

VT Tax Structure Commission
Tuesday, May 28, 2020 – 1:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Approved Minutes

Present: Commissioners: Stephen Trenholm, Deb Brighton, Bram Kleppner; Staff Director: Sean Sheehan; Consultant to the Tax Structure Commission: Susan Mesner; Joint Fiscal Office: Joyce Manchester

1:15 P.M. Welcome – Bram Kleppner, Commissioner – call to order.

1:20 P.M. Discussion of progressivity and equity in the overall tax structure - Mr. Sheehan and Commissioner Kleppner presented the power point presentation, [Progressivity in State Tax Structures](#).

2:15 P.M. Discussion of changes in the distribution of income and wealth - Commissioners discussed different approaches to wealth assessment and tax. Ms. Mesner to follow up with more information on Florida’s wealth tax. Staff to follow up with Ms. Manchester regarding the CBO study.

2:40 P.M. Evaluation and prioritization of final report outline and TSC work plan – After discussion, Commissioner Kleppner suggested a round of email edits to update the outline. Commissioners will each note the topics in the outline that are lower priority, to make clear that the other topics are the ones that need to get done, and the implications for the workplan.

3:05 P.M. Discussion of education finance considerations that were raised in testimony – Commissioners decide to convene the education panel, previously scheduled for March, for the next meeting. Mr. Sheehan will reach out to Agency of Education Secretary Daniel French, Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association, Jeff Francis and to William Mathis.

3:50 P.M. Action items and next steps:

- Ms. Mesner will gather and distribute information on Florida’s wealth tax.
- Staff will follow up with Ms. Manchester regarding the CBO study.
- Commissioner Kleppner will circulate the final draft outline for another round of edits and prioritizations by all.
- Mr. Sheehan will reach out to those mentioned above to participate in an Education Panel in the next two weeks. Mr. Sheehan will circulate the Commissioners’ previous questions for panelists so that the Commissioners can update and prioritize.

3:54 P.M. Adjourn by consensus

Respectfully submitted by,

Sorsha Anderson
Staff Associate, Joint Fiscal Office