

**Rural Resilience and Adaptation Subcommittee
of the Vermont Climate Council
7/12/24 Meeting - Minutes**

Location: Meeting was recorded and posted [online](#) here.
Subcommittee Members present: Andrea Wright, David Deen, Alice Peal, Marian Wolz, Val Stori, Paula Melton, Dr. Mark Levine, Scott McCormick, Candace Pearson, Dahlia Cohen
State Agency Staff Present: Ben Rose, Anne Margolis, Jared Ulmer, Carloine Paske for Stephanie Smith, Otis Ellms-Munroe
Minutes by: Sue Plant

11:02 AM Welcome – Andrea Wright, RRA Co-Chair
Agenda Overview
Approval of [June 14, 2024](#) Minutes-
No quorum, will do at the next meeting in August

11:15 AM VCC/SC Updates – Andrea Wright, RRA Co-Chair

- Started with a description of recent changes to the Work Plan, noting sections for Background, Council areas of focus, Relevant Documents, Workplan and Task Group framework. There needs to be a formal place to put documents as they are being worked on and for review. (Task groups only) Marian indicated the Climate Action Office can set up a place in SharePoint and folks will need to use their partner accounts to access that site.
Detail on the Stages of Work and the timeframe can be found here:
https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/anr/climatecouncil/Shared%20Documents/Rural_Resilience_Subcommittee/Documents/VCC%20RRA%202024%20Work%20Plan_July.pdf
- [Additional Guidance on Subcommittee Process](#)
The Additional Guidance provides details on What’s Happening, Support, and Incorporating Just Transition Principles for three different phases: Stage 1: April-June – Grounding and getting started; Stage 2: June-September – Deliberation; Stage 3: Sept–Nov – Prioritizing and refining
- [Prioritization of Actions](#)
Prioritization will continue to be supported by the five foundational criteria in the GWSA. The document provides a framework for prioritization and describes that the goal of the Climate Council is to have a top ten priorities overall so 3 from each subcommittee.
- Legislative Update
Several State staff provided overviews of climate-related legislation from the 20204 Session. That includes S213 (Act121) Flood Safety Act, S310 Flood Response, S259 Make Big Oil Pay, H.289 the Renewable Energy Standard, H.687 Act 250 Reform and Housing, and S.305 PUC Miscellaneous.

11:36 AM Public Engagement Review

- [Feedback from Public Outreach and Kick-Off Events](#)
Andrea explained that an e-mail providing results of events and survey results was sent to this committee. Marian described the summary of the input: A lot of discussion about

communication, language barriers and accessibility. How to build community and energy resilience. Discussed planning support at regional and state level.

- [Best Practices for Public Comment - Draft from Just Transitions Subcommittee](#)
Paula Melton provided an overview of the document. Of note is to give more time after each topic of substance for the public to comment. Engage directly with the public during the meeting.
- RRA Public Engagement Input
Otis Ellms-Munroe broke down the input from the RRA Subcommittee survey results into the following areas: Resources & Need, Equity & Inclusion, Impacts & Adaptation, and Energy & Resilience. Otis and Ann volunteered to assimilate the input received into a few questions to forward to the Climate Action Office as they continue engaging with the public.

11:57 AM RRA Task Groups

- Task Group Make-up
Three groups – Public Health, Community Capacity & Planning, Infrastructure and the Built Environment – provided a listing of participants per Task Group
Reviewed the timeline and general expectations for the next three months of work.
- Framework for Proceeding
Outlined Grounding, Gap Refining, Identifying Gaps and actions to take, as well as Prioritizing Actions. Reviewed a potential framework for consistent work across the Task Groups. Marian Wolz volunteered to assist the 3 Task Leads to develop a document to facilitate consistency amongst the Task Groups. There is a potential template in the workplan.

Jared will provide links to Health documents. Set meeting prior to the August meeting.
Key stakeholders and data needs – To be discussed after the Task Groups have met.

12:16 PM Public Comment
None received

12:17 PM Next Steps

- Otis and Ann provide highlighted topics for CAO public engagement
- Marian, Scott, Alice, and Val will meet to develop a Task Group Framework
- After a framework is in place, Task Groups will aim to meet at least once but possibly twice before August Subcommittee meeting.

12:18 PM Adjourned