

Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies

MINUTES

June 2, 2022

Via zoom

Present: Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Charlie Baker, Chris Company, Jason Rasmussen, Bonnie Waninger, Dave Snedeker, Ed Bove, Seth Jenson, Catherine Byars

Guests and Associates: Chris Cochran, Jacob Hemmerick, Amy Bell, Jen Mojo, Rebecca Pfeiffer, Rob Evans, Brian Sewell, Erik Filkorn, Tyler Deshong

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tasha Wallis at 9:32 AM.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: **Approve May minutes and financials: Motion by Adam Lougee; Second by Charlie Baker. Passed unanimously.**

FEMA Floodplain Map Updates – Rebecca Pfeiffer, State Floodplain Manager: Rebecca reported that FEMA will finally complete an update of all of the floodplain maps in Vermont. They hope to do the work between this summer and spring 2023. They expect to release drafts of lake Champlain direct this summer, Otter Creek, Fall 22 and Winooski spring of 23.

FEMA rules require all town bylaws to comply with requirements at the time the new maps go into effect. If they do not comply, the town will lose their eligibility to get flood insurance.

ANR would like to help with public outreach to towns. RPCs should also review all town bylaws to make sure they comply by the time FEMA adopts the new maps.

ANR will share a database it has documenting where it believes whether each town's zoning complies with the FEMA Requirements

FEMA funding is not available for this work. VAPDA Emergency Management Committee should work with VEM/EMPG to cover this work.

H.518 – Brian Sewell, VT Building & Grounds BGS presented its plans to work with the RPCs to implement 518. Everything is very preliminary at this point. BGS stated they would like to work with “energy burdened” communities as those communities were identified in a 2019 study. The study identified 94 communities. **(The Energy Committee needs to secure the study and identify communities).**

\$45M for weatherization. \$2.4M for RPCs via a formula to be released after July 1st (Energy Committee should comment on Formula). Energy Committee should also vet the application forms for towns to make sure they are good. BGS would like feedback from the Energy Committee on documents BEFORE they send them out.

Tasha, Chris Cochran and Brian shall meet on the scope of the RPC work.

Nominating Committee for FY23 Officers and Committees

Tausha as outgoing chair announced that the nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers:

Catherine Dimitruk, Chair
Bonnie Waniger, Vice Chair
Charlie Baker Treasurer

Chris Campany moved to elect the slate of officers as proposed by the nominating committee. Ed Bove seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The group also discussed committee chairs. Charlie Baker volunteered to head the legislative committee, Chris Campany volunteered to take over Emergency Management, Tasha Wallis volunteered to take over the Natural Resources Committee Chair and Jason Rasmusen volunteered to chair the Transportation Committee.

Approval of FY23 Budget

Chris Campany moved the budget. Dave Snedeker seconded the motion to pass the FY 23 VAPDA budget. The budget passed with unanimous support.

VPA Sponsorship Request

Chris Campany moved to give VPA \$200 in sponsorship for their request. Ed Bove second the motion, which passed unanimously.

Committee and Associate Reports:

Community Affairs – Chris Chocran and Adam Lougee noted that the VAPDA contract was complete and in good shape for next year.

Chris noted that he had sent out an update on this year’s legislative session this morning. DHCD wants to focus its efforts on fixing gaps in grant programs. It has funding to work with one or two towns.

It will also study how the State designation programs should change to encompass whole town centers.

RPCs asked to be involved in that effort.

The legislature put \$5M into creating ADUs.

MPG Program may release a little late because of technical needs. Chris asked RPCs to work with towns on MPGs to fill gaps in consultant availability.

DHCD is hiring.

Natural Resources – Charlie Baker and Jen Mojo

Jen noted Municipal day at ANR is Oct 1st. The CWSP process is on-going. 604B grants out shortly.

Emergency Management – Rich Cogliano is the new Planning Lead. **We should have a EMPG workplan by June and it should include funding for the floodplain work discussed earlier.**

New Trainings are available on WebEOC.

Transportation – Chris Campany noted he would organize a meeting between leadership at VTrans and ANR on how to fund road erosion inventories. He will work on a letter with VLCT asking how the work will be funded.

Amy Bell announced that Grants in Aid funding will be available next round, BUT only if a town requests RPC assistance. TPI funding cannot be used to support GIA work.

Joe Segale is retiring, but will be available to help in transition.

RPC TPI budgets will increase 5%, plus the additional bike ped funding for planning. Dave Pelletier will send out a survey on the scope of that planning shortly.

VTrans will spend \$82M on bridge replacement this year in 34 municipalities. THAT will free space for a lot of new projects.

Energy – Cat Byars reported that enhanced energy plans will require new maps this year. Jim is working with DPS to decide on the scope of that change.

Jim, Chris Tasha and Catherine will serve as the energy committee for the purpose of working with BGS to create a scope of work for H. 518 municipal building weatherization

Health – Ed Bove

No report.

Climate – Chris Company Resiliency needs to be elevated up to the level of greenhouse gas reduction in the climate solutions bill.

Government Affairs – Tom Kennedy Tom noted we did well in the funding committees this year. He noted that the turnover in legislators next session will be unprecedented and will require more RPC work and introductions. Chris Cochran asked that VAPDA agree to work with DHCD on presentations to Commerce, Natural Resources, Appropriations.

Tom also asked whether Department of Economic Development funds will go to RPCs for Brownfields.
Ed will reach out to DED copying Charlie Chris and Tom.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Lougee

