

# Ad-hoc Meeting Agriculture & Ecosystems

## MINUTES

OCTOBER 20, 2021

9:30AM – 10:30AM

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING/CONFERENCE CALL

<b>FACILITATOR(S):</b>	Kiah Morris
<b>NOTE TAKER:</b>	Jennifer Hummel
<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	Kiah Morris, Abbie Corse, Judy Dow, Charlie Hancock, and Jennifer Hummel (Via Zoom Virtual Meeting)

### MEETING NOTES

<b>DISCUSSION:</b>	Select members of the Agriculture & Ecosystems Subcommittee assembled for an Ad-hoc meeting to discuss Biomass.
<b>OVERVIEW</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Select members of the Agriculture &amp; Ecosystems (Ag&amp;Eco) Subcommittee met to specifically discuss Biomass in preparation for their scheduled Friday (10/22/21) meeting.</li> <li>▪ Judy Dow and Charlie Hancock were asked to share their knowledge/experiences concerning Biomass and aid the discussion to help vet out the recommendation as needed, with intentions of including this pathway in Ag&amp;Eco's recommendations being presented to the Vermont Climate Council (VCC) in their draft section of the Climate Action Plan (CAP).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In addition, noting, the concern for addressing Biomass being acknowledged and not too be limited; however, also needing and recognizing a deeper conversation is needed, specifically addressing equity for this recommendation, and deciding in what capacity Ag&amp;Eco could incorporate this in their section of the CAP.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Discussed and addressed problematic language, (i.e.: the use of 'low-grade') and terminology, as well as problematic philosophies and policies rooted in current practice.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specially concerning the forest management industry.</li> <li>▪ Suggested terms – 'large biomass' and 'small biomass.'</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Discussed prohibiting the expansion of existing biomass plants, (i.e.: Ryegate and McNeil).             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Big power businesses which produce biomass should not be part of the recommendation to the CAP from Ag&amp;Eco.</li> <li>▪ No more large biomass production from electrification.</li> <li>▪ Large scale electric generation should not continue to be the largest polluters.</li> <li>▪ However, improvements within guidelines established (not expansion perse) that would benefit and be more efficient would be considered and reviewed if were not increasing pollutants.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ In addition, it was determined that more education is needed, so better practices and guidelines can be implemented and ultimately followed. Sentiments were shared that economic impact cannot outweigh the importance and imperative responsibility of environmental justice.</li> </ul>	
<b>CONCLUSION:</b>	Follow-up with Ag&Eco at Friday's meeting to discuss the best way to implement what the members want to include in the CAP surrounding biomass; and, whether a separate memorandum/appendix should be included if the subcommittee does not feel they can apply the equity lens as needed for this recommendation, yet still need to recognize the importance within their recommendations.
<b>SPECIAL NOTE:</b>	
Next Ag&Eco Subcommittee Meeting is scheduled for Friday, 11/22/2021 from 9am-12noon ( <i>via Zoom</i> ).	