

**Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee
of the Vermont Climate Council
10/25/24 Minutes**

Location: Meeting was recorded and posted [online](#) here.
Subcommittee Members present: Andrea Wright, Alice Peal, Marian Wolz, Val Stori, Eric Forand, Scott McCormick, Bronwyn Cooke, Ann Lawless, Chris Company, Danielle Bombardier, Dahlia Cohn, Mike Burke
State Agency Staff Present: Ben Rose, Anne Margolis, Jared Ulmer, Carloine Paske for Stephanie Smith, Otis Ellms-Munroe
Minutes by: Sue Plant

1:00 PM Welcome/Agenda Overview/Approval of [September 27, 2024](#) Minutes

Minutes approved

1:06 PM Getting Grounded – VCC Updates and Review of Remaining Tasks and Timeframe

Andrea provided an overview of the task remaining to complete the work of the subcommittee through the end of the year. October is understanding Task Group progress and challenges. November will include Stakeholder Outreach meetings and a Subcommittee meeting on the 22nd. Task Groups should be prepared to share revised recommendations. December will be about application of the JT Rubric and prioritization.

1:20 PM Stakeholder Engagement Update and Needs

Sophi Veltrop gave an update on the stakeholder engagement meetings and who is on the invite list. The business support organizations meeting will be held November 8th and the municipal support organizations will be held on the 15th. Subcommittee members provided further input on the invitee list and agreed upon who could help spread the word about the meetings. Marian Wolz provided a draft PowerPoint presentation and discussed that we need to determine who would be giving the presentations and what we should be focused on. Marian will follow up with Task Group leads for specific slide content and the subcommittee to solicit speakers for different slides. Sophi also solicited subcommittee members interest in participating in the November 19 Municipal Stakeholder meetings supported by the Regional Planning Commissions. Scott and Chris agreed to attend those meetings.

1:40 PM Pathways Overview and Input

David Plumb explained that he was present to assist the 3 different task groups on their updates and asked that the Task Leads speak to the challenging pieces they are each facing and providing direction.

- Cross-Cutting: Workforce, Education, and Compact Settlement

Liz Amler gave an overview of the work to date from the crosscutting groups..

- Infrastructure and the Built Environment

Val Stori discussed the challenges the task group faced and detailed the group's discussions on current pathways. She then provided an overview of the work being done by the Task Group to address Pathway 17, strategy a (infrastructure) and b (funding) regarding land use policy and future development for resilience and adaptation. The Community Support TG indicated they were providing recommendations on this Strategy 17b and Infrastructure was fine giving that up. Anne Margolis outlined proposed modifications of Pathway 15a and Andrea provided a high level overview of work related to Pathway 15 Strategy b, c, and d.

- Community Capacity and Support

Scott McCormick explained the task group's scope of work. Under Pathway 14 he detailed the proposed revisions to Strategy 14a and 14b. Scott explained some of the work being done on Pathway 15 but then did come to understand that Infrastructure has taken the lead on that Pathway. Scott also provided an overview of the work on Pathway 16 that has been led by Cross Sector Mitigation. Bronwyn Cooke emphasized the approach to Strategy 18a as to people needing more housing units to be resilient in climate change.

- Public Health

Alice Peal gave an overview of the task group's work and noted that she wanted to add another slide under Public Health, for Mental Health. There is a need for a new Strategy and/or action around communications and also around housing.

David Plumb asked members to think about these task group notes today, and what are the areas/issues that you really want to hear from the stakeholders about.

Chris Campany - how do we grow our communities away from flood risks? Based on their experience, what have they done? Mike Burke added what capacity do they have to do something? Caroline Paske would like to hear what businesses want to do to solve their current problems. Based on their experience, what have they done? David also offered to provide support to any of the Task Groups as they continue to modify existing and create new actions.

3:30 PM Public Comment

None

3:41 PM Just Transitions Rubric Application

Danielle Bombardier shared the steps to incorporating guiding principles for just transition and applying the JT rubric when developing recommendations for the 2025 Climate Action Plan.

3:59 PM Recap and Next Steps

Marian will reach out regarding the stakeholder presentations.

David Plumb is available for further consult as this work continues.

All subcommittee members should look to register for stakeholder meetings and look to attend or follow up to watch the November 19 RPC meetings.

Continue to meet as Task Groups and look to refine recommendations with close to final draft language several days prior to the November 22 Subcommittee meetings.

4:03 PM Adjourn