

Vermont Sustainability Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes—September 16, 2021

Jacob Policzer calls to order meeting at 12:05 pm.

Attendees

Sub-Committee Members:

- Billy Coster
- Stephanie Smith

Cannabis Control Board:

- Kyle Harris
- Nellie Harris

NACB:

- Jacob Policzer
- Tom Nolasco
- Gina Kranwinkel

4 Members of public

Minutes recorded by Meggan Hau.

Jacob Policzer entertains a motion to approve the minutes for the September 9 meeting. Tom Nolasco moves to approve. All vote in favor of approving. Next, Jacob asks to approve the minutes for the September 13 meeting. Stephanie Smith notes on (2nd page Act 150 should be 250. Billy Coster notes a name revision when referencing Act 250 general counsel- Greg Boulbol not Noble.) Motion to approve September 13th with amendments on correcting typos. Billy Coster seconds the motion. All vote in favor of approving.

Kyle Harris notes that Kim Watson will not be able to be an active participate and the Board will find another member of this subcommittee to avoid the issue of not having a quorum.

Jacob brought up the possibility of changing the schedule of a few meetings- Change meetings the week of September 20 to Sept 22. And October 4 to October 6. Jacob will send that in writing to Nellie to make sure the Board is available. Stephanie has a webinar noon-1 ET on October 6. Billy requests to have future dates as soon as possible. (September 22, no meeting 23rd.)

The subcommittee Moderator Jacob Policzer moves to discuss the conversation between himself and Kyle Harris for Act 250. Talked to coordinator of Agency of Agriculture. He gave some resources and Kyle will put those resources online and forward to Billy and Stephanie. Board is doing outreach to get an understanding of certain issues we may be facing.

Next Jacob Policzer moves to discuss a resource library (working with Nellie to figure out the best way to share that folder) and shared a presentation on screen regarding cannabis cultivation and manufacturing process overview and considerations. Jacob shares his estimate of water usage based on VS Model and Resource Innovation Institute Metrics. Assuming 1/3 split between outdoor, greenhouse, and indoor cultivation methods,

total water usage estimate is 3,853,327 gallons based on sq.ft. and 7,007,996 gallons based on grams of flower production. More detailed estimates will be provided during meeting focused on water.

Notable comment(s):

*Stephanie Smith- There are standards for vegetable cultivation. 590 has guides for horticultural plants/vegetables. I think there is a standard on that. There are also contacts we can bring into the discussion.

*Stephanie Smith- Indoor cultivation may be in an industrial area, rather than in a commercial area. Available square footage in industrial areas, there is probably an industry group that has that information.

*Tom Nolasco- It is more of an 80-20 outdoor/indoor model based on market structure analysis. I think most of that will be small cultivators.

*Billy Coster- Cultivation space will most likely be driven by intensity and volume of use and how much space is needed. Probably a fair amount of commercial industrial space available. Vermont way is to go into spaces and retrofit them for new uses.

*Stephanie Smith- Can we talk about regulation as incentivizing and provide benefit to the individual that does something the right way. Are you aware of other states that incentivize good practices?

*Jacob Policzer- Yes other states do this. We need to find the balance of environmental impacts as a minimum and the rest should be incentivized. We will have this as a specific topic of discussion.

*Billy Coster- I want to reiterate that RAPs may be best practices, but there could be another suite of expectations that could be something we use.

Jacob Policzer opens the floor for public comment.

Notable Comment(s):

*Bernardo Silva- VT Growers Assoc. Concerns I have that go beyond what was covered. Main issues around packaging, processing and waste. ACT 164 dictates/regulates that oil concentrates can only be dispensed in cartridges. Those are not regulated in the US. Mostly produced in China and don't factor in public health concerns. Huge waste problem- throwing metal cartridges with lithium batteries into dumps. Regarding your presentation, there is a rare situation where a lot of times environmental sustainability doesn't go hand in hand with sustainability for business. In considering processing/extraction, as written in Title 18, Chapter 84, section 438, there have been documented risks with hydrocarbon extraction in the past. Dispensaries are only ones to product these products. Product below 60% THC is considered non desirable in the market. All the overlap of affecting environmental and business sustainability affects Vermonters as producers, consumers and environmentally.

*Geoffrey Pizzello- VT Growers Assoc.

Numbers- over 500,000 sq ft in total production in annual basis. Approx. 60-40 split (60% grow outdoor (once maybe twice a year harvest). 40% (indoor or mixed light techniques). We are seeking to redefine legislatively, not considered agricultural practice yet. That is unfair and unequitable. Land is going up with Vermont. Commercial land even faster, barrier to entry if we are asking people to seek commercial land. Heartened to hear move toward regenerative practices. Look at and advocate for noncontinuous canopy size. Cannot have regenerative practices (crop rotation) if you have fixed block of 1,000 sq ft. Lighting gap should be considered indoor and outdoor. Meet Vermonters where they are at now.

Next steps:

Kyle Harris- Will forward information and resources from the coordinator of agency of agriculture.
Discuss Lighting Standards

Jacob- have estimates prepared and how different states have regulatory language written.

Following public comment and discussion, Jacob Policzer entertains a motion to adjourn. Meeting is adjourned at 1:04 pm.

Next Sustainability Subcommittee meeting is Wednesday, September 22 at 12 ET.