

Ag and Ecosystems Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council October 10, 2024 Meeting – Agenda

Location:	The meeting was recorded and posted online here .
Subcommittee Members Present:	Billy Coster, Jaiel Pulskamp, Stephen Leslie, Andrew Milliken, Jake Claro, Ryan Patch, Abbey Willard, Earl Hatley
State Agency Staff Present:	Evan Horne, Marli Rupe, Sophi Veltrop, Liz Amler
Minutes by:	Evan Horne

10:00 a.m. Welcome, Approve Agenda, and Approve Minutes

Billy Coster

- Agenda approved as written.
- Minutes from the previous subcommittee meeting approved.
- Jaiel Pulskamp asked the subcommittee if they could access templates through their Partner accounts.
- Evan Horne shared that he could assist subcommittee members in accessing their Vermont partner accounts.

10:05 a.m. CAP Input Sessions Scheduling and Other Updates

Sophi Veltrop

- Sophi Veltrop shared information on what input sessions are for the subcommittees. Sophi explained how other subcommittees chose to use these opportunities.
- Billy Coster shared how these opportunities were used in the initial Climate Action Plan and proposed using resilience across both agriculture and forestry sectors as a theme for one of the input sessions, referencing the recent flooding events.
- Ryan Patch offered some ideas and thoughts on effectively using these input sessions, noting that there is a lot of information to cover.
- Jaiel Pulskamp suggested contacting farmer alliance groups and including more farmers in the conversation.
- Jake Claro suggested dividing the two input sessions by stakeholder focus – agriculture and forestry – highlighting that might be a better way to get turnout.
- Andrew Milliken agreed that separating mitigation and resilience/adaptation might be the best option. Andrew also noted that there will need to be a significant introduction to the material because there is an overwhelming amount of content.
- Billy Coster shared that the plan for the input sessions subcommittee is to have already done significant work revising and prioritizing actions for the input sessions.
- Marli Rupe suggested that instead of splitting sessions by mitigation and resilience/adaptation, separate input sessions by stakeholders, such as agriculture and natural lands.

- Jaiel Pulskamp agreed with Marli to have one meeting focused on farmers and one more general. Jaiel also highlighted the need for Indigenous knowledge and looked to Earl Hatley and Judy Dow to assist.
- Stephen Leslie agreed with Jaiel and emphasized the need to bring in individual farmers. Stephen also highlighted that farmers are also managing forests and woodlands.
- Billy Coster offered some options, with one meeting being more economy-based and another around traditional ecological knowledge.
- Jaiel Pulskamp asked if having more than two input sessions was feasible to accommodate more public feedback.
- Billy Coster noted limited capacity, and these meetings need a reasonable representation from the subcommittee. Another option is to have one meeting focused strictly on agriculture and farming and another on forestry and natural lands.
- Jake Claro also worried about the capacity to have more than two sessions. The meetings could be more than just an industry mindset, noting that these sessions are more than just extractive and economy-based.
- Billy Coster noted Earl Hatley's comment in the chat that the subcommittee could have another meeting with Abenaki leadership or invite them to one of the proposed input sessions.
- Earl Hatley acknowledged the subcommittee's willingness to meet with Abenaki representatives and noted that meeting outside of the input sessions would be better.
- Marli Rupe noted that there could be opportunities to connect with farmers, foresters, natural land practitioners, and others outside of large public meetings.
- Billy Coster supported Marli's comments, highlighting future public outreach by the council before this plan is finalized next July.
- Stephen Leslie noted holding on-site meetings detailing agroforestry and other ecological management practices for council or subcommittee members would be beneficial.
- Billy Coster summarized that the two input sessions will generally focus on agriculture and forests.
- The subcommittee deliberated over potential dates and times for the input sessions.
- Input sessions are Tuesday, November 12, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. with an agriculture focus and Wednesday, November 13, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. with a forest and natural lands focus.
- Sophi Veltrop said that she would fill out the invited parties list and send invitations but also mentioned that subcommittee members could send out invites.

10:30 a.m. Guiding Principles of a Just Transition

Abbey Willard

- Abbey Willard shared updates on her role as the liaison from the Just Transition subcommittee. Abbey provided an overview and updated the subcommittee on incorporating Guiding Principles for a Just Transition.
- Sophi Veltrop highlighted that equity training is available for subcommittee members.

- Abbey Willard asked if this new method of incorporating guiding principles seems easier and more helpful than the way it was implemented in the past.
- Jaiel Pulskamp wished this document was available sooner and that the subcommittee considered this when developing the input sessions.
- Earl Hatley noted that he is a part of the Vermont Environmental Justice Network and the Vermont Releaf Collective and offered to share input sessions with them.
- Billy Coster noted that the visual representation and flow make it easier to apply the guiding principles.

10:50 a.m. Public Comment #1

- No public comment.

11:00 a.m. Task Group Timeline, Updates, and Discussion
All

- Billy Coster asked the Climate Action Office to update the subcommittee on any next steps for task groups.
- Liz Amler updated the subcommittee on the timeline for task groups, noting that everything must be completed for the Climate Council by December 16.
- Billy Coster shared what work needs to be done before then at the October 24, November 7, and November 21 subcommittee meetings.
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11:50 a.m. Public Comment #2

- No public comment.

12:00 p.m. Adjourn