

Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council November 5, 2021 Meeting

- Date/Time: November 5, 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, Bob Popp, Marli Rupe, Alex DePillis, Pat Field (CBI)
- 9:05 AM Greeting, Review and Approval of [Agenda](#) and [10/29/21 Minutes](#)
- Agenda and minutes were approved
- 9:06 AM Thanks and Appreciation – Co-Chairs
- 9:10 AM Expectations, Milestones, and Work for November – Jane Lazorchak
- Special meeting of the Council planned for this PM (11/5) to revisit the timeline and what can be achieved before December 1.
 - This Subcommittee’s work to be shared with the Council Tuesday the 9th, progress will continue to be made past that point.
 - Ideally Subcommittee will respond to the comments made by the following Tuesday, November 16th. Final comprehensive draft due November 23rd.
 - Subcommittee discussed opportunity for using Sharepoint, within the confines of Open Meeting Law, to improve editing and reviewing capabilities.
- 9:25 AM Pathway Author’s Issues to Raise.
- Subcommittee discussed organization of recommendations and which pathways belong under each heading: “Sequestration” versus “Adaptation and Resilience”
 - Following a member question, Jane Lazorchak explained the planned structure of the Climate Action Plan and the Cross-Cutting Pathways section of this work.
 - Each Pathway author shared individual concerns that they had addressed in the past week, or lingering questions that remain within their sections
 - Pathway A: Ryan Patch. Still addressing some comments that he received after the deadline.
 - Pathway B: Alissa White. Remaining central questions include how to address disagreement in the final document (e.g. with reference to the role a State Planning Office should play in this work moving forward). Whether to note dissent, or to exclude

those controversial issues. Subcommittee discussed at length, and then Subcommittee discussed wetlands and their importance.

- Prioritization discussion: Pat Field recapped the process to this point, and Subcommittee discussed the progress and process to date.
- Subcommittee discussed no net loss/net gain of wetlands and appropriate phrasing around this issue without pitting natural and ag land use types against each other.
- Subcommittee discussed carbon accounting and carbon markets and their role in this recommendation.
- Subcommittee discussed recommendation around promoting equitable language in state agencies, and acknowledgement of historic harm.
- Subcommittee's draft will be provided and posted Tuesday night, still some edits to be made prior to that moment. Subcommittee requested clear delineation of this document as a draft.
- Subcommittee discussed referral of certain actions such as compact settlements to the Cross-Cutting Solutions section and discussed way to move that work forward while continuing to uplift that information at the Subcommittee level. Subcommittee agreed to draft a narrative for the Ag & Ecosystems section of the plan that explained this referral.
- Pathway G: Iris Hsiang. Subcommittee discussed whether to specifically support position creation at UVM Extension or to expand that language to any higher institution of learning.

11:55 AM Next Steps

- Survey responses requested for Monday morning, answers will help plan the Friday agenda.
- Pat will get written next steps out to the group ASAP

11:56 AM Public Comment

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

12:20 PM Meeting Adjourned