



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

David Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

DRAFT VAPDA Minutes

July 11, 2024

Conway School of Design, Collaboration Opportunities

Faculty member and program outreach coordinator CJ Lammers reviewed program. 18 students graduate annually with MS in Ecological Design. Emphasis is on project-based learning. Community projects winter and spring – 3 month process; 2 community engagement sessions; work products are community-driven. CJ's email is Lammers@csl.edu.

H. 687/Act 181 Implementation

Discussion of RPC Responsibilities and Update on Act 250/NRB Activities. Will discuss in detail at August VAPDA meeting. NRB establishing standards for what's in and out of new Act 250 exemptions, including mapping. Directors are encouraged to have staff review maps for accuracy once released. Likely next week. RPC evaluation underway. Land Use Categories Study due end of December. Develop methodology among all RPCs. Can build upon discussions we've already had, mapping templates. CCRPC will coordinate. Should involve planners, directors, and GIS staff. Keep this simple: 1 page per land-use area. Relates to criteria LURB will use to review our plans.

Associate and Committee Reports

Transportation: Amy Bell, storm damage still being assessed but not as severe or extensive as 2023; TPI work program out and being developed by staff; agency of administration is interested in how VTrans works with RPCs (contracts, indirect rates, etc.); Bulletin 5.0 changes in effect-may be some trickle-down impacts but still being assessed. Jason will give update on meeting about Road Erosion Inventories. Chris noted that he'll be working with VTrans on local road closure protocol.

Natural Resources: DEC business office update; 604B is coming from Devon; Chris noted success of Northeast North America Landscape Connectivity Summit; first meeting of River Corridor Infill Pilot Mapping Process working group on July 30th.

Community Development/ACCD: Chris, Jacob, Jenni: Act 181 items; "Downtown Board" is no more – "Community Investment Board" is new name. Treasurer has joined. Adam Grinold is RDC rep. Coordination getting underway among parties. Agencies have some corrections they'd like to have made, asking VAPDA if we have any. Schedule meet up for fall, help provide foundation for town/region outreach. Devon will take lead. What is most meaningful structure to take place of priority housing project. New CIB will be looking at how to untangle various state programs to better meet community needs. NDAs – individual communities and regions need to decide what works best for them. Designation renewals no longer needed. Company updated on wastewater mapping project. Designations – investment area; Tiers – Act 250 criteria – same thing. Climate

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

Resilience – Governor and Treasurer identifying state programs that have some connection to climate resilience. Going to try to do gap analysis. It's only within State agencies right now (i.e. not VHC and other similar entities). Designation 2050 – ANR put in additional funding to hire someone how to improve resilience of existing centers; report being reviewed. Bond Bank bringing UPenn studios to Central VT October 14 through 18th. Homes for All – staffperson leaving for Harvard. Outside funder has interest in continuing effort. Will be new leads (ACCD will support). Some money set aside for communities interested in NDA designation (\$5K / community; \$100K available). First come, first served. Additional Act 181 allocation included in FY25 contract info. Loaded into quarterly payments. FY24 carry forward language will be included in new grants. Housing navigator funding has to be spent by end of FY25. MPGs – announcement is going to be delayed because GEARS is going to be upgraded and migrated. Late winter/spring deadline. Tasha – draft VPI training manual templates coming soon for revisions.

Emergency Management: EMPG applications due in August. HMGP application assistance proposals due to Stephanie now. Some indication of challenges communicating with SEOC. Chris advised going directly to VEM and other staff if necessary. Chris will arrange meeting with Public Safety senior staff about evolution of long-term relationship. Chris will draft white paper suggesting long-term recovery legislative initiative. Chris Cochran noted that business recovery should be included.

Agriculture: Ari described Act 181 related to ag – 9B ag soils change – allowing off-site mitigation fee of 1-1 ratio. Changes to Accessory On Farm Businesses; does not apply to construction/improvements for farm events and farm stays (still act 250 trigger).

Health: Email Tasha what you'd like to work on.

Energy: Still awaiting MERP application guidance. Advice – work with most vulnerable towns on implementation of assessments as those are the towns that are most likely to get funding. Climate Resiliency Contracts – needs response from everyone on whether or not regional energy plan has been updated and whether or not municipal energy data has been analyzed/distributed. Chris – Building Energy Code Committee – needs to know if VAPDA has position on residential building code adoption.

General Discussion items: All set for retreat lodging.

RPC Evaluation: Discussion of Next Steps for RPC Evaluation with NADO – Get peer evaluations to Jason. Contract signed with NADO. Reviewed points of contact for the NADO review team within state government, legislature. Devon setting up guest accounts on SharePoint site.

Adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

Strengthening the Capability of Governments



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC
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**VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING
AUGUST 1, 2024**

MEETING DETAILS

RPC Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Charlie Baker (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Bill Colvin (BCRC), Jason Rasmussen (MARC), Devon Neary (RRPC), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), and Dave Snedeker (NVDA).

Other:

Type/Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dimitruk at 9:30AM. No changes to the agenda.

VAPDA Business Items

Motion by Wallis to approve the minutes of the July 2024 meeting. Second by Baker. Approved by voice vote. No treasurers report for this meeting. VAPDA also discussed Retreat planning. Neary and Dimitruk to set agenda ahead of the September Retreat. The working draft of the agenda includes:

1. Internal Management & VAPDA Management
2. Projects Roundtable
3. Legislative & Committee Priorities
4. NADO Assessment
5. Advancing Women in Leadership
6. Act 181
7. Town Planning Process & ACCD

Act 181 Implementation

Baker provided an update on the mapping criteria for Act 181. The group identified the need to determine what criteria RPCs are using and how are RPCs applying the criteria? Some issues that need further clarification/discussion include: infill/transition areas, conservation (significant as mapped by RPCs and critical as mapped by LURB/VNRC), designation area boundaries, and how to deal with planned growth areas and flood risk.

Other factors that require additional discussion are issues around consistency and local input especially if town plans and zoning maps conflict with regional FLU maps. Will RPCs review bylaws for substance/effectiveness or just that they are adopted? This may just be necessary for Tier 1A towns. Other considerations include: how to accommodate regional housing targets (draft numbers in late August), how Tier 3 ratio will impact small towns, how Tier 3 will be overlaid with rural conservation, and village centers as Tier 1B. Overall, there was a consensus to determine process standard, mapping standard, and planning standard for all areas.

For next steps, Baker will send out a draft of the methodology with comments back by labor day week (September 6th). Baker will compile comments for the Retreat. Most regions indicated they plan to adopt between 2025 and 2026 and

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

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several stated concerns around the new review/approval periods during adoption, staffing capacity, and town capacity (for PC/SB meeting and workshops).

Committee Reports

Government Relations – Will set a time to meet in August/September. Company to give an update on the Regional Governance Study. Should RPCs better coordinate/align with VLCT ahead of and during the session?

Transportation – Design Standards group meeting in mid-August. VTrans/VEM not receptive to taking a lead on local road closures/alerts.

Natural Resources – ACCD and VTrans met with DEC business office to share information on RPCs. There will be a River Corridors infill meeting and more to come on Staying Connected Initiative.

Community Development – FY24 closeout on 7/31 and FY25 start up ASAP. Neighborhood Development Area (NDA) technical assistance grants available. Reminder to RPCs to update the Act 181/municipal data by August 31. RPCs to lead the Fall RPC Meet Up with a concentration on housing/land use.

Emergency Management – Wastewater statewide mapping project with UVM to be completed soon. Company is planning to convene committee meeting with VEM staff. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program review committee to meet. Company expressed need for statewide long-term policy for recover. VAPDA to issue a letter to appropriations about EMPG funding decrease for RPCs.

Next Meeting

VAPDA Retreat – September 12/13 @ The Wildflower Inn, Lyndonville, Vermont.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Devon Neary



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



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



Chair: Devon Neary, RRPC
Vice-Chair: Bill Colvin, BCRC
Treasurer: Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

March 6, 2025, 8:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual: Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Christian Meyer, Devon Neary(Chair), Bill Colvin, PG, Charlie Baker, Jason Rasmussen, Catherine Dimitruk, David Snedeker, Adam Lougee, Seth Jensen, Chris Company

Guests and Associates: Chris Cochran, Jacob Hemmerick, Jeff Dube, Katie Buckley, Bronwyn Cooke, Matthew Arancio, Ari Rockland-Miller, Emily Harris, Amy bell, Emma Spett, Marielle Matthewx, Tanya Wells, Jared Thatcher.

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

Meeting Minutes: Jason moved to accept the February meeting minutes. Peter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Charlie reviewed the treasurers report. Some discussion ensued. Bill moved to accept treasurers report. Catherine seconded the motion. The motion carried.

NADO Report: The NADO report is complete. Jason will share it out with stakeholders. Available here: <https://www.vapda.org/legislative-reports.html>

Adjustments to Agenda: Adam will be discussing his email about rural housing affordability under Government Relations.

Meeting Scheduling: The April meeting will be in person at National Life. Members are encouraged to coordinate with Devon on future agenda items. Devon, Peter, Katie Buckley will meet to discuss recommendations for a second round of MTAP. Devon, Peter and Tasha will meet to discuss a VAPDA staff item.

Emergency Management

Chris and the Emergency Management Committee will be meeting with Eric Forand (3/7/25). The plan is to discuss EMPG, future tasks, and coordination.

Emily Harris noted that the EMPG NOFO has not been published.

Katie Buckley noted that VLCT has training on how a municipality can create a rainy day fund. VLCT is also advocating for legislative action to allow towns to more easily carry a reserve.

Catherine wondered if the flood omnibus bill could include the reserve fund language. Also, language allowing governing bodies to carry five years of debt without voter approval would be valuable.

Seth added that it would also be helpful for water/sewer utilities to be able to budget more than 20% of replacement costs under statute.

Adam asked what the expected impact to the LHMP funding might be given it is funded through BRIC. VEM responded that there is currently no risk, though the future is always unknown.

If RPCs are getting LEMP questions, be sure to forward them to regional coordinators. Regional coordinators will CC RPCs on LEMP meetings.

Chris commented on the Flood Omnibus Bill, stating that it would be valuable if it included a framework for self-reliance first where federal resources would only augment that framework. He further clarified that the bill may be making assumptions about what will exist in terms of federal resources that may not actually be there in the future.

Energy

Adam – no updates.

Government Relations

The regional planning funding looks like it will get a 3% increase over base.

MTAP 2.0 seems to be moving forward.

There appears to be support for additional brownfields funding.

Other bills to follow: H.233 regarding contracts and grants. H.134 and H.291 regarding current use. H.421 regarding Councils of Government.

Adam shared his email about supporting rural housing. They are requesting a legislative study to look at issues and develop recommendations and consider how to fund small village water/wastewater systems, what new technologies should be available, and what financial reforms are needed to get money out easier.

Chris added that that it should consider how RPCs can be used as direct technical assistance. Catherine asked that not just systems be considered, but also the difficulty around permitting and amendments for permits.

Planning & Economic Development

Chris Cochran shared that his department is developing recommendations on rural technical assistance, assessing who is doing what and what is working and not working. There will be extensive outreach and training. They will develop a report as a deliverable. Charlie recommended integrating NADO study survey results.

The CIB is planning a bus tour to look at housing and economic revitalization projects.

Jeff Dube discussed the CDBG-RD proposal. About \$6 million for Washington and Lamoille Counties (and Hardwick). The funding will be used to undertake watershed wide resilience planning and how it can be supported by existing organizational structures. The Governor will review the

proposal this week. There will be a forthcoming public comment period. Administration of projects will be discussed once the project begins to advance.

Seth noted a complete list of potential projects would be nice and requested it be shared with RPC to ensure the needs of quieter towns were considered.

CP+R is developing designation transition materials. RPCs will be the vehicle to help get this info out to towns. Further a data and mapping platform is under development for tiers, FLUAs, and designations.

Jacob Hemmerick shared that work plan updates are being made. These changes could potentially streamline the process, and a draft may be ready by April.

Transportation

Jason shared that the RPCs met with VTTrans asked to withdraw the payback provisions from bike and ped projects. There will be an additional \$700K for better roads and REIs.

Matthew Arancio shared TPI is going through a biennial process improvement. There will be changes to the TPI work plan. This should create additional flexibility and develop additional resources for sharing among transportation planners. A new invoicing process is under consideration that should create more clarity. Devon and Christian will discuss amendments with Matthew. Task seven is sunsetting.

Amy Bell shared that the study to look at implications of Act 181 on transportation impact studies is underway. Charlie will serve on the committee as the VAPDA representative.

Phase one of the design guidelines revision is looking to be completed in April.

Water Quality/Natural Resources

Ari Rockland-Miller encouraged everyone to submit nominations for the agriculture hall of fame.

VAPDA representatives will be meeting with DEC on the 14th.

Jason is closing out DIBG but enhanced DIBG is coming. Start collecting your ideas. He continued that First Flood bylaws meeting forthcoming.

Adam is working to close out their CW project development grant and may need to circle back to participating RPCs for additional resources.

Katie Buckley added that VLCT has put out a post town meeting cheat sheets and check lists. VLCT is moving to a new location (yet to be determined).

VLCT is engaged in a number of issues related to Act 171 and municipal ethics committee question and looking for ordinances to support municipalities. There is nothing to support towns now.

UVM WASTEWATER MAPPING PROJECT

Emma Spett and Kendall Fortney joined VAPDA from the University of Vermont Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships to discuss their wastewater mapping work they have engaged in with VERSO and

ORCA, and with further support from the Vermont Community Foundation. This project aggregates data on where community water/wastewater systems exist and where gaps need to be filled. Current data can be downloaded via GitHub. This project has not developed any new data but has focused on piecing together existing data. The completion of the data work is expected to be wrapping up in June. Community engagement, communication and graphics are anticipated to follow.

VT CLIMATE ACTION OFFICE PROGRESS TOOL

Item removed from agenda as the Vermont Climate Action Office was unable to attend.

VDH TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM

Tonya Wells and Jared Thatcher joined the meeting from the Vermont Department of Health. Their work on tobacco control has included work on local policy, zoning, permitting and point of sale. Municipalities are limited by state enabling language. However, they have created template language to steer municipalities to those areas where they can implement tobacco controls.

Tonya also reshared the Active Living and Healthy Eating resources, which focuses on healthy community design.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS / VAPDA UPDATES

RPCs will share status of FLUA maps at the April meeting to assess conformity.

Further discussion ensued on the FLUA mapping and housing targets.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:53 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Christian Meyer



Chair: Devon Neary, RRPC
Vice-Chair: Bill Colvin, BCRC
Treasurer: Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

April 3, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual: Zoom

RPC Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Adam Lougee (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Charlie Baker (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Bill Colvin (BCRC), Jason Rasmussen (MARC), Devon Neary (RRPC), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Peter Gregory (TRORC), and Dave Snedeker (NVDA - online).

Guests: Michael Moser and Andrew Brown

Meeting began at approximately 9:07 a.m. DN chaired the meeting. DS takes minutes.

- **Minutes & Treasurer's Report.** TW motion to approve minutes, BC second. Minutes approved. CM motion to approve financial report, PG second. Financial report approved.
- **Q4 Invoicing.** CB discussed invoicing. Special assessments of \$1,000 will be made for the 4th Quarter VAPDA invoices. CM motion to approve, PG second. Q4 increase approved. Also, LCPC offered to provide \$6K - \$7K for VHFA's work on housing targets.
- **VAPDA Funding Requests.** None.
- **Statewide Contract Coordination.** Discussion of VTrans and VEM contracts.
- **VAPDA Committee Reports:**
 - VEM** – CC shared that VEM funding will be cut, and likely ours in-turn, although numbers unknown. CDBG-DR funding is being withheld. A plan for these funds will be coming from DHCD. Outreach meetings weren't well attended.

Energy – AL shared that MERP work is progressing well. PG shared that some RPCs were assisting towns with contracting. CD noted the schedule of upcoming hearings for the Climate Action Plan.

Planning & Economic Development – CD asked RPCs to check on FY25 spending. Draft RPC workplan is coming. DS shared that the Development Review templates created by LCPC will be reviewed over April/May. Also, that Dubois & King has been working on the Planning Modules. Working team includes DHCD, NVDA, CCRPC, and RRPC. All VPIC materials will be migrated to the VAPDA website.

Transportation – JR asked RPCs to check progress on the required tasks. VTrans has begun scheduling mid-year reviews. Mention of multi-modal highway guide.

Water quality & Natural Resources – DN noted 604B progress. CC noted federal grants for forestry/tree planting being eliminated.

Government Relations – CB mentioned H.233 (Bulletin 5). Deadlines under the 3-acre rule may be extended by 2 years. Housing and brownfield bills noted. RPCs should receive 3% increase. COG bill and shared services mentioned.

- **VERTA.** Michael Moser and Andrew Brown joined to discuss Act 101. Slide presentation was given and will be shared with VAPDA. VERTA effort is to enhance Technical Assistance available to municipalities. RPCs will receive funding (\$5K each) to host regional meetings (2-3 each) with local officials. RPCs can begin scheduling meetings in April/May for Summer convenings.
- **NADO Report Recommendations** – Recommendations from the report that were discussed included: RPC funding tied to ability to assist towns; COGs/governance (already moving in legislature); Service delivery – a VAPDA staff person by end of CY25 (Y or N?) and developing best practices for working with municipalities. JR asked for a committee of VAPDA to work on response to recommendations.
- **Regional Future Land Use Map Discussion** – Pete Fellows and Alison Hopkins joined via Zoom.
FLU Maps were displayed (in-person and virtually) and slight differences were noted. CD indicated that the guidance allows some flexibility, and some minor updates to guidance are forthcoming for consistency around river corridors and flood plains. Tying housing targets to the FLU maps was also discussed, including formulas being used by RPCs. Regional LURB meetings were mentioned.
- **New Business** – AL noted that sub-agreements for the work on water systems with the Bond Bank should be coming. DN asked RPCs to consider future meeting topics.
- **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm

Next meetings: The June VAPDA meeting will be at RRPC. Annual retreat will be in TRORC region.



Chair: Devon Neary, RRPC
Vice-Chair: Bill Colvin, BCRC
Treasurer: Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

May 1, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual: Zoom

In Attendance: Devon Neary, Tash Wallis, Catherine Dimitruck, Jason Rasmussen, Charlie Baker, Bill Colvin, Adam Lougee, Christian Meyer, Peter Gregory, Dave Snedeker, Chris Company, Amy Bell, Matthew Arancio, Ari Rockland-Miller, Jen Mojo, Emily Harris, Chris Cochran, Miro Weinberger, Corey Parent

Devon began the meeting at 8:35am.

VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes: Catherine made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2025 as presented. Second by Charlie Baker. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Baker made a motion to receive the treasurer's report through April 2025. Second by Bill Colvin. Motion passed unanimously.

RPC Meet Up Planning:

- Organizing the event are Erin Ladd, Cathlin Lord, Alison Lowe. Chris Company said that Sue Westa can also help.
- Location and date TBD.
- Potential agenda items:
 - Consultations/municipal plan review process
 - Environmental benefits and burdens analysis – using RRPC as an example.

VERTA: UVM wants to contract directly with each RPC. A suggestion was made to send annual reports to summarize what we do for towns.

Bond Bank Waster System Project: Contracts are coming soon.

Agenda for the Next Meeting:

- Tricia Coats
- Michael from the Bond Bank to talk about their expectations and SOW
- FLU mapping
- Legislative updates

VAPDA Website: RRPC staff have added the VPIC materials to the VAPDA website so we don't lose them when the VPIC website expires. VAPDA should budget for building a new website next year. Devon will get a cost estimate, maybe \$10K.

ASSOCIATE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Emergency Management:

- Emily said that VEM has not seen the NOFO yet; no news on the next EMPG contracts.
- No funding source identified now for LHMPs. VEM is applying for HMGP funding for this.
- Please let Emily know if the VEM regional coordinators are not communicating with your RPC.

Transportation:

- TPI guidance is coming out today. Tasks have been consolidated, the document shortened, eliminated optional tasks, and encouraging more flexibility. Expect level funding. Draft RPC work programs are due in July, with final drafts due in August.
- Three existing Better Connections projects are nearly complete. One new Better Connections project was awarded (Waterbury).
- Comments on the draft detailed outline for the design standards update are currently being collected. Phase 2 is expected to begin in a couple of months.
- Last year's Better Roads Category A funds have now been all spent. There is \$750K in the budget for new Cat. A money. VTrans intends to start accepting letters of intent soon for this new round, contingent upon the budget.
- There is an ongoing assessment of MRGP-compliant segments and how they withstood the 2023 and 2024 flooding.

Energy:

- MERP: Peter talked with Doug Farnum about an extension. There are not enough contractors available in the state. Doug and Peter are going to follow up with BGS.
- County EECBG is in limbo. Kate Donatelli has left her position.
- We can resume work on Task 2 activities for CPRG, Phase 2. There will not be an extension.

Planning & Economic Development:

- There were no comments on the work program; it's good to go.
- A draft new ZA Handbook has been developed. If you have senior staff that can help to review it, let Catherine know.
- CDBG-DR plan comment period is open. The next meeting is May 15th in Weston.
- VERTA: the initial survey is out now. The project involves looking at what other New England states do. Findings will be presented at a summit on Nov. 13th.
- ACCD hired the Incremental Development Alliance to continue the Homes for All work.
- MPG awards were just announced. Back to the normal schedule for the next round.
- The work program will go out by early next week.
- The Village Meet Up will be on June 5th in Reading.

Water Quality/Natural Resources:

- The next Municipal Day is planned for the middle of October. Reach out to Jen with presentation proposals.
- ANR and AAFM are coordinating with the LURB on Tier 3.
- The initial Tier 3 mapping is extensive, with Tier 3 covering much of the state. Refinement is needed for it to make better sense.

LET'S BUILD HOMES

- They want to double home production from the existing ~3,000/year to ~7,000/year.
- They see our FLU mapping as very important, and want to engage with RPCs to “get more pro-housing maps.”
- When asked how can Let’s Build Homes support RPCs, the following items were discussed:
 - Support for clarifying legislation, such as needing a simpler regional plan amendment process when a town later on decides to opt in to Tier 1b, etc.
 - RPCs would welcome their attendance at meetings, focus groups and/or providing comments on draft FLU maps.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- ACCD funding with a 3% increase is still included.
- Brownfields and MTAP add-ons may not survive.
- CHIP (project-based TIF) is included in the Housing Bill.
- T-Bill includes 3 studies that involve VAPDA: cancellation of local projects/payback provisions, municipal transportation asset framework, and municipal bike/ped funding.

REVISIT LURB TIMELINES

RRPC Sept. 19

NRPC Oct. 10

CCRPC Oct 24/31

CVRPC Nov.

RETREAT

- Sept. 11-12
- Somewhere in the TRORC area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.



Chair: Devon Neary, RRPC
Vice-Chair: Bill Colvin, BCRC
Treasurer: Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING
Rutland RPC and Teams
June 5, 2025 - (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)
MEETING MINUTES
Virtual: Zoom

Attendance

Devon Neary, Bill Colvin, Jason Rassmussen, Taylor Newton, Chris Company (in person)
Dave Snedeker, Tasha Wallis, Catherine Dimitruk, Adam Lougee, Pete Fellows (via Teams)

Minutes

Bill moved to approve the minutes. Jason seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report

Increase for annual retreat, reduction in sponsorships to reflect spending patterns. The retreat is planned for September 11 and 12 at Jackson Gore in Okemo. A more formalized process for sponsorships requests will be reinstated, with an online form. The ESRI license cost was clarified that it was related to VT Culverts. There was a brief discussion about coordinating training with VT Local Roads related to municipal access to this data.

Jason moved to approve the budget as presented. Tasha seconded. Motion carried.

VAPDA Committee Reports

Energy- Adam reported that MERP is moving forward, CPRG Task 2 is back on track. Taylor reported that CCRPC entered an appearance for the PUC resiliency docket. There will be an effort to try to extend the MERP date due to challenges getting contractors.

Legislative- CHIP passed, VLCT has a good summary. Open Meeting Law changes passed. The budget remained intact for the Governors recommendation.

Emergency Management- VEM reports that RPCs are largely successful meeting the requirements of EMPG agreements. EMPG future years remains unclear as does hazard mitigation grants and any other federal emergency funds. A future discussion will include how to approach municipal and statewide support if EMPG funds are eliminated. EDA Disaster resilience funds should be investigated as a statewide application. Towns need to

get the message that they are likely on their own and need to prepare with surplus funds and a ready line of credit. LEMPs were discussed – reminder that these are the responsibility of VEM and were due June 1.

Community Development- There was a discussion of DHCD surplus and overspending. If an RPC has an anticipated surplus, please let DHCD know asap and copy Catherine. Directors were encouraged to send planners to the meet up schedule for June 18th. Development Review templates have been reviewed, and comments were submitted to LCPC. The planning modules are in review as well. ZA Handbook was released. We need a better repository for the VAPDA website and the new resources. Several RPCs offered to support the costs, and Rutland will coordinate. VERTA was discussed- the RPC role and schedule.

Transportation- The TPI workplan timeline was discussed. If you anticipate needing an amendment to the current contract it is recommended you start now. Multi-modal highway design guidelines annotated outline was distributed by Jason. The tie-in to the new FLU categories was not as strong as hoped. Phase 2 participation will be critical.

Water Quality/Natural Resources- Tasha is representing VAPDA on the statewide conservation network. RPCs are coordinating with VHCB on a series of meetings. There was a discussion about the best venue for these meetings. There was a discussion about the basin grants and the watershed coordinators pushing back on the requests. There remains confusion and uncertainty about how the decisions are made about these grants. Adam has signed the main contract with the Bond bank. Sub agreements will go out prior to July VAPDA, when the bond bank will be in attendance.

Act 181

LURB Processes and Rulemaking

Adam provided a Tier 3 update. Three meetings of the stakeholder group have taken place. Alex W is writing for LURB. What areas are in and out of Tier 3 and the type of jurisdiction that would be triggered is unclear. Adam and Seth will work to develop an initial comment letter from VAPDA. A draft may come our mid-June. Catherine provided an update of the appeal study. Initial feedback is being collected and will be summarized by the LURB. They are attempting to wrap up by November. Catherine will collect and consolidate Tier 1A comments that are due June 20th- comments sent to Catherine June 17th.

Non-Profit Corporations

Directors had a roundtable discussion about the value of an affiliated non-profit corporation.

Flood Safety Act Outreach and Education

Guests: Shayne Jaquith, Vermont Nature Conservancy, Alison Spasyk, UVM Sea Grant

Alison gave an overview of the education and outreach efforts related to the Flood Safety Act. Shayne provide an outline of the outreach and education topics and sought feedback from the RPCs about the approach.