

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

In attendance:

Staff: Marlena Valenta and Emily Klofft

Committee Members: Kirk Waite, Dan Seeley, Barclay Morris, Bob Buermann, Peter Zamore, Al Voegele, Bill Irwin, Matthew LaFleur

Approval of Minutes from August and September

P. Zamore motioned to approve minutes. B. Irwin seconded. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Review Draft Equity chapter

M. Valenta reviewed the draft equity chapter. The chapter includes a definition of equity, details on current equity work completed by NRPC, guiding principles and a discussion of equity mapping tools.

A. Voegele stated that the definition should be changed, as currently it says to hold the state accountable and the Regional Commission does not have the authority to do so. P. Zamore recommended changing the language to something such as pursuing the goal. B. Irwin recommended “provide communities clear process that may better enable municipalities, regions and the state to pursue equity”.

The Committee discussed equity mapping tools. B. Morris stated that there is a tension between thinking of equity in terms of municipal boundaries and thinking of equity as addressing the needs of residents in each community. M. Valenta stated that these equity mapping tools were often used for grant applications. K. Waite stated that he had concerns this could lead to less resources for people who need them in towns that happen to have higher average incomes. B. Irwin stated he was uncomfortable identifying specific towns. He stated that a goal for the region should be ensuring grants and other benefits stretch across the region. A. Voegele noted that impacts of climate and electricity do not stop at municipal boundaries. P. Zamore stated that a solution could be to reference that mapping is only one source of information, and that there are other areas of need that should be considered.

Review draft LEAP Modeling chapter

E. Klofft and M. Valenta reviewed the LEAP Modeling chapter. E. Klofft stated that she had removed some of the information on how the model was developed because it was very hard to read and was addressed in the state plan. K. Waite asked if it could be included as an appendix.

M. LaFleur noted that there should be more visuals to make the data easier to understand. W. Irwin agreed and stated that the plan should avoid the use of abbreviations. K. Waite stated that the colors in charts should be consistent across the document, such as green for electricity. E. Klofft stated that Emily Adams would be working on final graphics for the plan.

A. Voegele asked how hot water pump heaters would work in Vermont given the cold climate. M. Valenta stated that they have improved significantly so far, and that the assumption of the plan was that these technologies would continue to improve. B. Irwin stated that it was important that households be prepared for converting to an electric option when their furnace needs replacing, weatherization will be

needed for many households. The Committee noted that they would like to have a presentation from VEIC. P. Zamore noted that in general there is a chasm between current reality and the future goals of the 2050 scenario. K. Waite stated it was a generational problem. B. Irwin stated he would like to include a discussion of the economics of these technologies, such as if the prices of electric vehicles will go down over time as the technology is more widely adopted.

The Committee discussed simplifying the charts by lumping in together several of the smaller fossil fuels and that there was a need to clearly label which fuels are fossil fuels.

P. Zamore asked why the plan did not take into account which RECs were retired. E. Klofft stated that the data the state had provided does not take into account the RECs. P. Zamore stated that it was important to ensure resources weren't being double-counted.

B. Buermann noted that charts should be accessible to color-blind residents, 7% of the population is color-blind.

Energy work update

M. Valenta presented on her current energy work including the MERP program and DPS listening sessions.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjourn.

D. Seeley motioned to adjourn. The motion carried.