

VAPDA Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022
Meeting via Zoom (video)

RPC Attendees: Bonnie Waninger (CVRPC), Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Adam Lougee and Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Regina Mahony (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Jim Sullivan (BCRC), Tom Kennedy and Jason Rasmussen (MARC), Ed Bove (RRPC), and Dave Snedeker (NVDA).

Guests: Kevin Chu (VT Futures Project), Katherine Otto and Amy Bell (VAOT), Sarah Waring and Misty Sinsigalli (USDA Rural Development)

Meeting began with roll call at approximately 9:30 a.m. Tasha Wallis chaired the meeting.

- Approval of February 3, 2022 minutes & treasurer's report. CD motion to approve, BW second. Minutes approved.
- Kevin Chu from the VT Futures Project (VFP) introduced himself and re-introduced the VT Futures Project to VAPDA. The VFP can assist RPCs with research and data needs. <https://vtfuturesproject.org/> VFP is differs from the UVM Office of Engagement's data assistance efforts.
- Chris Company updated VAPDA on a "Green Justice Zones" presentation scheduled for March 23rd at 6pm. He requested that VAPDA members share the meeting opportunity with members.
- Katherine Otto and Amy Bell (VAOT) introduced VAPDA to the "Transportation Equity Framework" which will be ongoing through February 2023. RSG is the consultant working with VAOT and Charlie Baker and Mike Winslow are RPC representatives on the working group. RPC work in the framework will be beginning in May 2022 (*tasks 3, 6, and 7*). Katherine posed a few questions to VAPDA, and responses and questions can be submitted to aotequity@gmail.com More information can be found at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/equity>
- Sarah Waring and Misty Sinsigalli of USDA Rural Development introduced to VAPDA members. Sarah is the new VT/NH State Director for USDA, and Misty is the Area Director for USDA. They discussed the current focus areas for RD: Recovery, Climate Resilience, Local & Regional Food Systems, and Community Capacity building through technical assistance. The new FSA Director is John Roberts.
- VAPDA Committee Reports:
- Government Relations (TK) – Acknowledged legislative confusion about multiple RPC requests for funding. Funding RPCs through the current funding formula would work best. Senate ED Committee was requested to provide more brownfield funding (\$2M). RPCs need to spend funds quickly. CC will be testifying on S.96 bill regarding state planning office.
- DHCA Committee (AL) – Adam discussed meeting with DHCA on workplan tasks, establishing a methodology for standardizing future land use areas, and possibly adding an environmental justice task to our contracts. Regional Plan update schedules need to be considered before implementing new land use methodology. If VAPDA is seeking funding to maintain VPIC, DHCA would like to see a work plan and budget. John from WRC, Alison from NVDA, and Regina from CCRPC were volunteered to look into this.

- Natural Resources (RM, EB, AL) – Regina noted upcoming guidance for CWSPs. Ed noted that 604b agreements would be coming next week. Adam gave an update on watershed project development grants.
- Emergency Management (CD) – Catherine asked for VAPDA representatives to the CERC. Andrew from ACRPC and Alex from LCPC were volunteered. Stephanie from RRPC was volunteered for the project review committee.
- Transportation (CC) – Chris discussed RPC testimony in support of VAOT budget. There will be TPI guidance modifications. Catherine will be testifying on GIA.
- Energy (JS) – Energy implementation funding for year 2 is not in budget. RPCs should provide status of year 1 energy funding so that a request can be made to rollover unspent funds into next FY.
- Health Committee (EB) – RRPC and LCPC worked together on securing Health Equity grant funding. Melanie from LCPC will be leading for RPCs. \$40K per RPC and contracts expected in late March.
- VT Climate Council (CC, CD) – Municipal Toolkit for resilience will be developed (collecting existing tools). Municipal Vulnerability Index will be developed with consultant assistance. April/May expected timeframe.

Next meeting: April 7, 2022 – via video conference

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by D. Snedeker