

Science and Data Subcommittee of the Vermont Climate Council

Tuesday November 12, 2024 – Minutes

1:30pm – 3:00pm

Science and Data Subcommittee members present: Breck Bowden, Tara S. Kulkarni, Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux, Jared Duval, Julie Moore, Claire McIlvennie, David Grass, Ken Jones, Richard Hopkins, Catherine Lowther, Alexander Newman,

Staff support: Liz Amler

1:30 PM - Welcome and Agenda Overview

1:35 PM - Approval of Minutes from August 9, 2024:

- Acronyms to be spelled out.
- Insert "should" at the top where indicated.
- Correct the spelling of "Lesley-Ann" on page 2 under 'Next Steps'.
- Remove mention of Richard volunteering.
- With these corrections, the subcommittee approved the minutes.

1:45 PM - Secretary Moore's Update:

Secretary Moore reported on the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the challenges encountered with the oversight contract.

- The contract with SEI has now been fully executed. The team met with SEI last week, and it is expected that they will complete their work by the end of the calendar year.
- This work will include laying out the workflow plan for the rest of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) at the council. Following this, the Climate Office will update the council, Cross Sector Mitigation Subcommittee (CSM), and the Science and Data Subcommittee on the overall timeline for this work.

- Progress is being made on the Measuring and Assessing Progress (MAP) tool. Phase 1 is currently underway, and the development of Phase 2's building tool is set to launch early to mid-next year.

1:50 PM – Structure for 2025 Revised Climate Plan Review and Discussion:

- Science & Data Subcommittee members discussed and identified leads for chapters outlined in the 2025 Revised Climate Action Plan assigned to Science & Data

- Clarification was sought on whether the burden section is science and data-specific or cross-cutting.
- It was noted that the CSM and science chapter is pending the pathways work.
- A suggestion was made to identify lead authors for chapters associated with science and data to initiate the drafting process, with drafts ready for review by the subcommittee.
- Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux provided a five-slide update presentation.
- David Grass discussed potential public health implications.
- Richard emphasized that effective mitigation supports climate justice and mentioned an article on climate migration in the Addison Independent, offering his assistance with related work.
- Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux suggests the original CAP is dense and recommends a people-centered approach to better integrate lived experiences with science.
- Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux proposes rewriting to align with the state hazard mitigation plan and resilience implementation strategy, focusing on strategic resilience planning locations.
- Jared Duval emphasizes the need to identify chapter leads and suggests incorporating the economy section into another chapter.
- Breck Bowden requests the slide deck and queries the scope of the climate change chapter, considering a separate health chapter.
- Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux is leading the 'Climate and Climate Change in Vermont' section.
- David Grass may lead 'Health' as a subsection or separate section.

- Ken Jones, with Jared Duval's support, will lead 'Vermont Energy Economy' and update the economy section from the first CAP.
- Concerns about redundancies in drafting the CAP were raised by Breck Bowden and Lesley-Ann L. Dupigny-Giroux.
- Jared Duval and CAO will address the 'Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases' and replacements for other sections.
- Jared Duval inquired about the timeline for the inventory, which depends on filling a specific position
- Jared Duval will discuss the 'Cumulative Assessment of Action on Carbon Reduction' for 2025 and 2030 requirements and seeks participants for the drafting group.
- Ken Jones reminds the climate action office about the measure progress tool and its relation to the climate action plan.

2:49 Public comment

- Shawn Lucas suggested his skills may be more applicable to the Agriculture and Ecosystems Committee.
- Liz Amler will share the calendar in the chat for access to all subcommittee meetings.

2:52 Review current subcommittee meeting schedule.

- Subcommittee members had conflict for December date that was scheduled. December to be cancelled, meet in January instead.
- Liz Amler to send out updated invitations:
 - o Jan 14, 2025 01:30 PM
 - o Feb 14 2025, 1:30 PM
 - o Mar 11, 2025 01:30 PM
 - o May 13, 2025 01:30 PM
 - o Jul 8, 2025 01:30 PM

2:52 Discuss next meeting agenda

- Next meeting confirmed for January 14
- Ken Jones is scheduled to present.
- Updates and discussion on the Science & Data-led Climate Action Plan (CAP) section drafting

3:00 Future Meetings Discussion – Modeling

- Subcommittee discussion focused on forecasting methodologies for compliance and emission reductions.
- Authority and the advisory role of the Subcommittee were examined.
- The need for a transparent and fair review process was highlighted.
- Future presentations will address modeling approaches and assumptions.
- Concerns about the involvement of state employees in potential legal proceedings were raised

3:06 PM Adjourn