



**Chair:** Devon Neary, RRPC  
**Vice-Chair:** Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC  
**Treasurer:** Charlie Baker, CCRPC

## **VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024, 8:30am**

#### **MEETING DETAILS**

Virtual: Microsoft Teams, ID: 29725510850, Passcode: JQ3mDr, 802-440-1368, 3649950905#

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

##### **ATTENDANCE**

Devon Neary(Chair), Bill Colvin, Chris Company, Adam Lougee, Christian Meyer, Charlie Baker, David Snedeker, Tash Wallis, Catherine Dimitruk, Jason Rasmussen, Peter Gregory, Matt Bachler, Janet Hurley (External) has temporarily joined the chat. Katie Raycroft-Meyer  
Guests: Jennifer Mojo, Chris Cochran, Ari Rockland-Miller, Matthew Arancio, Amy Bell

##### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

The chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

##### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Catherine moved to accept the meeting minutes from 10/03/2024. Adam second the motion. The motion carried.

##### **VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Catherine moved to accept the financial report from July through October 2024. Bill second the motion. The motion carried.
2. Adam will represent VAPDA on the Tier 3 working group. Work will be conducted with the Land-use Review Board and other stakeholders to devise rules under Act 250 Tier 3.
3. VCRD has requested sponsorship for its working lands coalition. Members requested more information. No action was taken.
4. The December VAPDA meeting will be in person at the Capital Plaza in Montpelier with State Treasurer Mike Pieciak.
5. Proposed topics for future meetings: Regional matters as they relate to the county government study; cyber security; February - ACCD work plan review.
6. Discussion on adding two additional planner meet-up for planners per year. In the short-term these extra meet-up will focus on land use and zoning. Please email land use and zoning staff contacts to Devon.

## ASSOCIATE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Emergency Management

Chris Campy has been participating in the disaster recovery framework meetings. This initiative is starting in the southern part of the state. He has been communicating on the possibility of regional hazard mitigation plans. Asked the group if there was need to reinforce our MOU to make sure the other state agencies understand its value and make sure FEMA knows too.

Christian will share info he has received from Norwich on available training for municipal cyber security.

The Winooski Basin will hold a resilience workshop as a first step toward basin wide municipal coordination.

### Community Development

Chris Cochran noted that a survey would be forthcoming coming on what would be effective for Act 181 training. He continued that the land bank report is due by January 15th. Staff are working on technical corrections for Act 181. Chris is looking for RPC staff support on some of the data in the Zoning Atlas. RPS will clean up the data from their own regions. There are still funds available for NDA grants. The MPG program is on track to open in January, with applications due in March. VAPDA is submitting a letter of support for the UVM technical assistance grant.

### Transportation

TPI FFY24 – Matthew and Amy strongly urged any RPCs who have not yet closed out FFY24 TPI grants to please do so. Matthew requested traffic count deliverables be submitted ASAP. The FFY25 grant agreements are in the process of being sent out. The coordination office is looking at opportunities to automate reporting, invoicing, and deliverable submission to address some of the regular issues. The highways design study meetings are being scheduled with the finalization of context sensitive elements. Matthew requested support from RPCs to help plug in local groups.

Jason discussed the USDOT PROTECT program and will report back on the opportunity for municipalities to supplement HMPG work. Jason noted Category A funding for REIs is available, recommending a big push to towns and recommended RPC offer to run the process. and add support.

### Natural Resources

Jennifer Mojo – ANR: The ANR Municipal Day was well attended. Climate action plan update work is underway. The work is being completed mainly at the sub-committee level. Act 59 Phase II planning work is underway. Additional updates were provided on on-going adjustments to staffing.

Climate Council Schedule - <https://climatechange.vermont.gov/calendar>

County Forester Districts - <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/list-vermont-county-foresters>  
Act 59 work - Trey Martin - t.martin@vhcb.org

Tasha will circulate updates DEC Business office.

Devon noted that the 604b contract will be allowed to go forward as a sole source agreement and will be forthcoming.

Janson noted that there was still no contract for flood hazard bylaws updates.

Catherine noted that DEC had recently made changes to the CWSP procurement around implementers. NRPC did not intend to change their policy.

Chris Noted that the CT Watershed group would be organizing a convening.

Ari Rockland-Miller noted share with the group that Act 181 changed Act 250 Criterion 9B to only require a 1:1 off set for impacted lands for wood products manufacturers (as opposed to 1:2). Ari further noted that grant funding was available through the working land enterprise initiatives for business enhancement. The grant will be open through 12/12/24.

## Energy

Adam shared that MERP remains that biggest issue. All MERP funds need to be obligated by 12/21/24. Energy planners have met with the Bond Bank on their \$40 Million funding program.

Chris provided updates on the Building Energy Code Study. He has been considering how the burden on municipalities can be lessened and is advocating for floodplain administrators to be educated on energy codes too.

## Government Relations

Charlie stated that there was nothing major to report on. It is the time to focus in on priorities.

## ACT 181 – NADO STUDY

Updates were provided on the status of the study as the consultants work toward a draft. Members will be able to provide comments on the draft during the week of December 2-6. Stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment in the following weeks.

## ACT 181 – FUTURE LAND USE

Comments have come in on the methodology and it has been helpful. Additional information will be presented that the planners meet up. The draft methodology is being circulated to stakeholders.

## ACT 181 – HOUSING TARGETS

State housing targets are still not finalized. Each RPC will get a number that we break down for member municipalities.

The chair adjourned the meeting adjourned at 11:59

*Respectfully submitted by: Christian Meyer*