

VAPDA Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2023

Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Adam Lougee (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Charlie Baker (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Sue Westa (WRC), Bill Colvin (BCRC), Jason Rasmussen (MARC), Devon Neary (RRPC), Peter Gregory (TRORC), Dave Snedeker (NVDA), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Doug Farnham (AoA), Tim Terway (VCGI), Amy Bell (VTrans), Chris Cochran (DHCD), Jake Hemmerick (DHCD), Suzanne Kelley (VDH), Ari Rockland-Miller (Ag).

CD opened the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m. JR volunteered to take the minutes.

- Doug Farnham, Chief Recovery Officer
 - Considering opening MTAP up to 25% which includes most of the heavily flood impacted communities. This effort could provide in-kind match for FEMA funding. This concept needs confirmation from Secretary Clouser.
 - Flood Recovery: They are adding 3 new people to add capacity to the existing 3 regional coordinators at VEM to support the heavily affected towns, such as Ludlow. They are supposed to coordinate with RPCs and RDCs.
 - He is looking at additional support through USDA that would be similar to our MTAP arrangement. This is still just a concept.
 - 3 new internal team contacts, including Erik Filkhorn and Charles Martin. Erik and Charles will be RPC contacts.
 - Recovery officers have been identified in each state agency.
 - 8 task forces based on SEMP will have more structure – the hope is to bring their recommendations forward...
 - State has approached the federal delegation for supplemental funding. We need more flexible funding for flood recovery.
 - VT Disaster Recovery Fund – there is money left, which will be used for IA/funding of last resort
- Tim Terway, VCGI
 - Working on mapping support for legislation including for housing, taxes, reappraisals, as well as flooding.
 - He can talk more about the VT protected lands database when Trey Martin arrives.
 - DEC has water and sewer infrastructure data. Chris Cochran will follow up with DEC on this.
- AL, Energy Committee Report
 - Listening sessions are going well. Final reports are due as soon as possible after Oct. 21st as possible.
 - MERP: about 500 buildings are approved for assessments. Towns may apply for assessments until Oct 31st.
 - CD indicated that there is no status yet on our climate work. She will nudge them again.
- Trey Martin, VHCB, 30 by 30 Initiative
 - Discussed Act 59 and project background.
 - Phase 1 involves a conserved land inventory (July 2023-June 2024)

- Phase 2 will develop a conservation plan which is when most of the outreach will occur (July 2024-Dec. 2025)
- Trey is available to present to RPC boards
- Amy Bell, VTrans
 - Agency has no major legislative priorities for this year.
 - Agency is concerned about the budget. Advance construction has been very successful, but has left much less money for future years.
 - Anticipate TPI level funding for next year.
 - FFY24 TPI agreements are coming soon, but work can begin on Oct. 1st like usual.
 - Long Range Transportation Plan update process is starting soon.
 - Transportation Equity Framework is finalized. Agency is now looking at staffing/implementation.
 - There was some discussion of the Byways grant opportunity, but we need more information and will discuss more in the future.
- Suzanne Kelley, VDH
 - Health Equity project is going well. There is no money for an extension.
 - There may be limited block grant funding for possible RPC work next FY.
- Ari Rockland-Miller, Ag
 - Registration for the Farm to Plate Gathering is now open.
 - They are taking applications for a land use internship re: criterion 9b
- Chris Cochran and Jake Hemmerick, DHCD
 - Flood recovery: UPenn landscape architecture school has reached out, offering a design charrette.
 - Tax credits can pay for flood recovery work.
 - Re: S.100, water/sewer data in on their list and they will reach out to DEC about that soon. They are making updates to the S.100 FAQ and are working with VLCT on an education effort.
 - VHFA's housing needs results are anticipated in May. Additional housing targets are expected a couple months later.
 - Working with VHFA on a grant application to remove regulatory barriers for housing. It will focus on pre-development costs, hoping that DEC and VTrans can address infrastructure needs to support housing. It would be funding for a 5 year period and would continue funding for housing navigators.
 - MPG and BMG applications are due by Nov. 1st.
 - Tell towns not to wait for changes to the state designation program; apply now.
- Future Land Use and Act 250 Delegation
 - CB discussed the latest draft. He will follow up with a poll for a meeting to review it in more detail.
- CB made a motion to approve the minutes of Sept. 14-15, 2023 and receive the Sept. 2023 Treasurer's Report. Second by AL. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.