

Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap
Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2023
9:30 AM – 2:30 PM (VTC Langevin House, Randolph VT)

Panel Members Present:

Chris Castano, Allan Thompson, Betsy Lesnikoski, Chris Brooks, Chris Fife, Chris Lindgren, Ed Larson, Jamey Fidel, Luke McNally, Trevor Allard, Abby Long, Steve Hardy, Scott Duffy

Panel Members Absent:

Chief Don Stevens, Stanley Robinson, Tucker Riggs, Gabe Russo, Joe Short, Liz Gleason, Molly Willard, Charlie Hancock, David Lane

Staff Present:

Paul Frederick (FPR), Christine McGowan (VSJF), Katharine Servidio (FPR), Danny Fitzko (FPR)

Guests/Members of the Public:

David Beurle (Future iQ)

I. Welcome and Updates

- Danny Fitzko provided a brief update on the project and her role as Interim Commissioner of FPR.
- The January 2023 meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

II. Overview of Timeline for 2023 and Project Updates

- Future iQ provided an update on the work plan:
 - February through March 2023 – Future Scenarios and Implications
 - March through May 2023 – Develop Draft Strategic Roadmap and Recommendations
- Allan Thompson recommended removing the future scenario names from the slide deck for future engagement sessions until they could be revisited. A working group consisting of Allan Thompson, Jamey Fidel, and Chris Lindgren was formed to discuss the scenario names and make name recommendations. In the interim, the future scenarios will be referred to as Scenarios A, B, C, and D.

III. 'Tough Topics' as Suggested by Advisory Panel Members (slide included below)

- Advisory Panel members were asked in advance to submit tough or challenging topics for discussion through a Microsoft Form. Several members participated and this effort generated seven discussion questions. Panel members were split up into seven breakout groups to each tackle one question.
- Group notes were collected by Future iQ.

IV. Review of Strategic Pillars (slide included below)

- Future iQ and FPR presented the draft Strategic Pillars. Advisory Panel members split up into breakout groups to discuss the pillar of their choice. The breakout groups were asked to discuss the following prompts: (1) what outcome are we trying to achieve, (2) what are the main challenges we need to solve, (3) are there any changes you would like to see in the pillar text, and (4) initial ideas on big recommendations.
- Group notes were collected by Future iQ.

V. Industry Engagement Sessions and Focus Group Workshop planning

- Industry Engagement Sessions will be held during the week of March 27th. The sessions will use the same format as the Community Engagement Sessions and can be virtual or in-person.
- Future iQ and FPR asked Advisory Panel members to provide suggestions for groups or organizations that would be interested in hosting an engagement session. Suggestions could include existing events that may be occurring around the same time.
- More details to come on the Focus Group Workshop planned for April.

VI. Other Announcements and Public Comments

- There were no other announcements or members of the public present to provide public comment.

VII. Next Meeting

- The next Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for April 5th and will be held on Zoom.

Tough topics



1. What constitutes a 'healthy and resilient' forest in the Vermont context?
2. What is the right future balance between forest product economy and ecosystem management and use – in the context of Vermont? [How important is the forest product industry to the future forest economy]
3. Can we identify and come to consensus on how state policy and programs can help landowners and industry achieve forest conditions that “are resilient to climate change and support a viable and diverse forest economy”
4. Is the public posture of the industry constructive, and what is best public approach to represent and advocate for the industry?
5. What is our appetite to ask for bold change, or are we talking about incremental change? - what velocity do we need?
6. Can we really position the industry as an ecosystem manager, given we have a 'naturalist' public, and societal values are shifting? What can we learn from agriculture and other sectors?
7. Where does recreation fit into the equation – is it a separate sector or is it intimately entwined into the forest products economy – from a policy context?



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Strategic Pillars
20 Feb 2023



Forest management and land use

(Ability of the forest resource to support a diverse economy and produce diverse forest products)

Interface between forest economy and rural communities

(Impact of the forest economy on the rural communities embedded in the forest landscape)

Business environment and conditions

(The enabling environment that helps shape and support the VT forest product sector)

Growing a prosperous VT forest

Brand reputation and market profile

(Market and consumer perception of the VT forest sector and products)

Research, innovation, and technology

(Technical innovation supporting the VT forest product sector)



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