that we do not have the time and capacity to support, especially as we focus on preparing the Annual Report for the legislature that will be submitted on January 15. We look forward to working with the Legislature to address the funding recommendations, capacity, and resource constraints moving forward.

1:50 PM Preparing the annual report for the Legislature
David Plumb, CBI and Jane Lazorchak, Climate Action Officer

- **Specific Action:** Steering Committee members recommended the following changes to the draft outline and report:
 - Using the proposed initial chart, divide into section with one part of the chart focused on GWSA compliance and the other on the initial Climate Action Plan implementation.

- In that summary, Steering Committee members expressed a desire to include a summary of what did not go forward and perhaps the implications on certain action not advancing.
- Steering committee members expressed a need to flag specific mitigation actions such as the Clean Heat Standard, Clean Cars and Trucks as well as TCI and where those items stand.

2:10 PM Public Comment

- Annette Smith asked if a section could be added to the report about the Council's process and how the Council is working.
 - In response, Steering Committee members expressed interest in:
 - Naming a few key issues around process in the report, while avoiding judgments about the Council's functioning, since the Council wouldn't have time to build consensus around those judgments.
 - Going through an evaluation type process with the Council during 2023 that would get into more detail about the functioning of the Council.
 - Asking the Legislature to provide feedback on the report and what they would like to see in future reports

2:20 PM Confirm Council [Agenda](#) for December Meeting

- The Steering Committee members recommended moving public comment and the break before the Biomass recommendations in order to not disrupt the Biomass conversation halfway through.
- Regarding the process for signing off on the January report to the Legislature, the Steering Committee recommended a preferred approach of agreeing on a set of detailed notes on the draft report during the meeting. If the Council does not feel comfortable signing off on the report and the notes, offer two alternatives: hold another meeting prior to January 15th or leave it to the Steering Committee to finalize.
- Regarding the terms of House-appointed members, Sec. Moore will review the paperwork and, if needed, ask the Speaker of the House for a possible extension past the official end date.
- Regarding the procedure for how an addendum or attachment would be added to the CAP, Sec. Moore and Jane Lazorchak said they are working on a proposal. Steering Committee members mentioned two components of the issue
 - The practical procedural issues around amending the Initial CAP
 - The Council's view on what issues, if any, warrant future amendments of the Initial CAP beyond Transportation and Biomass, which the Initial CAP specifically flagged as pending issues.

2:40 PM Strategy for confirming Council 2023 work plan

- **Specific Action:** Steering Committee members recommended having an in-person full Council work planning meeting when new members are brought onto the Council. SC members noted that this will be an opportunity to reflect on the Council process and work plan going forward.

3:00 PM Adjourn

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