

Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council February, 10 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: February 10, 2022 4–5:30 PM: Meeting recorded to be [posted online](#).

Subcommittee Members Present: Sarah Phillips, Sue Minter, Iris Hsiang, Kashka Orlow, Kelly Klein, Chris Company, Beverly Little Thunder, Mona Tolba

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, Ross MacDonald, Claire McIlvennie, David Plumb, Marian Wolz, Carey Hengstenberg, Cori Rockefeller

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

Approval of Agenda and [Minutes from 12/15/21](#)- **Approved**

4:09 PM Climate Council Updates

- Jane reported back that the Climate Council has met once in 2022, councilors took a survey to reflect on their experience on the climate council the past year
- Land acknowledgement formally adopted at the last full Climate Council meeting
 - Judy Dow led Climate Council through land acknowledgment process at Dec. meeting
- Task groups for areas of the climate action plan that had to be tabled last year
 - Transportation sector – because of TCI dissolving
 - Biomass
 - Public engagement small task group
- Next full Climate Council meeting in March – talk about budget and work plan, next meeting after that in May

Legislative Updates

- Clean Heat Standard – primary policy driver to reduce emissions in home heating sector – discussion about thoughtful public engagement strategy for this big idea
- Changes in Current Use Program to enroll old forests in program
- Members of Climate Council have been giving testimony to various House and Senate committees to share summary of Climate Action Plan and talk in depth about certain details
- Sue shared information about Environmental Justice (EJ) Bill
 - Defines EJ populations – parallel to our frontline and impacted communities
 - Advises a community engagement plan for each State Office
 - Sets a floor for a minimum of environmental spending on EJ populations – 55%

- Governor's Budget
 - Includes an office of Climate Action – 3 new positions
 - 1 Community Engagement officer long term
- Sarah encouraged subcommittee members to bring comments and opinions to committees and legislators

4:35 PM 2022 Workplan & Goals

- David discussed workplan and goals
- Task groups will work on topics, ideas from these groups brought forth to subcommittee level > feed up to council
 - Transportation
 - Biomass
 - Engagement
 - Overseeing technical reports and rulemaking
- Many JT subcommittee members involved in public engagement task group

Look Back at our Implementation Recommendations & Statutory Obligations

- Chris pointed out that the way our subcommittees charge is written into the GWSA, it sounds like we are tasked as being a watch dog
- Sue responded that she thought our Guiding Principles and the scoring rubric fulfilled our obligation
- Beverly talked about accountability, and the importance of this in our process, and our subcommittee could be responsible for this – brought up that unless marginalized communities are named, hard for these groups to feel included
- Chris mentioned that now there is time for other subcommittees to do public engagement on their proposed ideas
- Kelly mentioned importance of Just Transitions liaisons to other task groups

5:02 PM Report Back from Public Engagement Task Group

- David provided an overview of the work of the task group
- They have been reviewing components requested for public engagement by the JT subcommittee and the Council

Three-part process emerging from those conversations:

- 1.) Making the CAP more accessible
- 2.) Broad public virtual meeting about the CAP – important to be out in the public talking about the CAP – CBI will lead those
- 3.) Targeted public engagement through trusted partner organizations – this needs the most attention from the task group and subcommittee.

Subcommittee members involved with the task group noted that the primary intent of the targeted public engagement meetings with partner organizations is to identify core organizations that will help build relationships with frontline communities impacted by climate change and the recommendations in the CAP.

- Subcommittee members noted it can take a very long time to build community trust in communities where trust has been broken.

- Try to find existing events and meetings to work with rather than attempting to set up new meetings for engagement.

Municipal Vulnerability Index Task Group

- Jane raised the need to have one or two members from the JT Subcommittee involved in the Municipality Vulnerability Index task group.
 - Carey Hengstenberg and Sue Minter volunteered
- Kelly Klein clarified that participation on these task groups does not qualify as a public meeting so members participating in those would not be eligible to receive the \$50 per diem, members would only qualify for the prorated hourly rate of \$6.25.
 - Jane Lazorchak noted that she is exploring with CBI the possibility of a different payment system to ensure people can serve regardless of their professional capacity
 - It was noted that the reason these groups are considered task groups is because they are advancing work on behalf of subcommittees, decisions will not be made in task groups.

5:14 PM Public Comment

- No public comment provided

5:16 PM

Review of Sub Committee Members & Future Meetings

- Suggestion to meet next on March 17th. Longer term meeting schedule will be discussed at that meeting.
- Sue Minter noted the subcommittee has lost a few members over the past year and it would be welcome to brainstorm new members.
 - Indra Acharya
 - Nadia Pabst
- It was announced that Sarah Phillips will step down as co-chair, but will remain a member of the subcommittee. It was recommended and approved the Abbey Willard will step in as a new co-chair for the subcommittee.
- Jane highlighted that ANR staff has developed a survey for an official nomination process for subcommittee member nominations
 - Marian added that the survey is structured to highlight specific areas of expertise, representation, or lived experiences that subcommittees have noted as gaps in their subcommittee that they would like to recruit for. This survey will be sent out next week.

Subcommittee liaisons

- Suggestion to discuss subcommittee liaisons to other subcommittees over email, email will come from Abbey Willard.

Other Business

- Co-chairs highlighted the invitation to JT Subcommittee to participate in the UVM Inclusive Excellence Symposium March 30th. Co-chairs will follow up via email to determine who would like to participate in the panel discussion.

5:36 pm Meeting adjourned