

**Vermont Climate Council
November 23, 2021 -Minutes**

Date/Time:	November 23, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting; recorded and posted online
Physical Location to Attend in Person:	Agency of Natural Resources, One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05602 in Catamount NL D215
Vermont Climate Council members present:	Abbie Corse, Anson Tebbetts, Bram Kleppner, Brian Gray, Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Chris Cochran, Erica Bornemann, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Kristin Clouser, Lauren Oates, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter
Sub-committee co-chairs:	Peter Walke, Billy Coster, TJ Poor
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Marian Wolz
Minutes Prepared by:	Cameron Hager and David Plumb

1:30 PM Convene/Welcome/Overview and Approval of Agenda
Kristin Clouser, Agency of Administration & David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute

Agenda was approved by the Council.

1:35 PM Review and Approval of Nov. 16 and Nov. 17, 2021 minutes
David Plumb, CBI

Minutes were approved by the Council with suggested changes below:

- For 11/16, in the 2nd bullet point under "Other Transportation Issues", the phrase "Local Fuel Standard" should be changed to "Low Carbon Fuel Standard"
- For 11/17 in the 3rd bullet under "Buildings/Thermal", the word "including" should be changed to "include" and "energy plan" should be changed to "Comprehensive Energy Plan"

1:40 PM Just Transition Reflection
Jon Copans, VT Council on Rural Development

Jon Copans of the VT Council on Rural Development presented a Just Transitions reflection. He discussed two anecdotes of engaging citizens in rural areas in the state especially with how to build bridges and focus on resiliency in local communities.

1:55 PM Update on TCI-P action in Transportation Sector
Richard Cowart and Peter Walke, Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee Co-

Chairs

Richard Cowart and Peter Walke led a discussion of the impact of Massachusetts and Connecticut pulling out of TCI-P, which has prompted the task group to make proposed revisions to the transportation pathways in the CAP, which are now included in the latest draft document and will be discussed in the Council meeting on Monday Nov. 29. Council reactions to these developments included:

- The Council should signal it is working on a ‘Plan B’ and should give itself a time limit to do so.
- The Council would benefit from greater clarity in the coming months around the actual status of TCI-P and the impact that its potential demise would have on the Council’s strategies for meeting its emissions reduction goals.
- Members of the Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee stated that they will continue the work after Dec. 1 on this.

2:10 PM Feedback on additional sections of the Initial CAP *David Plumb, CBI*

Jane Lazorchak described the documents for discussion. David Plumb facilitated a conversation on feedback on additional sections of the Initial CAP. Key discussion points from the conversation are recorded below:

- **On Section 16, Implementing Vermont’s Climate Action Plan**, the following changes were suggested:
 - Change “Authorize and direct ANR to implement an electric and high efficiency transportation unit in existing education and awareness programs” to “Authorize direct, staff, and fund”
 - The Drivers education and awareness program should be associated with the Secretary of Education and not with ANR and the DMV. This will be updated accordingly.
 - AOT needs to review how these recommendations might alter the way it prioritizes projects. This will be discussed during the November 29 meeting with the transportation sector.

2:25 PM Decision-making conversation: Building Resilience and Adaptation in Communities and the Built Environment *David Plumb, CBI*

David Plumb did a review on the decision-making protocol. Following that review, the Council discussed the Building Resilience and Adaptation in Communities and the Built Environment. The key points of the discussion are recorded below:

- The section is missing a broader mention of climate change hazards such as wind, heat, and vector-borne diseases such as ticks. Members of the subcommittee will work on cross-referencing the information from the climate change impacts section of the document into this one.
- A suggestion was made to change the language **around Stormwater and Stormwater**

infrastructure. The council agreed to change the language to “Monitor and update stormwater permitting process as needed to ensure green infrastructure is preferred in design considerations.”

- Council members **highlighted a lack of clarity around the clear connection of climate action and housing in the final pathway.** The subcommittee will add language in Strategy 3 of the pathway to make the connection clear.

3:30 PM BREAK

3:40 PM Decision-making conversation: Adaptation and Building Resilience in Natural and Working Lands
David Plumb, CBI

David Plumb facilitated a conversation on decision making around the **Adaptation and Building Resilience in Natural and Working Lands** section. Before going into the review, David Plumb reviewed that there are some issues in this section being moved to Cross-Cutting such as Land-Use and Compact Settlement as well as the proposed State Office for climate issues. Key points of the conversation are recorded below:

- **On Page 10, Lines 172-174,** an edit was suggested as ANR does not have the ability to establish land management objectives for municipal land. The Council agreed to re-write the language to include the phrase “and promote uptake of these objectives through outreach to regional and municipal planners”.
- **On lines 648-650,** Councilors expressed concern about the recommendation to adopt a policy of no-net loss of natural or working lands. A large majority of councilors agreed to remove the specific mention of adopting a policy from this version of the CAP, so that the Council can study the issue further.
- **On Section D, line 658,** the Council had concerns about the recommendation to change the Use Value Appraisal Program. Several alternatives were put on the table, including removing the recommendation to allow time for further study, or to soften the recommendation to “Explore changes...” Based on quick polling of softer language versus the original text, the Council did not show a clear preference. The subject will be revisited at the November 29 meeting.
- **Additional concerns were identified that the council did not have time to address in this meeting. This issues will be taken up on Nov. 29**
 - **On line 673,** there was a concern around the language in a recommendation around **FHARC.** The following alternative language was suggested to say “Adopt legislation authorizing ANR to revise the Flood Hazard Area & River Corridor (FHARC) rule to incorporate statewide jurisdiction and permitting authority for river corridors for all kinds of development and allowing municipalities to opt in to such permitting authority.”
 - **On Pathway 5, line 741,** concern that this strategy unfairly singles out renewal energy as different than any other development pressure. A suggestion was made to move this into a cross-cutting section and broaden.
- **A definition for natural lands.** Natural lands is a phrase pulled from the GWSA, where it is also not defined. A councilor expressed concern about a lack of definition.

5:00 PM Public comment

The following individuals made public comment:

- Cheryl Joy Lipton
- Annette Smith

5:15 PM Next Steps and adjourn

- The Council decided to extend Monday's meeting with a possibility of having an additional meeting on Tuesday.
- The Council did not reach decision-making conversations around Mitigation in Agriculture or Sequestration and Storing Carbon.
- The materials for Nov. 29th meeting are already posted, as is a full pdf that shows how all the components of the CAP fit together.

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