



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC
Chair
David Snedeker, NVDA
Vice-Chair
Charlie Baker, CCRPC

**VAPDA Directors and Associates
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2024
Via Zoom**

Members Present: Catherine Dimitruk (Chair), David Snedeker (Vice Chair), Charlie Baker (Secretary/Treasurer), Devon Neary, Chris Campany, David Snedeker, Jason Rasmussen, Bill Colvin, Adam Lougee, Seth Jensen, Christian Meyer

Guests: Amy Bell, Matthew Arancio, Chris Cochran, Jacob Hemmerick, Ari Rockland-Miller, Jennifer Mojo, Elaine Wang, Ben Rose,

No adjustments to the agenda were made.

Minutes

Dave **moved to accept the April Meeting Minutes**, Jason seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's report

Charlie provided an informal Treasurer's Report. No action was taken.

Sponsorships

There have been a number of sponsorship request of VAPDA:

Adam **moved to provide \$500 sponsorship for the Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference**. Bill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Adam **moved to provide a \$250 sponsorship to the VECAN Spring Summit**. Jason seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Relationship between RPCs and Municipal Managers - Guest: Elaine Wang, Winooski

Winooski city manager, Elaine Wang, joined VAPDA representing the Vermont Town and City Managers Association. They have been holding manager and administrator meetings in Chittenden County that have proven to be valuable for peer support. This has also been the launching ground for some larger initiatives. Other regions may receive requests from local municipal administrator managers.

The group further discussed other opportunities for VAPDA to collaborate with VTCMA.

Transportation

Matthew Arancio briefed the group on the TPI mid-year reviews, TPI guidance, a potential safety planning task. Please provide Matthew with any additional comments on the TPI guidance by 4/3/24. Matthew announced that the Walk-Bike Summit is scheduled for 6/20/24 at St Johnsburry Academy. The Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities Summit is scheduled for 6/7/24.

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

Matthew then discussed the multimodal guidance work that is underway. VHB and Toole Design have been selected to complete the work. An initial delivering a concept of the guidance is planned by November. The project will have three committees bringing expertise:

1.) Project steering committee (VTRANS)

1. Technical working group. Opportunity for VAPDA involvement.
2. Stakeholder advisory committee. Broader stakeholders but second opportunity for VAPDA or RPCs to engage.

The group discussed opportunities for the project to be stronger by integrating landscape architecture, urban forestry and state designation planning into the process.

Matthew noted that they are working on opportunities to improve invoicing and also working on a better process to support demonstration projects.

Jason provided an update from the transportation committee, noting that there is an opportunity to role Task 7 funding over into next year to complete analyses to fill gaps in the active transportation network. Folks should reach out to Amanda Holland or Matthew about pursuing this opportunity.

AARP has hired Smart growth America to issue a memo on the town Class 1 Highway program and opportunities for improvement.

Jason and Bethany Remmers have been working with VTrans on Better Roads and Road Erosion Inventories.

Natural Resources

Jennifer Mojo discussed ongoing work to plan Municipal Day for 11/1/24. Reach out if you have session topics.

Chris Campany noted that folks can still register for the Northeastern North America Landscape Connectivity Summit and updated the group on ongoing conversations he is having with state leadership on how the buyouts are progressing.

Community Development/ACCD

Chris Cochran discussed the current draft of H.687 which includes climate resilience to the MPG program without funding. He would like the opportunity to gather information on what climate resilience look like in various communities. Act 47 required ANR to update water connection rules to avoid overlap with municipal permitting. This work is underway.

Chris Cochran continued with a discussion of Homes 4 All and how they are now looking at how zoning can support missing middle housing. They are forming a cohort and trainings will be forthcoming. Chris Cochran discussed the VT Zoning atlas and its current state. This will be a good tool.

Jacob Hemmerick noted that they are wrapping up the draft FY25 work plan. There will be some items to support H.687, were it to be passed. The budget estimate is complete. NDA technical assistance program will still be available. The RPC planners' meetup is scheduled for 5/22/24 in Middlebury.

Adam recommended checking out Stonecrop Development. IT is a good example of a project that benefited from the NDA

Chris Campany gave an update on the UVM wastewater mapping project. It is just getting off the ground. There are some data constraints they are already confronting.

Seth noted that as they work to updated the development review templates they are not finding good examples, indicating a need for the VPIC update.

Emergency Management

Ben Rose is working on getting FEMA funding out to towns at the fastest rate possible. Congress has cut EMPG

funding which will impact EMPG. VEM is looking for opportunities to support RPC despite the drop in funding. VEM is focusing on the HMPG program and taking advantage of up to \$90M for mitigation projects. Preapplication forms are available on their site: <https://vem.vermont.gov/funding/mitigation>

Seth will share their project tracking spreadsheet.

Agriculture

Ari Rockland-Miller is the curator for the farm to plate topic exchange. If you are interested in joining the mailing list reach out to Ari or <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/user/register>

There is funding available for middle of the supply chain food local and regional systems resilience systems. Due by 6/5/24: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/resilient-food-systems-infrastructure>

H. 687 will make recommendations to accessory on-site agricultural business. Some questions remain and there will likely be a study.

Health

Dave thought the sub-agreement for the municipal vulnerability index should be forthcoming. Catherine noted that there would also be information coming regarding future phases for climate pollution reduction grant.

Energy

Adam provided updates on the following topics: the request to fund energy tracking software through BGS had been denied. The energy planners have pitched the idea to the climate office. Information coming on MERP guidance for applications and implementation by summer. Consultants are behind schedule on the assessments. All highest need towns will get reports back by June 30. Other towns may take longer. Applications will likely be closed by November. There will be another round of assessment for low need towns.

Nominating Committee

Jason, Adam, Charlie volunteered for the nominating committee. They will provide their nominations at the June meeting.

Government Relations Report

VAPTA members discussed major legislative initiatives expected to be passed before the close of the session.

Chris Campany testified on public safety rules. State a need to develop a long-term recovery policy. LTRG are frustrated with the current process.

RPC Evaluation and Peer Review

Underway

The chair adjourned the meeting at 12:30