

**Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee
of the Vermont Climate Council
12/6/24 Minutes**

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

12:04 PM **Welcome/Agenda Overview/Approval of November 22, 2024 Minutes**
Minutes approved

12:10 PM **Getting Grounded – VCC Updates and Review of Remaining Tasks and Timeframe**
Andrea provided a brief overview of the tasks remaining – Dec 13 review meeting to review final recommendations for the Subcommittee with a presentation to the full Council on the 16th. Task groups will have more work to do between now and then.

12:15 PM **Prioritized Actions Overview and Discussion**
Community Capacity and Planning – Scott, Marian, Caroline
Scott explained the process the task group used to prioritize actions for pathway 14-18. Marian detailed the planning and technical tools needed, Caroline outlined the needs of local municipalities, and Scott explained the actions for resilient residential housing.
Infrastructure and the Built Environment -Val
Val summarized the revisions to the actions surrounding pathway 15. Anne Margolis mentioned the change discussed previously with Andrea and Neal about being more “technology agnostic” and it didn’t appear to be there. Val noted it and will add that. Chris Campany mentioned the fact that we don’t have a comprehensive list of how many “real world” climate related damages we’ve had and long-term adaptation needs. There isn’t a statewide report detailing how many homes have been lost, how many people have been displaced, where do people go and what does this mean for future land use plans. Andrea added what are the actions the Climate Council should consider as they move forward on this.
Public Health – Alice
Under pathway 19, Alice explained the strategies and actions that were prioritized. Jared mentioned that they tried to focus on identifying people at highest risk and developing the systems to serve them in advance, and during emergencies. Ben and Mark agreed that we should have a final version of our prioritized actions. Alice also mentioned having public health information sent to the public schools.

Public Comment - none

1:50 PM Break

2:00 PM **Subcommittee Prioritization**

Discussion centered around funding for implementation of the needs identified. Andrea agreed that we need implementation projects that we can measure the development of our plans. Anne mentioned that to justify “resilience” in a regulatory framework, to justify funding, what are the targets, what justifies what people are willing to pay for? Understanding this will help clarify what the investments are for.

Ben wanted to add community mental health, as the adaptation of the Climate Action Plan, be considered. Identify and provide resources to address this issue.

2:30 PM **Next Steps**

December 13th Sub Committee Review, Provide Prioritized Recommendations to VCC

December 16th Present Recommendations to VCC

Complete task group templates so they can be shared at Friday’s meeting. Andrea will email the task group leads a summary of needs prior to Friday’s meeting.

2:41 PM **Adjourn**

Notes from Chat:

Andrea Wright, VTrans: Reminder Prioritization Criteria:

- Impact
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Co-Benefits
- Equity
- Technical Feasibility

Elizabeth Amler: Re climate council meetings: they are meeting monthly for the most part moving forward and are posted on the calendar: <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/getinvolved/calendar/month/202412>

Ann Lawless: Proofreading comment - close quotes after municipal vulnerability index." should come out.

Anne Margolis, VT PSD: Is Resilience Hub defined in the SHMP? Defining somewhere seems important. Infrastructure task group has an action related to identifying critical facilities - which is broader but potentially overlaps, if Resilience Hubs is meant to encompass emergency shelters for example.

Caroline Paske, VEM: Yes! Resilience Hubs are intentionally undefined at this point - the grant I applied to is, in part, to work with community organizations and state agencies to define Resilience Hub for Vermont.

Alice Peal: <https://www.planning.org/nationalcenters/hazards/planninginformationexchange/>
EXPLORATORY SCENARIOS FOR HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Chris Campany: This subcommittee has been asked to accomplish a lot in a very short amount of time. If you feel we need more time or even a different approach with regard to the CAP I think we should communicate that to the Steering Committee and the Council. As a Councilor I'm happy to communicate whatever this Subcommittee would like to have communicated.

Anne Margolis, VT PSD: The MVI includes critical facilities but not how that layer was developed/whether it includes all the critical facilities that would be identified by communities.

Marian Wolz: Right, the MVI has a critical facilities layer built by ERG (using E911 data). They did it by looking at various state and municipal plans to pull out those key facilities that are identified as critical in those plans, but I agree with Caroline that to have a more comprehensive assessment of CI, we'd have to define

that a determine how that might be used by municipalities who go through their own process in LEMPs to identify critical facilities.

Ann Lawless: The local response groups are a good source for stories. KURRVE did a great presentation from an individual in Barnet at the NEK Collaborative meeting recently.

Val Stori (she/her): I agree with Anne. For another example, a community needs to first be able to do planning for a new or expanded W/WWTP facility. Planning needs funding for a pre-feasibility study, which is a key initial barrier before a community can implement/build a new facility.

Otis Ellms-Munroe, VTrans: That's a good point Scott, especially if we want to include better use of existing resources instead of only new funding and capacity.

Anne Margolis, VT PSD: It would be great, for example, for the MVI to do something like GMP has done with resilience zones (outage data x social vulnerability x electric-dependent comms or critical facilities etc.) - but statewide and usable by any stakeholder. This could be used to prioritize grant funding or to assess utility investment plans or help regional/municipal energy planners, etc.

Liz Amler, Climate Action Office: Infrastructure excel: https://vermontgov.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ANR-VermontClimateCouncil/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B9E4D157A-8CDF-4159-82CD-39F9DB494B43%7D&file=InfrastructureBaseTemplate.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

Community Capacity and Planning: https://vermontgov.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ANR-VermontClimateCouncil/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B0A0B9CE6-68AF-4304-BA94-F3C8996E8255%7D&file=CommunityCapacityBaseTemplate.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

Public Health: https://vermontgov.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ANR-VermontClimateCouncil/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B2FCE4F43-0C2D-4CC2-801C-23664F15B368%7D&file=PublicHealthBaseTemplate.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true