

Vermont Sustainability Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes—October 14, 2021

Jacob Policzer calls to order meeting at 12:02 pm.

Attendees

Sub-Committee Members:

- Billy Coster
- Stephanie Smith

Cannabis Control Board:

- Kyle Harris
- Nellie Marvel

NACB:

- Jacob Policzer
- Tom Nolasco
- Gina Kranwinkel

3 Member of public

John Wakefield

Minutes recorded by Tom Nolasco.

Jacob Policzer entertains a motion to approve the minutes for the October 6 meeting. Stephanie Smith motions to approve. Billy Coster seconds. All vote in favor of approving.

Notable comment(s):

1. Draft Hemp Regs

a. Open burning

- John-not commercial vs residential. Can burn brush. Can't issue permit because of alternate means of disposal like composting.
- Jacob-any exemptions?
- John-certain provisions and will get back to you. Issue around onsite composting.
- Stephanie-If not commercial, then disposed onsite if adequate room. Then defer to air quality regs

b. Public Nuisance/Odor

- Jacob-Complaint basis?
- John-Yes 100% complaint driven. Local permit doesn't play a part but he tries to advise municipalities. And if not big enough, won't have permit from his dept. Doesn't shut down anyone immediately.
- Kyle-164 gives municipalities powers regarding order. In application, build in boxes at local level for clarity.
- Jacob-Will there be reg for odor?

- v. John-no not yet. Need some guidance. Authority limited unless proven violation.
 - vi. Jacob-try to provide reference material from CO
 - vii. Jacob-any remediation controls?
 - viii. John-yes depends on pollutant. VOC's have control tech recommendations but not specific to cannabis.
 - ix. Jacob-will put in touch with Kaitlin Urso in Colorado
 - x. John-process situation for controls. Concerned about crops and odors from outdoor. Have active situation now. Bar is high for nuisance but it takes resources from his dept.
 - xi. Jacob-can give rec for odor mitigation
 - xii. Billy-our regs don't apply to cultivation?
 - xiii. John-it does, no exemptions.
 - xiv. Jacob-outdoor odor has seasonality but indoor perpetual.
 - xv. John-but indoor is easier to mitigate and control. Some state operating permits are more stringent than fed. 10 tons of VOC for state operating permit.
 - xvi. Jacob-to clarify, that's around 1500 gallons of ethanol solvent loss for requiring permit.
 - xvii. John-larger scale engines or boilers may trigger permit for equip.
 - xviii. Billy-if you could send us questions we can follow up.
 - xix. Stephanie-hemp program has list of approved tech including solvents and have to get approval for alternatives. Health dept rules or title 18 may have something regarding extraction.
 - xx. John-if closed loop system, we have no jurisdiction.
 - xxi. Jacob-restrictions on use of equip that use hfc's?
 - xxii. John-yes will send rules.
 - xxiii. Jacob-report from Haley Summers has metrics for greenhouse gas emissions. Should VT require reductions or offsets?
 - xxiv. Billy-state doing recommendation due on Dec 1. Trying to set target emissions across sectors including manufacturing/commercial sector. Can follow up. Encouraging best practices will help.
 - xxv. Jacob-cradle to gate approach or just in manufacturing process?
 - xxvi. Billy-electricity is separate sector from manufacturing.
 - xxvii. Kyle-scope 3 hard to regulate. Don't want to wander into carbon waters if we don't have to.
 - xxviii. Jacob-geographic diversity for power plant types?
 - xxix. Billy-based on retail distribution generator contracts. 4 big ones in state. Can be within or outside of VT. So diversity among utilities but not tied to geography. Handful of utilities are renewable including Burlington. Green mountain power covers 80% of state.
 - xxx. Jacob- Steph, Recs on material use, soil fertility, pesticides?
 - xxxi. Steph-up to CCB and need 3rd party cert for organic. Some guidance on pesticides for safety but no recommended list for cannabis specifically.
 - xxxii. John-on initial permitting, might use mass balance system but need to ask permitting chief.
- c. Additional comments.
- i. Steph-Drying and propane dryers.
 - ii. John-again, size matters and fuel to do drying. So depends on equip.
 - iii. Jacob-propane use or btu level?

- iv. John-both.
- v. Jacob-does state air permit process take longer than cannabis permit process?
- vi. John-no non-attainment in VT, not involved in siting, so don't have much of a say.
- vii. Billy-greenhouse gases are from drying and transportation?
- viii. Jacob-cultivation will be from equip use and process. Terpene (VOC) production by plant during cultivation but est. at 5 kilogram per ton. Manufacturing side is mostly solvents. Onsite generators as well, mostly for emergency power but some supplemental power.
- ix. Stephanie-are most cannabis process similar to other industries?
- x. Jacob-yes for the most part and most want efficient systems. Based on capital and would probably be pursued by largest indoor cultivation.
- xi. Jacob-issue with ground level ozone in VT?
- xii. John-need to find out. Not within that dept.

Adjourned 1:00pm

Next Sustainability Subcommittee meeting is Wed, October 20th.