

Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap
Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2023
8:00 – 9:00 AM (Zoom)

Panel Members Present:

Chris Castano, Allan Thompson, Betsy Lesnikoski, Charlie Hancock, Chris Brooks, Chris Fife, Chris Lindgren, David Lane, Ed Larson, Jamey Fidel, Joe Short, Liz Gleason, Luke McNally, Molly Willard, Scott Duffy, Abby Long, Steve Hardy

Panel Members Absent:

Chief Don Stevens, Stanley Robinson, Tucker Riggs, Gabe Russo, Trevor Allard

Staff Present:

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

Guests/Members of the Public:

David Beurle (Future iQ), Celine Beurle (Future iQ), Cheryl Joy Lipton

I. Welcome and Updates

- Danny Fitzko provided a brief update on the project and her role as Interim Commissioner of FPR.
- The minutes from the November and December 2022 meetings were approved by unanimous vote.

II. Overview of Timeline for 2023

- Future iQ provided an update on the work plan:
 - January 2023 – Explore Perceptions
 - February through March 2023 – Future Scenarios and Implications
 - March through May 2023 – Develop Draft Strategic Roadmap and Recommendations

III. Stakeholder Survey

- Future iQ reported that there have been 236 survey responses to date with a 69% completion rate. The goal is to receive 1000 responses.
- The survey will be open until January 31, 2023.
- Joe Short noted that he is interested in which stakeholder groups are more optimistic/pessimistic about the future.
- Hard copies of the survey will be available by request from Katharine.

IV. Think-Tank

- Part 1 was held on December 13, 2022.

- 22 key drivers shaping the future of the Vermont forest economy were identified – see meeting slide deck for list.
- Part 2 will be held on January 31, 2023 at the Alumni Hall in Barre, VT.
 - Panel members who attend and invited participants will explore plausible scenarios for the future, examine implications and outcomes, and identify expected and preferred futures.
 - Future iQ asked for volunteers to help refine the scenario matrix. Jamey Fidel, Ed Larson, Luke McNally, Chris Fife, and Steve Hardy volunteered.

V. Other Announcements and Public Comments

- Future iQ and FPR described several asks for January:
 - Help push out the survey.
 - Attend Think-Tank Part 2 on January 31, 2023.
 - Send any names of potential Think-Tank Part 2 participants to Katharine or Danny.
- Cheryl Joy Lipton asked in the meeting chat if the presentation slides can be made available to members of the public. The slide deck for this and other meetings will be available on the project portal.

VI. Next Meeting

- The next Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for February 1st and will be held on Zoom.