

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**January 16, 2025, 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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Meeting ID: 824 6229 0405

Passcode: 327991

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Attendance: Kelly Klein, Abbey Willard, Danielle Bombardier, Aleksandra Cirovic, Mona Tolba, Matthew LaFluer, Samantha Lash, Sophi Veltrop, Liz Amler, Carey Hengstenberg

[Recording of meeting](#)

- 4:00 PM Introduction (Kelly)
- Review Agenda and Accept [Minutes from 9/5/24 meeting](#), [Minutes from 10/3/24 meeting](#) and [Minutes from 11/7/24 meeting](#), and [Minutes from 12/05/24 meeting](#)
    - o Minutes were accepted provided that October minutes are updated to include Abbey Willard in attendance
- 4:10 PM Climate Action Office Update (Sophi and Liz)
- Outcomes from recent VT Climate Council Meeting
  - Other updates from Climate Action Office
    - o Sophi shared Climate Action Plan Stories brainstorm, invited ideas from the subcommittee members. She will send out brainstorm list to collect feedback/additional ideas.
    - o Matthew and Kelly talked about access to flood recovery and other funds. Individuals and municipalities with privilege, resources, existing access tend to get those funds first. Sometimes there's nothing left for others.
    - o Liz shared that the Council adopted a revised version of the public comment guidance; she shared updates on Climate Council process for drafting.
  - Liaisons share discussions and takeaways from attendance at other subcommittee meetings
    - o Danielle had her baby in December! So she was unable to attend Rural Resilience & Adaptation (RRA) December meetings. She gave them written feedback/thoughts by email; hasn't heard how they were used. Notes RRA is very aware of equity piece of their work.

- Abbey has attended recent Agriculture & Ecosystems (A&E) meeting. Notices overlap between Just Transitions and A&E about attention to language, also notes the tension between of the amount of time that clear/better language takes versus deadlines. A&E has a culture of taking the time to hear each other. Effort of thoughtfulness is there, the challenge is meeting the timelines.
- Kelly notes she's seeing strong recommendations coming out of the subcommittees, and cross-cutting working groups, that she's excited about.

4:30 PM

Just Transition Chapter Development (Kelly & Abbey)

- Review overall [2025 drafting timeline](#) & JT chapter schedule
- Review of ['Building Equity into the CAP and Ensuring a Just Transition' chapter outline](#)
- Working session on draft chapter sections – led by drafters
  - Kelly noted that Public Service Department commissioner – new to Council – at Climate Council asked about meaning of frontline/impacted communities. (In Public Service Department, there is a different meaning compared to Just Transitions definition – theirs is focused around flooding and who is most vulnerable to flooding geographically/location). Shows that having these definitions in the opening context is helpful!
  - Kelly gave overview of outline
  - Aleks talked through her section - overview (long vs. short options), equity vs. equality, frontline/impacted communities definitions, youth as frontline/impacted community call-out box. She noted the youth members' project of working on the definitions/glossary/acronyms list and asked about other terms that could benefit from being defined/included. Carey suggested **"moving at the speed of trust"**. Kelly noted that **distributive, procedural, contextual equity** etc. could be defined in the glossary (they are in the Guiding Principles). Mona suggested **including quotes** (from youth, marginalized community members) and **illustrations**. Aleks, Sophi, and Climate Action Plan stories/editing/design contractor can help with these.
  - 'Where We Were' – **Add in:** Kiah Morris's work to guide subcommittees through using the Guiding Principles for a Just Transition. **Add in:** liaisons existed.
  - Where we are now & what happened differently – suggestion to **combine in table** to compare 'where we were' to 'where we are' – subcommittee members liked this idea.
  - **Add in:** How other subcommittees utilized the community engagement reports - liaisons may be able to help with this (Abbey volunteered, Sophi can also do some outreach). **Add in:** wanted to do equity training for Council with ORE, couldn't due to capacity/timing. **Add in:** public comment guidance for subcommittees & council.

- Challenges this time: **Add in:** daytime meetings are inaccessible to people who work during the day and cannot stop to join a meeting.
- When editing - **include notes on ideas for illustrations/icons/visuals** that you think would be good.

5:35 PM Public comment

- No members of the public were present

5:40 PM What's Next (Abbey)

- Finalize JT chapter
- Assistance to subcommittees
- Guidance for VT Climate Councilors
- February meeting date
- Other items
  - Editors/drafters meet in advance of next meeting
  - Move next meeting to Feb 13 (instead of Feb 6)
  - Next draft due Friday Feb 7, will then go to Mona & Matthew for plain language editing, they'll share with the full group by Feb 13.

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