**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**

**December 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: December 15, 2021 4–6 PM: Meeting recorded to be posted online.

Subcommittee Members Present: Sarah Phillips, Sue Minter, Iris Hsiang, Kashka Orlow, Kelly Klein, Danielle Bombardier, Chris Campany

Staff Present: Jane Lazorchak, Amanda Carlson, Abbey Willard, Ross MacDonald, Claire Mcllvennie, David Plumb, Marian Wolz, Carey Hengstenberg

Consultants: Climate Access (Meredith Herr and Cara Pike) and Kiah Morris

4:00 PM Welcome & Check In

* Kiah Morris announced RAD human rights award awarded to council member Iris Hsiang received – 1 of 2 honorees in VT and NH

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from 11/18/21 - **Approved**

Climate Council Updates

* Kelly announced that since the last JT subcommittee meeting, on 12/1 the Climate Action Plan (CAP) was passed 19-4
* Last week’s full council meeting
  + Discussion about the need for more substantive engagement
  + Use of pandemic related American Rescue Plan Act(ARPA) funds, subcommittees come back with high level suggestions

4:15 PM Update from Kiah Morris, Equity Consultant for the Council

* Went over process of utilizing guiding principles, and scoring rubric in respective subcommittees
* Compiled report on her work as an equity consultant
  + Survey of subcommittees members use of JT principles and rubric is coming soon
* Subcommittee members asked questions about Kiah’s work helping subcommittees apply the principles

4:34 PM Targeting Climate Investments

* $200M of ARPA funds allocated to climate action plan investments
* Sue proposed min. investments at the state and national levels – 35% in NY, 40% federal Just40 investment
* Iris suggested that whatever prioritized actions brought forward go through equity scoring rubric
* Group discussion about how we will define frontline communities: household vs. community level
* Chris brought up that investment should be targeted towards downtown infrastructure, which will enable compact livable communities, that support affordable housing, walkable communities
* Kashka warned about how low-income qualifications are thought of and straying from the benefits cliff

4:52 PM Public Comment

* Pat Sagui spoke, reminded us how we committed to do things differently

4:50 PM Public Engagement: Next Steps- Goals & Opportunities

* David guided us through past wording and goals in regards to public engagement in the climate action plan and at recent meetings

Climate Access- Climate Council Engagement Next Steps

* Cara spoke about their forthcoming engagement work
  + Provided 4-page synthesis of 275-page CAP document and press release after vote
  + Plan to host 3-online meetings, that share how VT’ers can get involved
  + Online platform being created to make it easy for the public to digest and add their feedback about the CAP
  + Spoke of resources available to other organizations to help with engagement

Environmental Justice Engagement: Department of Environmental Conservation

* Carey Hengstenberg spoke about her EJ work at the DEC
* Initiated contract in Aug 21’ with Center for Whole Communities to do outreach to 3-5 targeted communities in VT
* This work will happen in 2022, would like to collaborate with this subcommittee in Jan.
* Translation needs to happen, part of the Civil Rights Act

Discussion: How do we move forward the public engagement work that we want to see? What resources are needed?

* Kashka spoke about challenges reaching out to marginalized communities right now – not meeting in person, or lack of leadership in communities we want to target
  + Advocated for unified campaign we should embark on between agencies, partner organizations – create hub that is a home for marketing materials
* Members discussed ways to better target communities who haven’t been involved
* More listening than talking
* Jane talked about form coming to councilors that asks for personal stories to include in CAP
* Sarah proposed a single person to coordinate outreach effort, to go to partner events, to facilitate events – their orientation should be how can I help?
* Kashka mentioned Facebook group that was created to engage low income Vermonters on climate issues
* Sue proposed a sub-group to dig into this issue further: Kashka, Amanda, Carey, Kelly volunteered

5:56 PM Sub Committee – Future Work and Meeting Schedule

* Chris brought up our charge and responsibility to make sure that Just Transitions are front and center within the CAP and implementation of the CAP
* Sue proposed we meet once a month – 2nd Thurs of the Month

6:03 PM Adjourn