

**Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**10:00 AM October 6, 2022**  
**Meeting Notes**

Location: Virtual meeting was recorded and [posted online](#).

S&D Subcommittee Members Present: Jared Duval, Richard Hopkins, Lesley-Ann Dupigny Giroux, Claire McIlvennie, Jay Shafer, Catherine Lowther, Kashka Orlow.

State Agency Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, ANR; Megan O'Toole, ANR; Collin Smythe, ANR;

Others:

**10:00 Welcome/ Review of Agenda/ Approval of Minutes (S&D Co-Chairs)**

Megan provided updates

- Collin appointed co-chair of Science and Data Subcommittee

**10:05 Contractual Updates**

- Lifecycle contract
  - o Reviewed responses to RFP and selected a contractor, working to have a contract in place by the end of this month. Back and forth on costs and deliverables with contractor.
  - o Potential in budget to add additional funding to lifecycle contract, can add funds to existing contract, but unable to update scope without new RFP process.
- Jane provided update on the Municipal Vulnerability Index (MVI)
  - o Contract drafted and is with the business office. Waiting to see it move to the vendor for signature.
  - o Will reengage with the task group to work on developing the workplan.
- Collin provided update on the Agricultural RFP
  - o RFP posted. One set of questions came in and in the process of responding. Awaiting responses to the RFP.
- Brian provided update on the Thermal sector RFP
  - o Questions due to Jane by Oct 11, posting responses by Oct 14, and closing date on Oct 18. Estimated value of \$200,000. Next step is to see if we get proposals.

**10:15 Updates from Subcommittee Liaisons**

- Jared mentioned availability of marginal abatement cost curves analysis
- Kashka provided updates for Just Transitions and Steering Committee
  - o Discussions on budget and outreach effort – need for outreach to other subcommittees to provide support on budget issues.

- Claire discussed Just Transitions budget proposal – prioritization exercise highlighted community engagement and funding to support training on Guiding Principles.
- Richard provided update from the Biomass task group
  - Proposed statement drafted in the past week related to Ryegate and McNeil based on information gathered over the past year. Planning for a presentation to the whole VCC next Wednesday. Overall recommendation that we should not build any new electric generation biomass plants in Vermont or expand the ones we have.
- Jay provided update on Rural Resilience
  - Funding prioritization around 3 or 4 items related mainly to water as a hazard, specifically river flooding, and potential for including other hazards.

### **10:25 Updates on Subcommittee Composition**

- Lily Terry appointed as the youth representative to the Climate Council and is interested in joining Science and Data Subcommittee. Need to work to find a new meeting date to accommodate her schedule, as well as everyone else.
  - Previous youth member appointed but stepped down and Lily formally accepted as a member of Subcommittee.

### **10:30 Discussion of Budget Priorities**

Megan gave overview of draft list of budget priorities. Brief list of items that need additional attention. Walk through of draft. Document needs to be provided to Jane tomorrow prior to October 17<sup>th</sup> deadline. List for funding that would be utilized in fiscal year 2024.

- Lifecycle analysis for the use of energy in Vermont
  - Jared provided overview and flagged the likely need for additional work, and likely factors developed, for thermal related fuels and electricity generation. Will likely require more funding to go beyond original scope and include additional detail.
- Agricultural emissions analysis
  - Collin provided a basic overview of the Agricultural emissions RFP. Review of a number of tools and datasets and several members of Agency of Agriculture Foods and Markets believe that the \$75,000 will not be enough money to complete the analysis to the level of granularity desired.
  - Jay and Richard flagged the importance of understanding and tracking sequestration and the need for better agricultural data.

- Utilize behavioral and decision-making sciences in future CAP development
  - o Lesley-Ann discussed speaking to adding a point related to connecting this to public outreach mentioned by Kashka earlier as a cross-cutting issue. Also requested the addition of adaptation along with reducing emissions.
  - o Kashka was wondering if this budget ask and the public engagement should be bundled with the asks of other subcommittees. Also suggested changing funding request from \$75,000 to \$300,000. Total to be discussed on the meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> based on overlap with Just Transitions.
  - o General discussion of surveys and the timeframe of either future or current understanding of this social science data and public outreach. Jared flagged that if this budget ask was to be implemented, who would implement, because it is his understanding that Climate Action Office staff are at capacity.
  - o Just Transitions budget asks include funding to compensate community members who are participating in Just Transitions Subcommittee and process of outreach, to support partner agencies, and support for direct community engagement. Discussion of tying these asks into this ask by the Science and Data subcommittee.
  - o Jared suggested referencing the Just Transitions budget request on Communications in the Science and Data request to recognize overlap.

#### **11:40 Public Comments**

- None

#### **11:40 Next Steps**

- Scheduling poll to be sent out to determine next meeting date.

#### **11:45 Adjourn**