



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

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, 8:30 am

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Charlie Baker, Catherine Dimitruk, Seth Jensen, David Snedeker, Christian Meyer, Peter Gregory, Jason Rasmussen, Chris Campany, Bill Colvin, Devon Neary, Adam Lougee, John Adams, Nate Formalarie, Chris Cochran, Matthew Arancio, Ari Rockland-Miller, Emily Harris, Jennifer Mojo, Doug Farnham, Ted Brady, Josh Hanford, Abby Friedman, Laurie Thompson, Bret Alphin, Melissa Levy

8:30 Devon called to order at 8:35

8:35 VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approval of the December 5th Minutes – Christian moved Bill seconded. All in favor
2. Treasurer’s Report – Catherine moved, seconded by Dave. All in favor.
3. Vice-Chair Election – Charlie moved, seconded by Catherine to elect Bill Colvin as Vice-Chair. All in favor.
4. Vermont Housing and Conservation Coalition Funding Request – Peter moved to contribute \$250. Seconded by Chris. All in favor.

9:00 ASSOCIATE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chris Campany is interested in discussing joint training opportunities. There is interest from the group.
2. Adam reviewed the small water system scope of work from the Bond Bank. Peter moved and Dave seconded approval of the scope. All in favor.
3. Charlie discussed the VAPDA legislative presentation. He will circulate and ask each RPC to volunteer to highlight projects in the various topic areas.
4. John Adams discussed the process for tracking housing construction. Part of this process would include forming a Housing Data Council. Discussion ensued. Catherine will attend the initial meeting of the Housing Data Council on January 10th.

Emergency Management – Emily reminded the group that quarterly reports are due at the end of the month. Reminder to request changes against budget line items. There is video on spring flooding coming soon. Chris noted Ben Rose’s retirement, and that Ben recognized RPC work, noting that he thought an RPC director role

is the hardest in the state.

Energy – Adam noted that contracts are going out for the awards granted. Three contractors are now available to help. Catherine noted that staff have been added to the CPRG group. She is still looking for which couple of towns we are all working with. She also mentioned a Great Plains opportunity.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Planning & Economic Development – Chris Cochran noted the following – finishing an affordable housing report, land bank report also coming, not sure about the housing bill & funding yet, some brief status on legislative changes, rural capacity and training report is under development – Chris and David will participate, climate planning framework guide is underway, planning data center improvements underway – including zoning atlas, MPG grants has a new platform – webinar on 1/28 – applications due at the end of March, new staffer starting on 1/15. Catherine noted the committee will meet on 1/17. Act 181 monthly roundtable meetings start next week.

Transportation – Matthew discussed TPI and moving towards monthly invoicing. Reminder in indirect cost proposals were due on 12/31. Training coming on VPSP2, municipal project management, and Title VI. Mid-year review happening in March. Better Connections pre-applications are due soon. A new staff person (Marcella) is starting soon which may result in some changes in coordinator assignments. Jason noted that he is talking with other RPCs about TPI closeout. Devon brought up an issue with the management percentage on scoping projects. Seth to follow-up with details about specific grant requirements related to FEMA and transportation projects.

Water Quality/Natural Resources – Devon noted that 604b agreements are coming out soon with a term thru end of 2025. Charlie provided update on basin planning. He also asked if NRPC, ACRPC, and RRPC would be willing to participate in LCBP grant with our peer in NY – yes. Jennifer provided updates on staffing and litigation. Working with VHCB on the 30by30 conservation plan, a new consultant FutureIQ has been hired to work on this. River corridor mapping related to the Flood Safety bill related to the Infill Areas related to Tier 1B areas. She will coordinate with Catherine. Jason noted that flood bylaw grant agreements are coming soon.

Agriculture – Ari provided updates on Agri-tourism marketing workshops, dairy farm improvement grants applications due end of February, Agri-view newsletter coming out.

10:15 BREAK

10:30 VLCT/RPC SELECTBOARD MEET UPS

Abigail Friedman, Municipal Assistance Center Director - Piloted this in 2024 with NRPC and WRC. VLCT to assist with materials and registration. RPCs to assist with invitations and locations. RPCs – CCRPC – June,

TRORC – May, LCPC – April, others to be scheduled over the months.

10:45 VLCT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Josh Hanford – Intergovernmental Relations Director – Josh reviewed the six main priorities for VLCT: support - lower property taxes, local investments, improve accountability & action – create housing, promote public safety, build resilient communities. Discussion ensued.

11:00 NADO STUDY UPDATE / ACT 181 – Laurie, Melissa, and Bret from NADO provided an update on the status of the work. Discussion ensued.

11:40 RECOVERY COORDINATION & MTAP UPDATES

Doug Farnham – Chief Recovery Officer – Doug provided an update on MTAP and Disaster Recovery supplemental funding – need to coordinate on how this funding is invested. USDA Rural Development disaster funding is also coming. Also coordinating all of this Resiliency Implementation Strategy. Somewhere in all of this should be funding for the unfunded MTAP projects. Lots to be determined in the coming weeks and months.

12:00 ADJOURN

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie.Baker