

**Vermont Climate Council  
December 21, 2021 - Minutes**

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Date/Time:	December 21, 2021, 1:30 PM
Location:	Zoom Meeting recorded and <a href="#">posted online</a>
Members Present:	Anson Tebbetts, Bram Kleppner Catherine Dimitruk, Chad Farrell, Erica Bornemann, Iris Hsiang, Jared Duval, Johanna Miller, Julie Moore, June Tierney, Kelly Klein, Kristin Clouser, Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Liz Miller, Richard Cowart, Sean Brown, Sue Minter
Sub-committee co-chairs present:	Billy Coster, Peter Walke
Staff and support:	Jane Lazorchak, David Plumb, Marian Wolz
Minutes Prepared by:	Cameron Hager and David Plumb

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

Agenda was approved by the Council.

**1:35 PM Review and Approval of December 7th Minutes**  
*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*

Minutes were approved by the Council.

**1:40 PM Land Acknowledgment Development [Link to Presentation]**  
*Judy Dow, Subcommittee Member and Executive Director of Gedakina*

Judy Dow gave a presentation on what a Land Acknowledgment is. She followed that presentation by leading the Council on a discussion on the development of a Land Acknowledgment for the Climate Action Plan. Key points of the discussion are recorded below:

- Judy gave a structure for how to develop a Land Acknowledgment as seen below:
  - Start with a couple of sentences on the history of Montpelier (i.e. Montpelier is built at the bottom of Lake Winooski)
  - Remember all the things that Council saw in nature today (captured in chat and sent to Council). Add those observations into context of the story of Montpelier.
  - Say a ‘Thank you’ to the land. Acknowledging everything you are feeling and seeing
  - Remember to acknowledge the people
    - The Winooski people, this is their traditional homeland
    - Acknowledge and thank them for caring for the land that we just witnessed

- Acknowledge the atrocities and hardships they have endured with one heart and one mind with the land
- Questions and Comments
  - A question was asked regarding the importance of waterways and watersheds. Judy said that waterways and the watershed are essential to understanding the land. Caring for the watershed is caring for the people.
  - A question was asked to understand the purpose of the Land Acknowledgement. Judy said to look at this as holistically as possible and how every action has an impact on the land. Judy mentioned to make this note in the Land Acknowledgment that you created this on the day of the Winter Solstice.
- Jane Lazorchak will have a draft Land Acknowledgment for Council to review prior to the next Council meeting with assistance from Bram Kleppner and Judy Dow.

**2:55 PM      Break**

**3:15 PM      ARPA Investments**

*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute*

- Agriculture and Ecosystem Recommendations
- Rural Resilience and Adaptation Recommendations
- Cross-Sector Mitigation Recommendations

Action Needed – Climate Council to agree on set of consensus recommendations to include in memo to Governor and Legislature for Climate Action.

David Plumb led a discussion on ARPA investments. Members of the above subcommittees presented on recommendations for ARPA investments. Key points of the discussion are recorded below:

- A question was asked to the Ag and Ecosystem subcommittee about drought stressors and if they have been a part of the subcommittee discussion. They have been a part of the discussion, but specific infrastructure needs more resources outside of ARPA.
- A question was asked about cooling centers if they needed to be prioritized. These have come up about enhancing community centers in downtown areas.
- Members of the administrations clarified that they will be abstaining from discussions as it relates to funding considering their role in the upcoming budget conversations. They can discuss high level prioritization, but cannot discuss specific funding recommendations.

**3:45 PM      ARPA Memo Development**

*David Plumb, Consensus Building Institute and Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act*

- Further Consideration of Principles for ARPA Spending

- Steering Committee to Review Memo

David Plumb and Jane Lazorchak led a discussion on the ARPA Memo. Council members were given the opportunity to make revision suggestions to the memo. Key points from the discussion are recorded below:

- A suggestion was made to add in a piece about spending money cost-effectively to meet the objectives of the GWSA, attentive to emerging information.
- A suggestion was made about the language regarding low-income Vermonters to specify middle-income. A clarification was made that the language as is leaves the door open to middle-income, but it's not necessary to change as this will help with the funding.
- An additional bullet could be added that says "Due to the urgency of the climate crisis, the opportunity to invest ARPA funds be seen through the lens of taking action on the state's climate goals."
  - Language could be added about the legislature and governor will maximize the funds based upon recommendations from the Council.
  - This was based around not using the language around "best thinking".
- A line could be added about how Sub-committees looked at the scale of action needed to meeting the needs of the CAP, and also the amount that could spend in the timeframe.
- A line could be added about administration members of the Council abstaining from the process. They will read a draft and give input.
- Jane Lazorchak will create a draft and Jared Duval and Richard Cowart will review before the end of the week. Secretary Clouser and Secretary Moore will review final draft to ensure administration's position is reflected accurately.

#### **4:45 PM      Next Steps**

*Jane Lazorchak, Director of Global Warming Solutions Act*

Jane Lazorchak presented on the next steps of the Climate Council. Those steps are detailed below:

- The next Council meeting will be January 24<sup>th</sup>. The Steering Committee is working on the outline for 2022 in terms of meeting dates and times.
- Jane clarified the Appendices document and the process surrounding its creation.
- On the Process Reflection, a survey is being worked on so the Council should stay tuned for more information.

#### **4:30 PM      Public comment**

There was no public comment made.

#### **4:35 PM      Final Comments**

The Council recognized the awards for Iris Hsiang and Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux's work over the past year.

**4:35 PM      Adjourn**

DRAFT