

**VAPDA Directors and Associates
Meeting Minutes**

November 4, 2021

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85787281554?pwd=MkE1b2xzM09PMGR4emljY1RzTWdFZz09>

Attendance: Catherine Dimitruk, Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Chris Company, Ed Bove, Dave Snedeker, Tom Kennedy, Peter Gregory, Jason Rasmussen, Elani Churchill, Kevin Gieger, Rebecca Ramos, VT Speaker of the House Jill Krowinski, Amy Bell (VTrans), and Kevin Marsha (VTrans).

Welcome/Agenda – Dimitruk called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

VAPDA Financials and October 2021 Minutes – Motion by Kennedy to approve as presented. Second by Bove. Approved by voice vote.

Legislative – Brownfields grant agreement in DEC Legal. Sub-agreements coming soon. Will be an online reporting form for QEP, location and grant amount. Quarterly invoicing and can charge indirect (10%). RPCs will receive 50K up front and can request more at 75% spend down. All projects must be in BRELLA. Total of 100k per RPC depending on who spends what. Plan for expending funds due January 2023. Working for another \$1million next session. Draft sub-agreements sent out – get comments to Tom asap.

Government Relations – Committee Met with Chris and Jacob from DHCD on legislative session priorities including Act 250, NDA/tax credits, priority housing, MPG/bylaw modernization demand. RPCs will work with VLCT for more ARPA funds to assist towns. Provide an estimate of time and hours on ARPA assistance to Ed. Energy funding will be pursued. Discussion on State Planning Office.

Housing topics in session: Tax credits for housing in designated areas, rental housing inspection bill, Water and wastewater connection language.

Transportation – VTrans taking back all Rail + Trails and creating management plan. Hiring a Director of Trails in Rail and Aviation. Respond to Amy Bell regarding how RPCs are engaging USFS. Jackie Cassino is now in ACCD – there is a new VTrans PO.

Energy – Regional Energy Coordinators had meeting with Joey Miller (VECAN) and Director of Efficiency VT. Energy funding will be pursued in Leg.

Community Affairs – Mid-year reports due Jan 15 or Jan 31. Thanks to CCRPC for creating the FY21 VAPDA report which satisfies a deliverable of the ACCD contract.

Jill Krowinski, VT Speaker of the House – Discussed upcoming session and logistics of Montpelier meetings during COVID. Legislature will be investing in following areas: housing production and

affordability, child care, workforce development, climate change, and mental health/ERs/substance abuse.

Sullivan asked about water and wastewater funding from ARPA to supplement local dollars. Discussion on ARPA eligibility for culvert/stormwater uses. It was stated that some towns may have trouble spending ARPA dollars.

Lougee asked about broadband and supply chain issues. Krowinski stated supply chain and workforce will be a focus of the session. Discussion on broadband and relationships with non-CUD towns. Google fiber, another option? Geiger asked about possible Act 250/Chapter 117 changes to spur more housing projects.

Dimitruk asked about the Environmental Justice Bill. Legislature looking at smaller, scaled-down approach to Act 250 reform. Looking at governance.

Sullivan put in a plug for more energy funding for planning and implementation. Kennedy stated that RPC base funding should increase.

Necrason Group – Discussed hybrid session, meaning less committee time. Hot topics include: Act 250 reform, residential rental registry, VT budget and General Fund, ARPA funding, Climate Report, RPC base funding, downtown/village development. VAPDA Legislative Committee will meet with individual Directors for talking points to reps.

Natural Resources – PUC Rule-19-0855 and ANR comments were discussed along with the VAPDA letter sent out. Some RPCs have also submitted individual letters. Jim and Adam commented on the proposal and unique features of their region that have not been addressed as of yet. A literal and figurative loss of the forest for the trees.

Climate Action – Discussed process, report and timeline. Recommendation from Climate Council to fund RPCs for adaptation and resilience work with towns.

Health – State Engagement Model (StEM) was discussed with regards to the two Healthy Community Design Workshops held by VDH, NACDD (National Association of Chronic Disease Directors), and VAPDA (Ed and Charlie). Working with VDH on draft contract – look for sub agreements in December. 18-month timeline starting in January. RPCs will receive approx. 20K for work with towns, 10K for stipends, and 20K for community grants. Quarterly billing.

VTrans – Kevin Marsha commented on VPSP2 2-year pilot process and draft list of selected projects, developing Capital Program, what VTrans can do at 150% funding levels/additional funding, projects VTrans can do with 'normal' funding, 4.5 years of projects lined up in Book, roadway/traffic safety, bridges, will this pilot project lead to changes in programming for other modes (aviation, rail, bike/ped., safety? Mathew Aransio is new PO at VTrans. Jackie Cassino now with ACCD.

Adjournment – 11:53 PM

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