

## **Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council December 17, 2021 Meeting**

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Date/Time: December 17, 2021 10:00 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, Judy Dow, David Mears, Lauren Oates  
State Staff Members Present: Jane Lazorchak, Marian Wolz, Judson Peck, Ali Kosiba, Bob Popp, Marli Rupe

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10:00 AM Greeting, Review and Approval of Agenda and 12/10/21 Minutes.

Minutes from last meeting were not available. Minutes will be compiled and shared via email with the subcommittee.

10:05AM Items for Discussion

- Subcommittee reviewed issues highlighted as missing from the subcommittee matrix that were briefly discussed by the subcommittee throughout CAP recommendation brainstorm process. Discussion centered around whether highlighted issues were captured elsewhere in the CAP, or whether those issues should be added to the Ag & Eco matrix that will be attached as an appendix to the CAP.
  - Issues discussed included reduction of consumption, relocation of towns or municipalities due to repeat flooding, emissions from the tourism sector (added to Ag & Eco matrix - Encourage hospitality sector to work proactively with visitors' to reduce emissions.), carbon storage calculation, etc.
- Proposal to add all items in the list compiled to the Matrix, statement ahead of all matrices will be a disclaimer that not all items in matrix may have full consent of all subcommittee members.
  - Minority report submitted by subcommittee member Judy Down can also be revised if additions to matrix do not cover all of the highlighted issues.

11:00 AM Public Comment

- Jennifer Ramstetter provided public comment.
- Zach Porter provided public comment.
- Cheryl Joy Lipton provided public comment.

11:27 AM Review and Prioritize Ag and Eco ARPA Funding Ideas

- Subcommittee members discussed their proposals for recommended ARPA funding recommendation to the Council.

- [River Farm/Forest Viability Recommendation](#) – subcommittee agreed for forward these recommendations to the Council for consideration.
- [Ag Mitigation Recommendations](#) – recommendation from the subcommittee to increase the requested funding amount.
- Additional recommendations put forward by subcommittee co-chair Billy Coster:
  - Support robust funding for Working Lands Enterprise Initiative and prioritize funding to businesses that have climate/low carbon goals – essentially covered by Lauren/David’s recommend.
  - The Vermont Legislature should fund an appropriation of \$500,000 a year to enable organizations in the charitable food system to source food directly from Vermont farmers (e.g., Vermonters Feeding Vermonters). - \$1.5M
- Additional recommendations proposed by subcommittee member Jake Claro around food security/low-income Vermonters
- Increase support, funding, and education for increased urban tree planting efforts expansion to increase access to natural spaces and improve carbon sequestration/storage in the urban environment – \$1.5M
- Question from subcommittee member on what ARPA funding is being used for equity work – response that there are funds being used for affordable housing initiatives, but also that requirements of APRA speak to a focus on low-income Vermonters.
- Subcommittee agreed to fold in additional recommendations into a full suite of recommendations from the subcommittee, and to compile into a memo to share with the Climate Council.

11:55 AM Update from and Discussion on VCC on closing out 2021 and expectations for 2022 – Jane Lazorchak

- Update centered around the need to plan for a meeting in 2022. Purpose of that meeting will be to discuss meeting schedule for 2022, and the workplan, and broader makeup of the subcommittee.
- Recommendation to plan meeting schedule in 2022 around Climate Council meeting schedule for 2022.
- Subcommittee co-chairs will send out further information about a meeting in 2022.

12:03 PM Adjourn