

Rural Resilience Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

November 9, 2023 Minutes

Date/Time:	November 9, 2023 9:01 AM
Location:	Zoom meeting recorded and posted online physical location at the ANR offices in Montpelier
Subcommittee Members Present:	Ann Lawless, Andrea Wright, Michael Burke, Val Stori, Alice Peal, Marion Wolz, Paula Melton, Eric Forand, David Deen
Minutes By:	Sue Plant

Greeting, Review and Approval of Agenda and [12/2/22 Minutes](#)

Catherine Morris, CBI Facilitator

No changes, minutes approved

No changes to the Agenda

Co-chair and Subcommittee Membership Update

Catherine Morris, CBI Facilitator - Introductions of Subcommittee and members

Jane Lazorchak reviewed the current Committee and Senate positions. Putting forward Allie Webster and Andrea Wright as Co-Chairs, to be determined by the legislature. The Steering Committee will meet next week to finalize these seats. Subcommittee membership will have 3-year terms and can be extended by the Steering Committee. Will review vacancies in January.

House Speaker's Letter to the Vermont Climate Council - Catherine Morris, CBI Facilitator

- Intro and Overview
- Initial reactions and Framework for a response
- Prior Recommendations and Resilience Activities Underway Subcommittee sharing

[Letter to VT Climate Council](#)

The Council has asked the committee to develop the draft response by the December 18th meeting (required by December 11th in order to submit it in time).

Catherine Morris presented the four key focus areas of the letter; Recommendations for the upcoming legislative session that will create resilient and equitable communities, Recommendations on the types of supports needed and what public property funds would defend the support, What adaptation strategies should be prioritized, and What additional state capacity is necessary to support Vermonters.

Marian Wolz gave an update on the Climate Council's current activities.

[Ongoing Resilience and Adaptation Work in the CAO](#)

Andrea Wright presented the resiliency work VTrans is engaged in.

[VTrans Resilience Adaptation Work](#)

David Graas updated the committee on VT Dept. of Health hot weather preparedness.

[Local VT Hot Weather Preparedness Guidance](#)

Anne Margolis gave an overview of the energy resilience plan.

[Comprehensive Energy Plan Relevant Resilience Pages](#)

Mike Burke - GMP – Discussed battery backup and storage process.

Stephanie Smith - State Hazard Mitigation Officer VEM – Gave an update of the Hazard Mitigation focus on adaptation and improving resilience and grant funding projects. Working closely with the Climate Council office to ensure compliance and coordination with the Climate Action Plan. Explained the FEMA funding under declared emergencies to implement projects. Outlined FEMA’s Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, best source of funding for statewide scoping and planning activities.

Bronwyn Cooke – ACCD – Gathering community partners to process infrastructure projects. Added an amendment to reform the designation programs to focus on flood resilience, using tax credits for funding. At the next meeting she would be glad to give more details.

Public Comment

No public comment provided.

Technical Analysis Needs for the Next Climate Action Plan

Marian Wolz, Climate Action Office

Next Steps and Next Meeting

Catherine Morris, CBI Facilitator

A doodle poll for availability for next meeting will be forthcoming.

Recruit a drafting committee for this response. Start thinking of an outline prior to the next meeting. Andrea Wright, Paula Melton, Alice Peel and Marian Wolz volunteered to be on the Drafting Committee. Will schedule a time for a meeting before the next RRA Subcommittee meeting.

11:02 AM Adjourn