



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DRAFT MINUTES

RETREAT, September 14-15, 2023, Brandon Inn

September 14th

9:00-9:30 a.m. Arrival

Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk, Adam Lougee, Bill Colvin, Jason Rasmusen, Peter Gregory, Chris Campany, David Snedeker, Devon Neary, Tasha Wallis, Christian Meyer.

9:30 a.m. Welcome, Adjustments to the Agenda, Minutes and Treasurer's report

- Chris moved, Tasha seconded, approval of the minutes. Approved unanimously.
- Peter moved, Chris seconded, approval of treasurer's report and payment to VNRC for Grand Isle Retreat on Act 250.

9:45 a.m. Project Spotlight: Highlight one new project from your RPC

- Chris talked about being able to provide more municipal land use support.
- Devon discussed a complete re-write of regional plan. With more engagement and infographics. Anticipate adoption of August 2026.
- Tasha discussed dealing with trucks getting stuck in the notch.
- Christian discussed flood response and recovery. Scoping study for Winooski basin.
- Charlie talked about TOD planning at Hula in Burlington's south end.
- Catherine just finished EDA's disaster resilience grant to do transportation flood analysis, resiliency planning, and hazard mitigation plans for towns and food resilience (gleaning program and on-farm business consulting and refrigeration for food shelves). Bought walk-in cooler, bought refrigerated travel trailer, and F-150. \$500,000
- Adam highlighted the ADU guide. Using as centerpiece for housing navigator work. Contracted with retired contractor to create designs and cost estimates. \$750/design.
- Bill highlighted Bennington's town plan in two phases with MPG funds. Phase 1 working with BCRC and Abundant Sun through an equity lens. There will be a public engagement strategy with a focus on marginalized communities. Then a second phase to write the final draft plan. Also, redevelopment of Bennington High School.
- Jason talked about selling their office building.
- Peter talked about floodplain re-creation in Plymouth. Then using it as an example. FRC grant for \$350,000.
- Dave talked about brownfields program. \$600,000 every two years. This year \$1M assessment with partners and \$1M revolving loan fund. He discussed various projects.

Maybe we should talk about getting media attention, VT Digger or VT Biz Magazine.

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10:30 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. Internal Management Roundtable

- There was discussion about different management issues – personnel policies, hiring, compensation, etc. Handshake for recruiting. TechSoup; and state contracts for IT software/services. Devon staff will coordinate meetings for business office staff. Look at QuickBooks Online.

12:00 p.m. Lunch

12:45 p.m. Committee Assignments- Updates and Changes

<https://www.vapda.org/about.html> - updates were made to committee appointments.

1:00 p.m. Member Items

- Discussed natural resource planner possibility; GHG reduction scope; MTAP reporting;

1:30 p.m. Legislative Discussion:

Overview from last year -

Looking ahead to the coming year – *update ppt; schedule GR comm meeting; S.100 report and next steps*

Discussion of RPC Priorities – *“resiliently/sustainable planned growth away from flood zones; up and out; municipalities working with regions to determine where to grow and where to protect; think about Ludlow, Johnson, Barre, Montpelier (not just); build community infrastructure to prepare for floods, build housing, include the trends in housing growth; built a system to control growth coming out of 70’s/80’s when growth was too fast; state regulation of river corridors; historic preservation with flood proofing; DEC water and wastewater new/improved system and sidewalk/path funding restrictions needs to improve;*

- *flooding, housing, climate; Title 3*

Identification of RPC Assignments – connect with legislative leaders on status of what we are doing and what’s happening in our communities. What we did during flood – send to all legislators and emphasize with leaders. Set stage for legislative asks and highlight major points of funding – housing navigators, flood, etc. By early November. Review Krowinski letter. Plant idea about flood, resilient housing and permit reform. Draft message for use by RPCs.

- Flooding – create doc and provide insight, keep tight and focused
- Sen. Watson, Perchilek, Bray, Hardy, Campion, White, Hashein, Harrison, Kitchell, Westman, Hinsdale, Baruth – maybe a GR meeting with Hinsdale.
- Rep. Sheldon, Bongartz, Sibilica, Coffey, McCarthy, Marcotte, Jerome

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Dinner at Cafe Provance, 6:30 p.m.
September 15th

8:30 a.m. Committee Discussion, Review State Agency Priorities

Transportation – bike/ped \$ & complete streets, design standards (rel'n to new FLU areas), something like Class I light to allow village traffic calming. Send list to Boomhower asking when there will be an advisory committee, Coffey, Perchilek, request meetings with Coffey, add salt shed need

Natural Resources – wastewater (relation to PFAS) and small water supply process – federal funds to be lost, CWSP program response – Catherine to contact Julie and Neil, get to know meeting with Commissioner, Get these two issues written down and clear – Rebecca will come to meeting.

River corridor & floodplain regulation by state – support if permit process more accessible, and deals with minimal property owner – let's let this simmer; Coventry landfill will be an issue

Forestry – engage in 30 by 30 with VHCB – Trey come to VAPDA – relation to Act 250 tier 3, natural resource planners grant

Community Development/ACCD – FLU report, Designation reform – get a written position, update of VPIC documents – Dave figuring out costs and may readvertise, **\$6,700 for housing targets – do as special assessment to VAPDA with reminder that they need to budget next time.** Flood modeling proposal with DHCD

Emergency Management – long term recovery staffing, MOA working?, REMC purpose, after action review – address with VEM

Health – Tasha to check in with Suzanne to see if anything else may be done

Energy – MERP mini-grants and assessments, DPS clean energy outreach session, EV charger program coordination with GMP, eval of resilience actions and funding – climate action committee – **funding** of resilience coordinators; EPA grant pending

10:00 a.m. Member Items as needed (continued from 9/14)

- Discussion of how RPCs are doing housing navigator work.
- Discussion of getting more women staff involved in leadership opportunities.
- Talk to female staff first: Allie to Energy Committee, Comm Dev – Sue, Allison Hopkins to Emer Mgmt, Barbara on Water Quality, Sarah Muskin to Health
- Let's get LU planners together for a meet-up

10:30 a.m. Legislative Studies

- Future Land Use Plans- discuss draft planning areas and regional application - CB to update the FLU doc and ask for edits on criteria by end of September. Send H.692 to VAPDA.
- Municipal Delegation- discuss next steps – CB to share first draft in October. Delegation review by RPCs to NRB or the same board that approves RPC plan approval.

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

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