

**Vermont Forest Future Strategic Roadmap**  
**Advisory Panel Meeting Minutes**  
**April 5, 2023**  
**8:00 – 9:00 AM (Zoom)**

Panel Members Present:

Chris Castano, Allan Thompson, Charlie Hancock, Chris Brooks, Chris Fife, Jamey Fidel, Joe Short, Liz Gleason, Luke McNally, Molly Willard, Abby Long, Trevor Allard, Chris Lindgren, Tucker Riggs

Panel Members Absent:

Chief Don Stevens, Stanley Robinson, Gabe Russo, Ed Larson, Steve Hardy, Betsy Lesnikoski, 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), Celine Beurle (Future iQ),

**I. Welcome and Updates**

- Danny Fitzko began the meeting with a few brief updates:
  - Around 1000 people have engaged in the planning process to date.
  - There will be a change in panel membership with Chief Don Stevens having made a recommendation for a different representative to sit in his place as his other responsibilities have limited his availability to participate in panel meetings.

**II. Project Update: Industry and Community Engagement Sessions**

- David Beurle provided an overview of the project timeline and work to date:
  - We are currently in Step 2 with the second stakeholder survey on the preferred future and next week's Strategic Pillar Day.
    - Survey responses so far indicate a preferred future at coordinates 7.8, 8.2 on the graph.
    - A virtual presentation video and survey will be offered beginning next week for interested parties who were not able to attend one of the Community or Industry Engagement Sessions.
  - Feedback received so far from the public has been appreciative of the depth of thinking and meaningfulness of the approach.
  - Based on feedback from the Advisory Panel, the future scenario names will be A, B, C, and D.
  - David thanked all the organizations that have hosted an Industry Engagement Session.
- Chris Fife provided feedback he received from someone who tried to do the survey after one of the presentations and spent 30 minutes and was unable to understand/complete the questions.

- David said he had received similar feedback and that around 80% of people who attended an industry session went on to complete the survey.

### III. Strategic Pillars and Strategic Pillar Day (April 11<sup>th</sup>)

- David presented the revised strategic pillars. To the extent possible, the Project Team tried to weave in Act 183 language into the pillars and their descriptions.
- Overall feedback from the Advisory Panel is positive about the changes to the strategic pillars:
  - Chris Lindgren said the revisions look good and reflect at least some of the things the small group had worked on earlier.
  - Joe Short agreed and said there isn't anything present with which he disagrees although there is a concern that using too much language about industry and economy may exacerbate or perpetuate current tensions. We should be looking to bridge some of the standard debates with the language being crafted.
  - Jamey Fidel voiced appreciation of the wordsmithing work and agreed with Joe's comments.
  - Liz Gleason voiced appreciation of how hard it is to balance word choice and agrees with the comments from Joe and Jamey. It feels like the language leans harder on the industry side and less on the non-forest product uses and conservation of the forest when it should be more balanced.
    - Danny replied that the primary focus of this roadmap is the forest products sector and there are lots of other planning efforts that are complimentary to this work but each plan can't cover everything.
      - Chris Lindgren agreed that trying to do everything in the project would water it down and the specific focus is good and needed here.
      - Joe Short echoed Chris Lindgren's comment and recommended providing this context before the strategic pillars are shared.
  - Chris Fife offered a design suggestion – a variation of the 3-legged stool framework commonly used could help people think about and recognize the interdependence of all the pillars.
- David provided an update on the Strategic Pillar Day scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier with an overview of the agenda and current registration numbers.
  - Danny has invited legislators to join us as they are able to during the day and for lunch.
  - Liz Gleason asked what role Advisory Panel members who are attending should play.
    - David replied that the Project Team will be spread out working with different discussion table groups and recommended Advisory Panel members who attend do the same.

**IV. Approval of March 2023 Minutes**

- Chris Brooks motioned to approve minutes as presented, Chris Fife seconded. March minutes were approved unanimously.

**V. Other Announcements and Public Comment**

- Celine Beurle announced that video clips of Think Tank participants and Advisory Panel members are in the latest newsletter.
- There were no public comments.

**VI. Next Meeting**

- The next Advisory Panel meeting is scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be held on Zoom.