

**Vermont Climate Council Steering Committee Meeting  
December 22, 2021 – Minutes**

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

Steering Committee Members Present: Kristin Clouser, Julie Moore, Jared Duval, Liz Miller

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

Minutes by: Marian Wolz

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10:06 AM Welcome/Overview of Agenda

- Review and approval of agenda.

10:09 AM Approval of Minutes from [November 12 Meeting](#)

- Minutes approved as drafted.

10:10 AM Review Process for Legislative Testimony and Roles

- The process for legislative testimony at a high level has been reviewed with the Steering Committee previously but it has not been shared widely yet. Understanding that there will be more legislative testimony requests as the session begins, staff noted it is important to review the roll of staff, Councilors, and subcommittee members in providing testimony.
  - Staff can speak to: Overview of plan, process and ongoing work of Council; operating budget needs.
  - Secretary Moore can speak to the role of ANR specifically as the CAP is implemented.
  - Councilors should be clear who they are speaking on behalf, and can speak to the CAP and recommendations within.
- It was noted that subcommittee members do not speak on behalf of the council, but they can come in to speak as subject matter experts.
- Reminder of previous discussion around Senate or House requests to testify – Senate or House appointed representatives from the Steering Committee should be the first when asked to speak. There is a need to clarify what happens with requests for a specific subcommittee to speak – co-chairs would be a good starting point.
- Concern raised about individual council members testifying to represent the entire Council. Question raised about how to balance organizational priorities and Council priorities – there as agreement that it is important for anyone testifying to identify how and where they engaged in Council process. It should be made clear that testimony is provided as a Councilor, not on behalf of the whole Council.

- The Steering Committee agreed the following approach for testimony requests: Councilors should identify they participated in Council, speak to individual perspectives, if general House or Senate testimony request – start with appointed members from those bodies on the Steering Committee, then move to subcommittee co-chairs. Co-chairs may designate other experts on the subcommittee to testify if needed.
- Distinction needs to be drawn between discussion of contents of the Plan, and discussion outside of the Plan (such as actions that were tabled, raising up actions as priority we they were not highlighted as such, etc.).
- Staff will draft testimony process and guidelines and will circulate with the Council and subcommittees.

10:27 AM Consider Role of and Priorities for Council in 2022

#### Review FY22 Remaining Funds and Potential FY23 Budget Request

- Review of FY22 remaining funds and potential FY23 budget request was provided by the ANR Director of Finance and Administration.
- Discussion around the potential for significant research needed to further the work of the Climate Council re: technical analysis in calendar year (CY)2022.
- Distinctions that some of the items that need funding are statutory mandates, while others are “nice to haves”. Having a clear articulation of priorities from the Council moving forward will be very important. Council will need to come up with a figure to present to the Legislature on what is needed to implement the CAP.
- Statutory requirements include: a framework for monitoring and assessing progress, and the municipal vulnerability index.
- There are other discrete tasks for CY2022 that the Council will need to determine and discuss how that work is carried out include conversations around biomass, and transportation.
- Conversation of Council and subcommittee work, roles, and responsibilities will occur at the 1/24 VCC meeting.
- Concern raised over time commitment and the previously raised concerns about the amount of time Councilors are committing to this process.
- Question raised over if Steering Committee meeting on 1/10 to discuss this, and further discussion at the full council meeting on 1/24 would be too late for ANR to build any requests in to budget for Governor’s State of the State address on 1/5.
  - Distinction was drawn between budget request for what ANR needs for staff and statutory requirements of GWSA, and recommendation to be considered for additional funding for additional needs for Council work. It may be possible to include additional budget requests after the 1/5 State of the State address.

- Staff will send out meeting requests for 1/10 and 1/24 and conversation on Council work priorities will continue at those meetings.

10:58 AM Public Comment

- No public comment provided.

11:00 AM Adjourn

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