VERMONT CONSERVATION PLAN

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #6

November 13, 2025, 9:30am to 1:00pm EST

MEETING NOTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Annie Decker
Associate Director of Resource Development & Resiliency; VHCB
802-661-8958
a.decker@vhcb.org

Rebecca Washburn
Director of Lands Administration & Recreation; VT FPR
802-793-3432
becca.washburn@vermont.gov

David Beurle
Chief Executive Officer
Future iQ
612-757-9190
david@future-iq.com

VERMONT CONSERVATION PLAN
TAC MEETING No. 6 NOTES
Thursday 13 November 2025

OVERVIEW

The VCP TAC Meeting No. 6 meeting was held on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Gary Library, Montpelier Arts Hub, Montpelier. The meeting was held from 9:30am – 1:00pm.

These notes are intended to provide a high-level account of what was covered during the meeting, rather than providing a verbatim account of the meeting.

The full transcript of the meeting can be viewed at https://lab2.future-iq.com/vcp/tac-meeting-6/ and a recording of the meeting can be viewed at https://lab2.future-iq.com/vcp/tac-meeting-6/

TAC Members present: Hannah Sessions (virtual), Kate Forer, Chris Castano (virtual), Tracy Zschau, Jamey Fidel, Gannon Osborne, Nick Bennette, Rich Holschuh (virtual), Emily Alger, Krista Karlson, Greg Gustina (virtual)

VHCB and ANR Staff present: Gus Seelig, Annie Decker, Isaac Bissell and Trey Martin from VHCB; Gunner Nurme from ANR.

AGENDA COVERED

- Visioning Exercise: TAC Members discussed the following prompts:
  - *If you are optimistic about the Vermont Conservation Plan, what do you imagine it can accomplish for Vermont or for the communities you represent?*
  - *What would it look like if the plan truly meets its vision goals – for your work, for your organizations, and for the communities that you serve?*
  - *What do you hope this plan makes possible?*
- TAC members shared the insights, questions and comments, including:
  - *How to move towards more equitable, holistic and place-based approach*
  - *Wanting clear strategies to align with the statutory vision*
  - *Needing greater levels of collaboration*
  - *Better education about conservation opportunities for landowners*
  - *Worrying about broader social and economic stress*
  - *Stressing the need for stronger stewardship capacity across conservation types*
  - *Seeing the opportunity for enhanced ecological connectivity*

- Review of VHCB Memo re. the Scope of the VCP and Discussion
    - *TAC members reviewed material provided by VHCB reiterating its interpretation of the mandate in Act 59 for a broad and inclusive framework*
- TAC members shared the insights, questions and comments, including:
    - *Discussing how to implement Act 59 through alignment of vision and goals*
    - *Needing more data regarding the benefit/impact of conservation on working lands*
    - *Asking for an overview of conservation tools available*
    - *Noting the need for improved mapping to support municipal planning*
    - *Wanting to see Vermont landowners more explicitly in the plan*

- Update on Draft Actions Development and Discussion
    - *VHCB provided an overview of the plan structure and where we are in the process of plan development*
    - *VHCB and ANR are working to bring a completed draft framework for the VCP to the December TAC meeting, including actions and sub-actions nested under each of the strategic pathways*
    - *TAC members were asked to share ideas regarding how their vision and hopes for Act 59 could be articulated as actions*
    - *TAC members' suggestions will be assimilated into the draft TAC will review in December*
- TAC members shared insights, questions and comments, including:
    - *How prioritization will happen given the breadth and scope of the work*
    - *How to draw from the Act to identify priorities*
    - *Recommending that the VCP be articulate in a format that will accessible to landowners and stakeholders*
    - *Noting that the plan should clearly articulate who is responsible for leading actions, who the stakeholders are*
    - *Asking how to build cross references within the framework to ensure that recommendations for funding and capacity are aligned with priorities for investment and action*
- VHCB announced that TAC members will be able to join together in two online working lunch sessions next week, and/or to submit additional ideas and comments by the end of day November 21

PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED

- Public comments were received in two separate slots on the agenda
- Comments were provided by Zach Porter of Standing Trees, Caroline Gordon of Rural Vermont, and _____