

Ag and Ecosystem Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council
11:00 AM September 19, 2024
Minutes

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

11:00 Welcome, Approve Agenda and Approve Meeting Minutes

- Billy Coster welcomed the subcommittee and asked to approve meeting minutes.
- Judy Dow provided a change for previous meeting minutes addressing themes and task group selection from co-chairs.
- Billy Coster shared the agenda with the subcommittee.
- Judy Dow shared information about CAP guidance and the guiding principles, particularly referencing equity and inclusion.
- Jaiel Pulskamp commented on allowing time for cross-cutting pathways to be discussed.

11:05 Task Group discussion

- Jaiel Pulskamp shared the initial lists of subcommittee members on each task group.
- Evan Horne commented that there is room for other subcommittee members to join task groups and looked to formalize groups.
- Jaiel Pulskamp noted that subcommittee members can serve on more than one task group.
- Stephen Leslie commented that they are passionate about all three themes even though he is only on task group two based on co-chair recommendations.
- Jaiel Pulskamp noted that all work done in task groups will be shared with the entire subcommittee.
- Stephen Leslie commented that having a consolidated version of pathways, strategies, and actions for each task group would be nice.
- Evan Horne noted that there are templates available with consolidated pathways, strategies, and actions.
- Jaiel Pulskamp asked the subcommittee if everyone could access the templates using state partner accounts.
- Jake Claro commented that there have been some difficulties accessing partner accounts
- Liz Amler noted that the Climate Action Office is working with the Agency of Digital Services to solve technical issues.
- Billy Coster commented that static copies are available in the meantime.
- Andrew Milliken commented that he could access the documents using his partner account, which was helpful for the Climate Action Office to know.

- Liz Amler shared information on forming task groups for cross-cutting pathways across subcommittees.
- Billy Coster commented that he would support the subcommittee on the cross-cutting pathways task group, noting the additional work involved.
- Judy Dow commented that attending an additional task group could spread subcommittees thin with additional meetings.
- Billy Coster commented that he expressed that concern with the steering committee of the Climate Council and noted again that he offered to serve in that role as part of his position in ANR.
- Andrew Milliken asked for clarification about how cross-cutting task groups relate to co-benefits for all three themes in the agriculture and ecosystems subcommittee.
- Billy Coster clarified the purpose of the cross-cutting task groups.
- Billy Coster shared the timeline for the subcommittee moving forward.
- Marli Rupe commented that she hopes there is an opportunity to provide preliminary thoughts on themes before stakeholder events and wondered if there was a way for the public to share comments outside of the stakeholder meetings, noting that folks need opportunities outside of meetings.
- Sophi Veltrop commented on her work putting together the stakeholder events. Sophi also noted that there is a public comment form and phone number where the public can leave comments.
- Andrew Milliken asked for clarification on the timeline for prioritization, confirming that it will happen as an entire subcommittee and not in task groups.
- Billy Coster confirmed that prioritization will happen as an entire subcommittee.
- Jake Claro supported Marli Rupe's comments, addressing the need and priority to identify dates and times for stakeholder events sooner rather than later.
- Jaiel Pulskamp asked for clarification on how task groups can meet if they do not have a Zoom account and around support outside of business hours.
- Sophi Veltrop noted that the Climate Action Office can support task groups with meeting links.
- Jaiel Pulskamp asked for meeting times among task groups to be shared with the rest of the subcommittee if possible.
- Billy Coster noted that work in task groups doesn't necessarily require meetings but can be done in shared documents.
- Sophi Veltrop addressed Stephen Leslie's question in the chat about the current list of stakeholders and that the Climate Action Office is working with the Consensus Building Institute to clean up that list and update it with input from the subcommittee.

11:45 Public Comment

- No public comment.

11:50 Future Subcommittee Meetings

- Billy Coster shared dates for future meetings and asked for clarification on how stakeholder events occurred during the initial CAP process.
- Sophi Veltrop shared information on how stakeholder events occurred in the past.
- Marli Rupe asked if the subcommittee was capped at two stakeholder events and expressed the need for more.
- Jake Claro supported Marli Rupe's concern about insufficient time for agricultural input in the previous planning process.
- Marli Rupe noted that the sooner the subcommittee gets input from workers in agriculture and natural lands during the planning process, the more impact it will have. =
- Billy Coster opened the conversation about how stakeholder events should be held.
- Marli Rupe commented that events should be divided into agriculture, forestry, and natural lands.
- Jake Claro commented that using the task group themes might be an integrated approach between sectors with breakout rooms among sectors.
- Billy Coster shared that it could be possible for the subcommittee to have three facilitated stakeholder events based on themes.

12:00 Adjourn