

Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting
November 7, 2022 – Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting:	Meeting was recorded and posted online
Steering Committee Members Present:	Kristin Clouser, 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

12:00 PM Welcome/Overview of Agenda/Approval of [Oct 5, 2022 Minutes](#)
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, CBI

- Minutes were approved as drafted.

12:05 PM Workplan for 2023 and beyond. What does the Council's next phase of work look like? How should the Council and Steering Committee function?
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

- Jane Lazorchak presented on the [Climate Council's Statutory Obligations](#).
- Steering Committee members noted that the law isn't clear if an updated plan is due in July 2025 or 2026. Also, members noted that the law allows the Council to opt to amend the plan prior to that date.
- **Specific Action:** Recommendation by Steering Committee members for an in-person workshop with the full Vermont Climate Council to discuss the role of the Council in the coming years. The Steering Committee's initial discussion on this issue included:
 - There should be discussion with the Full Council to discuss these aspects and create a shared vision regarding what the State can do and what external agencies/partners can do.
 - Members expressed perceived tension between the work that the state is doing through its Climate Action Office and the Inter-Agency State Coordination group, and the role of the Council. The Council needs to discuss what it is going to be in this next phase.
 - The workplan in 2023 should have a strong focus on accountability/monitoring and engagement.
 - For accountability and monitoring, the Annual Legislative Report is an important milestone and chance to communicate. It should address what the Climate Action Plan and Council have accomplished so far, as well as gaps and elements of the Plan that have not moved forward.

- For Engagement, there should be a strong centering around Just Transition. In addition, Councilors should participate in the engagement, meeting face-to-face with Vermonters and helping the public see themselves in the plan. This will help to inform the next update to the Climate Action Plan. In particular, the engagement should focus on practical steps that Vermonters can take in their communities, and the barriers to taking those steps.
- Members expressed the importance of learning from the lessons with respect to creating the Initial Climate Action Plan. The Council should use the coming years to prepare for the next iteration. There a desire to ensure sufficient attention to resilience, adaptation, and sequestration.
- Regarding the flow of the work for the Council, some Steering Committee members expressed the Council should meet periodically as a method for checking in and providing accountability for the actions that need to be pushed forward, especially once the Legislative Report and Budget are finalized. Some Steering Committee members expressed that there may be a need to meet more frequently as there are parts of the Climate Action Plan that need to be picked up quickly. Meeting more frequently will require additional capacity and support.
- Members specifically asked for staff support for scheduling meetings.

1:10 PM Public Comment

- Cheryl Joy Lipton, Steve Crowley, and Annette Smith made public comments:
 - Which aspects of the Initial Climate Action Plan do the Council leave as pending? [Jane Lazorchak answered: transportation and biomass, which have been the focus of this year's substantive work.
 - Expressed a need for more frequent meetings to connect the State and Council and to create greater transparency.
 - What changes are expected with the House appointees on the Council? [Jane Lazorchak, Chris Campany and Liz Miller answered that there are House appointees who don't plan to continue on the Council. Details on changes probably won't be known until later in the month.

1:40 PM [Council meeting agenda](#) for Nov. 14 and Prioritization request from JFO

- Members reviewed the request from the Joint Fiscal Office, which asked for additional prioritization of budget recommendations.
- Members agreed to the following guidance for the Nov. 14 Council meeting
 - The Council workplan discussion is not urgent and can wait until January.
 - Budget prioritization is the most time sensitive. Steering Committee members expressed several options to test with the Council:

- Ask the subcommittees to prioritize in the requested framework ahead of the December Council meeting.
- Co-chairs of the subcommittees and/or the steering committee will engage in a process to present a draft prioritization for the Council in December.
- Also time sensitive is an initial discussion around the January report to the legislature
- Finally, the Biomass Task Group can provide a brief overview of their progress and outputs to date, rather than a detailed look at their output.

2:00 PM

Adjourn

DRAFT