

**Just Transitions Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council**  
**November 7, 2024, 4:00-6:00 PM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**

Subcommittee members: Kelly Klein, Danielle Bombardier, Mona Tolba, Matthew LeFleur, Callie Fishburn, Aleksandra Cirovic  
Staff: Claire McIlvennie, Sophi Veltrop, Carey Hengstenberg, Liz Amler  
Public: Ilinca, Julie

- 4:00 PM      **Introduction** (Kelly)
- Review Agenda and Accept [Minutes from 9/5/24 meeting](#)
  - Accept [minutes from 10/3/24 meeting](#)
  - No quorum; minutes were not approved and must be revisited at the December meeting.
- 4:10 PM      **Climate Action Office Update** (Sophi)
- Input sessions are ongoing! Share the invitation; join any session that interests you.
  - Public Comment process that was approved for the subcommittee level will be discussed at the Climate Council meeting in November. They'll talk about whether they want to adopt the Public Comment Best Practices for whole council.
  - Per diems – Sophi corrected something she said last meeting. ANR is actually NOT currently pushing for increased per diems because Secretary thinks it should happen across government, doesn't want to advocate agency by agency
  - Idea to meet directly with Long-Term Recovery Group(s) and/or have them at a Just Transitions moment of a VT Climate Council meeting.
- 4:20 pm      **Outline of Just Transitions chapter in the Climate Action Plan and next steps for drafting**
- 1) Content: Claire presented draft outline of the chapter
    - Kelly: We've talked about weaving stories, plus examples of how equity was incorporated, *throughout* plan (not just in this one chapter)
    - Callie: Is there any intention for this chapter/section to make recommendations? Including procedural equity recommendations (for subcommittees - time commitment and per diems) and capacity adding
    - Claire: remembers broad recommendations during last plan but would have to revisit.
    - Kelly: my hope is that our recommendations were embedded in other chapters

- Matthew: agreed on per diem. Also issues of availability and flexibility.
- Sophi: brought up an idea someone else had had about JT marking/starring certain actions in the plan as priorities from a Just Transitions perspective with some visual cue. Gratitude section for everyone involved in making the plan including the people who participated in any kind of engagement.

2) Process: Kelly outlined the proposed process

- Callie asked about length - Kelly answered a few paragraphs is great, doesn't need to be long
- Claire will email out the word document of the outline; the group who drafted the outline will incorporate any feedback. Claire will also request people to sign up for rough drafting each section.
- Feedback on outline due to Claire next week (indicate interest in volunteering for a section too)
- Outline and volunteers finalized a few days after that

5:15 PM

**Public comment**

- Ilinca, a student at Vermont Law School, asked about examples of engagement that have gone well, and what major projects Just Transitions has worked on.
  - Kelly and Claire talked about Guiding Principles and embedding equity in broader Council work
  - Kelly talked about a recent event she attended and Sophi talked about the systems and structures of engagement as critical, and that paying people to do engagement work and also paying participants is foundational

5:25 PM

**Support in problem solving for Just Transitions topics that are coming up in other subcommittees** (Liaisons – Callie Fishburn and Danielle Bombardier and Claire McIlvennie)

Cross Sector Mitigation:

- Callie - having two liaisons is helpful. Attended Transportation input session which was useful. Sam is on electricity and buildings/thermal task groups and presented at the Buildings & Thermal Input Session. Callie is on Compact Settlement task group.
- Kelly - notes that the extra people count toward quorum, but important that they do so that they can be eligible for per diem
- Callie - that can add extra pressure to attend
- Callie - affordability has been an equity theme (came up at transportation input session today too). Should be top of all subcommittees' minds - financial impact to all Vermonters but specific focus on lower income or marginalized people. Concern about distributed utilities passing along the costs of upgrading failing infrastructure and recovery efforts to ratepayers.
- Matthew - affordability intersects with rural life and disability. Not

everyone drives!

Rural Resilience & Adaptation:

- Danielle - challenge of meetings being in the middle of the day, have only been able to attend two. They're doing a lot! Trying to think about applying JT principles to every action item is daunting so trying to figure out how to go about that. They'll be meeting again after input sessions probably with some more specific recommendations. Trying to make it to some of the task groups too but it's a challenge. Lots of actions about funding and investment to certain areas - so how would we ensure that funding is equitable once it's established? That's not part of the action.

Science & Data:

- Claire – Science and Data hasn't met in a few months (lost a co-chair). Noted the Measuring & Assessing Progress tool that the Climate Action Office is getting off the ground will likely involve Science and Data subcommittee in some way.

DRAFT