

VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, January 8, 2026, 8:30 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Members Present: Devon Neary, Tasha Wallis, Jason Rasmussen, Christian Meyer, Bill Colvin, Chris Campany, Charlie Baker, Dave Snedeker, Bethany Remmers

Other: Matthew Arancio (VTrans), Stephanie Smith (VEM), Chris Cochran and Nate Formalarie (ACCD), Abby Friedman (VLCT), Jen Mojo (ANR), Ari Rockland-Miller(AAFM).

Call to Order

Devon began the meeting at 8:30am.

1. Minutes: Bill Colvin made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 2, 2025; second by Charlie Baker. Approved unanimously.

2. Treasurer's Report: Charlie Baker made a motion to receive the December 2025 Treasurer's Report; second by Chris Campany. Approved unanimously.

3. VCRD: We discussed the request for an increased annual sponsorship for the working lands coalition, from \$500 to \$1000 this year. The discussion was tabled. No decision was made today.

Devon Neary offered to serve as VAPDA's representative on the working lands coalition.

4. Future Agenda Items:

- VEM – what is the plan for emergency planning efforts considering the lack of funding?
- Municipal Climate Recovery Fund – discussion with VT Bond Bank and Andrea Wright (VTrans)
- Let's Build Homes
- Water/Wastewater – VT Bond Bank
- VTrans financial picture/how to manage expectations – Jeremy Reed (VTrans)

5. Associates meeting schedule: quarterly

6. Communications:

- Act 181 legislative briefing last month went very well.
- Annual Report in January
- Housing infrastructure in February

7. Transportation – Matthew Arrancio

- VTrans reorganization: planning is now under Highway/Asset Management.
- Please include/ask other VTrans staff to include your Planning Coordinator in applicable conversations.
- The key staff person working on the TPI invoicing software is leaving. The invoicing portal remains clunky. With that staff person leaving, it may not get fixed or fixed soon. Please have patience. Please use the most recent invoicing template.
- TPI guidance revisions are ongoing. Anticipate fewer core tasks and more regionally derived tasks. Chris suggested emergency/capital planning.
- They are looking into reinvigorating TACs with our transportation planners.
- VMRG – updates to the design standards continue. VTrans staff just finished a “red flag” review of the full draft. Consultants are addressing those comments; modifications are ongoing.
- Jason is talking with Andrea Wright and Michael Gaughan about using TRPT to understand the level of need for the Municipal Climate Recovery Fund. The effort will most likely require RPCs to review and refine the lists generated from the TRPT.

8. Emergency Management – Stephanie Smith

- EMPG – Sept 30th FEMA award under legal review. The problematic Census requirements have been removed. The terms are being updated, and hopefully VEM will have a signed agreement by the end of January. However, the funding is still on hold. VEM is trying to understand how to release the hold and then understand how to subgrant.
- BRIC – The program was cancelled. Litigation determined that the Feds cannot cancel. VEM is hopeful, but there is no movement.
- HMGP – Some projects are under review. VEM has received RFIs which is a positive sign. Property buyouts are moving quickly.

9. Planning & Economic Development – Chris Cochran, Nate Formalarie, Abby Friedman

- VERTA report has been released.
- 802 Homes – regional trainings by the Incremental Development Alliance will be starting soon. Pilot projects in Essex Jct., Manchester and Hartford. Chris would like to provide a 20-minute briefing at a future VAPDA meeting.
- Mid-term report/invoices are due January 15th.
- Downtown Conference will be in St Albans
- Administrative housing bill (H.602) includes repeal of the road rule, making the 802 Homes pilot designs to be allowed By Right, and town plans need to account for their housing target.
- Remaining CDBG-DR funds to be awarded by April.
- Final draft of the interim land bank report is under review. Charlie is on the Committee. If there are any comments or concerns, let him know.

- Abby reviewed the selectboard meetups over the past year. VLCT will summarize themes from those meetups in their next newsletter. VLCT can help to support upcoming meetings (e.g., host registration portal, etc.).

10. Natural Resources – Jen Mojo and Ari Rockland-Miller

- Act 59 – revised draft with updated pathways for conservation goals.
- ANR staff are busy with Act 181 work with the LURB.
- Dave reported that the PFAS federal rule is in place. The state rule just follows the federal rule.

11. VAPDA Staffer

- Dave had reached out to the potential candidate. She would want full time, health insurance, etc.
- Consensus: with FY27 budget uncertainties, we are not ready to commit to a FT position at this time. A part-time consultant or in-house RPC staffer might make better sense for the near term.

12. FLU/LURB Discussion

- Devon reviewed his experience and discussed the LURB feedback:
Rutland - <https://nrb.blob.core.windows.net/lurbact250/RPC09-0001/2025-11-21%20RRPC%20Preapplication%20Response.pdf>
Northwest - <https://nrb.blob.core.windows.net/lurbact250/RPC08-0001/Preapplication%20Response%20Letter%20RPC08-0001.pdf>
Chittenden - <https://nrb.blob.core.windows.net/lurbact250/RPC04-0001/Preapplicaion%20Response%20Letter%20RPC04-0001.pdf>
- See NRPC for a good environmental benefits/burdens example.
- Next anticipated LURB submissions:
 - LCPC – January
 - ACRPC – week of Jan 20th
 - MARC – February (likely later in the month)
 - NVDA – March
 - BCRC – April
 - CVRPC – May

Respectfully submitted by: Jason Rasmussen