

Vermont Climate Council September 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Date/Time:	September 12, 2022 11:00 AM
Location:	Zoom Meeting; recorded and posted online
Vermont Climate Council members:	Anson Tebbetts, Bram Kleppner, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Campany, Erica Bornemann, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Maggie Gendron (in place of Sec. Julie Moore), June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Kristin Clouser, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Lily Terry, Liz Miller, Michele Boomhower (in place of Sec. Flynn), Richard Cowart, Sean Brown
Sub-committee co-chairs:	Abbey Willard, Billy Coster, Megan O'Toole, TJ Poor
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Marian Wolz
Minutes Prepared by:	Cameron Hager and David Plumb

11:00 AM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Agenda approved by the Council.

11:05 AM Just Transition Reflection
Introduction of new Youth Councilor Lily Terry and Subcommittee Members:

- *Miriam Serota-Winston, Rural Resilience & Adaptation Subcommittee*
- *Jenna Hirschman, Just Transitions Subcommittee*
- *Sonja Reilly, Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee*
- *Stella Fox, Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee*

Mariah Keagy, from the Vermont Energy Education Program, introduced the new Youth Councilor and youth subcommittee members. She explained that, with the help of the past Youth Council member and members of the Just Transition subcommittee, they designed the new youth system to be more supportive. Each member gave a brief introduction and explained why they joined the council.

11:15 AM Review and Approval of [July 18 minutes](#)
David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

The Council approved the minutes.

11:25 AM Budget Process Timeline and [Preliminary Priorities](#) from Subcommittees
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration

The Secretary of the Agency of Administration (AOA) reviewed the budget process timeline as well as the funding process for a given year. The Secretary continued with a brief overview of how the budget will operate with the [Climate Action Office](#). After this presentation, each Subcommittee presented their status on budget priorities ahead of the October Climate Council meeting. Key points of the discussion included:

- The Cross-Sector subcommittee focused on thermal and transportation needs for budget prioritization as well as emphasized the importance of outreach
- The Just Transitions subcommittee presented a table of their [budget proposal](#).
- The Rural Resilience and Adaptation subcommittee focused their budget prioritizations on the Municipal Vulnerability Index, the Municipal Toolkit, and best practices for reducing fossil fuel consumption. The subcommittee members noted the importance of public outreach and engagement for each of these items.
- The Ag. & Ecosystems subcommittee as well as the Science and Data subcommittee were still developing their budget prioritization items and proposals.
- Council Members asked to have further clarity on the positions of the Climate Action Office to better understand how said positions could tie into Council work.
- Council Members requested for any knowledge on un-expected budget matters that may effect the Climate Council.
- Council members emphasized a need to figure out what to do with the loss of a specific GWSA Director position that has been integral to the work of the Climate Council.
- The Council agreed to the following guidance for subcommittees ahead of the October Climate Council meeting:
 - Use the following buckets for budgeting priorities and recommendations:
 - Public engagement and outreach
 - Analyses with respect to individual elements of the CAP
 - General organizing support
 - Implementation (Note: Only needed if there are key pieces that state agencies have not picked up)
 - Provide explicit prioritization- either with the order in which ideas are presented or some other way.
 - The Secretary of AOA mentioned that this is not meant to limit ideas, but to give a signal of where to focus in the face of limited funding.
 - A request was made for subcommittees to be specific in order to identify overlap where items may already be funded.
 - Submit budget prioritization by October 7th so materials can be posted October 10th for Council Members to review ahead of the meeting
 - The Climate Council will review these inputs, offer any additional analysis, the send the content to the administration and the legislation in a memo.

12:30 PM PUBLIC COMMENT

- One member of the public made comments, which included:

- How is the Council replacing House-appointed Council members and what is the process surrounding those appointed?
- Will the Council be making an evaluation of its public outreach and engagement, as the workshops last year generated some concerns?
- Encouragement for sub-committees to follow through on their enhanced public comment periods.

12:35 PM BREAK

12:50 PM Reflection on Public Comment
David Plumb, CBI

Council members were given the opportunity to reflect on what they heard during the Public Comment period. Key points from the discussion included:

- Council members mentioned the importance of having public comment at each interval on the agenda item when possible. The feedback received during those intervals was found to be valuable.

1:00 PM New Transportation Recommendations
Transportation Task Leads.

The Transportation Task Leads gave a presentation on [VTrans Climate Actions](#) as well as the [Consensus Transportation Recommendations Memo](#). Council members had the opportunity to discuss the recommendations in detail ahead of the October meeting. Key points of the discussion were the following:

- If Council members have feedback before the October, please make it as specific as possible.
- In an informal “temperature check” of Councilors, the large majority of those present council members were comfortable with the recommendations as suggested, with several saying they are “OK, but would prefer some changes.” Some said they were still digesting the information.
- One councilor stressed the importance of taking action that allows Vermont to reach its mandated emissions reduction goals, which will require timely action for 2030 targets.
- Council members continued to reflect the need for public outreach and education on these specific transportation recommendations and policies.

2:00 PM Adjourn

The next meeting of the Vermont Climate Council will be October 17th.

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