

**VAPDA Directors and Associates
Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358426510?pwd=UGNTalQrYzRaVEluZnJlVXZld292QT09>

Attendance: Chris Campany, Ed Bove, Dave Snedeker, Jason Rasmussen, Adam Lougee, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Elani Churchill, Bethany Remers, Seth Jensen, Jared Ulmer, Amy Bell, Jacob Hemmerick, Amanda Holland and Ari Rockland miller

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

VAPDA Financials and March Minutes – Motion by Lougee to approve as presented. Second by Bove. Approved by voice vote.

Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference Sponsorship: Motion by Bove to sponsor at \$500 level. Second by Campany. Approved by voice vote.

Jared Ulmer (VDH): Has reached out to RPCs about hot weather planning. VDH is managing CDC climate and health grant. New round of funding was introduced in 2021 for local hot weather preparedness strategy.

Cooling Center project will launch an online map of community cooling facilities. Could be places such as libraries with A/C. Project will identify overnight facilities and have varying GIS data layers and template plans. RPCs could be used for data collection, mapping and preparation of plans.

Grants to RPC to develop local hot weather emergency plans for a couple of communities, adopt heat specific strategies during heat warnings by NWS, and identify high risk communities and individuals. Response strategies to long term adaption such as urban forestry, energy efficient homes and weatherization projects are possible on bigger scale.

This funding to be spent by October. Could be future funding past September if successful. Contact Jared if your RPC is interested.

VEM day of learning on May 26. There will be presentation on home weatherization for heat-related impacts.

Seth asked about water supply during events where residents lose water during drought - State revolving loan system will not fund well replacement. Should be interagency communication on the subject.

Heat pumps for existing community facilities not eligible. Could do building assessment for potential cooling center buildings. Could fund assessments of equipment upgrades as well.

Nominating Committee for FY23 VAPDA Officers and Committees: Will be Jim and Charlie.

Retreat Planning: September can be hard with School. Bonnie will coordinate venue in Central Vermont.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – VAPDA and DHCD Workplan talks continue. Committee to meet soon. Equity deliverable could be added to contract – maybe included as part of VAPDA Annual report. MPG round 2 funding was announced – all regions received an additional town receiving funding. DHCD working on FY23 MPG Program Guide. Through RPC work with communities on bylaw modernization projects, let DHCD know if there are any towns interested in NDA. Probably another round of BMG funding through S226.

Discussion on potential RPC future land use map deliverable in Workplan. Not all directors in favor of. Maybe ok with a methodology for how things could look more consistent across regions. Directors noted that these maps are driven by their Boards and would need Board approval.

RPC Meet-Up on May 13 in Waitsfield. Will be discussions on demonstration projects. Potential future topics include Cannabis regs. Maybe VLCT will do something on this front.

Better Places Healthy Design grant discussed. Downtown Board increasing grace period for municipalities with expiring designations from 90 to 180 days. DHCD encouraging municipalities to use RPCs to create their designation maps as they are seeing more municipally created maps that stink.

June 8 Downtown and Historic conference in Saint J. NDA project checklist reboot on hold. New DHCD housing staff coming on board and will do ADU support.

TRANSPORTATION – Amy Bell discussed upcoming changes to TPI Guidance. Modest increase in funding but looking at the funding formula to calculate the number of municipalities similar to how DHCD makes calculations for RPC Workplan.

Further discussion on FY23 TPI Workplan Guidance and deleted/new tasks (no more short range and long range categories). Reorganization chart was presented with existing and proposed framework. Workplans due August 5th. This is the 30-year anniversary of the TPI program!

Back to in person quarterly TPI meetings in April - no hybrid because technology is not there. VTrans staff excited to be able to do deeper dives into particular topics, which is hard to do virtually....like trainings. In person meetings will be in large facilities to address health concerns.

Jason added to Transportation committee. Ed will update VAPDA Website.

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NATURAL RESOURCES - CWSP funding discussed – specifically funding formula allocation under Appendix A. Min 650k for all CWSP at expense at Missisquoi Basin (reduced by 850K) Should add that amount back to total. WQ project development money back on the table again. Would be same application process as before.

Urban and Community Forestry Council to get \$1 million. RPCs could work with municipalities on topics related to forestry and climate. Proposed Act 250 legislation related to forestry discussed.

VTrans/ANR coordination around TPI and REI discussed. Not cool that RPC staff time and energy in TPI being used to cover DEC work.

VAPDA not interested in NOFO for Scenic Byways.

AGRICULTURE - No big updates. AAFM provided testimony on Criterion 9b. Discussion on NRCS farmland rating of soil. Towns feel the definition is too broad and this is a tax. There are no changes proposed in the rating system between Prime and Statewide soils.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – Rich Cogliano is the new Lee Dorf. EM Committee meeting April 28.

ENERGY - OK to roll over FY22 energy funding in DHCD workplan. Energy planner meeting was held and provided project updates per region. In Legislature, BGS gave overview of funding for municipal buildings for fuel switching, but not clear on RPC role. Requirements could cause more money spent on a reduced number of buildings and there won't be money left over for fuel switching programs after up front planning for weatherization work. Bill in Senate now.

CEP – LEAP data being developed and regionalized. Proposing a slightly modified process with more regional data, may need some RPC support for this. Need new data for new energy plans, however, still no real thermal or transportation level data at the sub-state level. Emphasis on demand forecasting through 2050 and less focus on in-state generation like last time. Not sure how will play out in new 174 standards.

Lougee noted a new VHFA program for weatherization to get investment in home weatherization. Potential RPC role in getting word out.

HEALTH – VDH Healthy Communities work commencing. First meeting on April 15. Contract end date June 2023. Hot weather project discussed – some RPCs are participating. VAPDA Health Committee needs new Chair.

CLIMATE – Vulnerability index discussed and Transportation task group GHG reduction target. Discouraging the lack of land use development pattern discussion on subject of GHG reduction.

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Tom is working with Senate Appropriations on RPC money. Bylaw modernization is topic of conversation. H518 fuel switching and brownfields money in flux. Some discussion on Environmental Justice bill and S96 State Planning Office testimony.

Adjournment – 11:53 PM

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