



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

**Chair**

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

**Vice-Chair**

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

**Secretary/Treasurer**

## VAPDA MINUTES DIRECTORS

April 6, 2023 *Via Video Conferencing*

**Attendees:** Bill Colvin, Christian Meyer, Charlie Baker, Tasha Wallis, Jason Rasmussen, David Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Devon Neary; Chris Company, Peter Gregory, Adam Lougee, Ted Brady (VLCT), Katie Buckley (VLCT)

**Guests:** Jake Hemmerick(DHCD), Chris Cochran(DHCD), Matthew Arancio(AOT), Amy Bell(AOT), Ari Rockland-Miller(AAFM), John Adams(VCGI), Ted Brady(VLCT), Katie Buckley(VLCT)

Commencement:

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair, Catherine Dimitruk, at 9:33 AM.
2. Adjustments to the agenda: Adam L. asked that discussion of the current status of EECBG be added to the Energy agenda item.
3. **Charlie B. moved to accept the minutes form the VAPDA March meeting minutes and the March treasurers report be presented. Peter G. seconded the motion.** During discussion, Adam L. asked if the short fall to the budget would be made up with reserve funds. This was confirmed. **Vote was called, and the motion carried.**
4. Catherine D. noted that the new brownfields funding should be available soon. **Peter G. moved to maintain MARC as the designated the fiscal agent. Charlie B. seconded the motion.** Jason R. stated that MARC was willing to continue in this role. **Vote was called and the motion carried.**

Community Affairs

1. The land use mapping and coordination group has met several times and is developing a core set of land use classifications. Once a draft set of classifications has been completed, they will be distributed to the RPCs for comment.
2. Jake H. noted that recipients of the MGP and the BMG had both been announced. There will be a forthcoming survey on the programs to look out for. The ACCD work program is nearly developed. There is an increase in RPC funding under ACCD in the current House budget. The missing middle pilot and tool box are being rolled out. Two assessments and reports are being developed around housing and Act 250. The EVSE program will be announced for \$10million in funding for new charging infrastructure around the end of May. Towns may want to start thinking about where there is need for the infrastructure and start coordinating with electricians.

Natural Resources

*Strengthening the Capability of Governments*

1. Tasha W. Reported on the RFP for managing small scale drinking water systems.
2. Chris C. reported that Vermont will not be moving forward with the America the Beautiful grant. He is looking at opportunities to possibly participate through Massachusetts.
3. Adam L. noted that ACRPC is soliciting for their water quality project development grant. There is \$100K available.
4. Ari Rockland-Miller joined the meeting to answer any questions.
5. John Adams updated the group that the flights should begin soon for the level 1 LIDAR across the entire state.

#### VLCT

1. Ted B. and Katie B. joined the meeting to discuss cooperation between their organization, VLCT, and the State's RPCs. They are a resource for towns and regions alike. They are distilling the resources, dissecting need, and developing tips and best practices. Some areas where they are active, in addition to directing access to the myriad programs currently available, is in parking ARPA funding for later municipal use. Many of the current programs will need state lead due to the breadth of scope. RPC representatives shared several success stories from municipal shared service staff.

#### Transportation

2. Matthew A. briefed the group, that he doesn't expect any major changes to the TPI work plan in the coming year, noting that there is ongoing conversation on how to better make use of and make available the collected bike and ped counts data. AOT will be distributing the indirect MOU in the coming weeks. The review of the VT highway design standards should be kicking off in late summer. RPCs would like to have a seat on the steering committee.
3. Dave P. discussed the progress on the AOT Equity Framework. The working group is reviewing the comments and recommendations. AOT and the steering committee is seriously considering how to integrate and sequence these next steps as to not overwhelming the TPI process. Additionally, there is discussion on how the statewide EJ Initiative will establish the structures for this work and avoid redundancies.

#### Energy

1. Adam L. Discussed updates to the Municipal Energy Resilience Program. Catherine mentioned that the State will be applying for the Climate Action Planning Program. There could be some funding carved out for RPCs. The work will focus on greenhouse gas reduction strategies, feeding local strategy up to the state, and updating energy planning.
2. Discussions are underway over the EECSBG. The counties will be the default recipient. RPCs may need to coordinate.

#### Government Affairs

1. An additional 1.5 million is in the budget for base RPC funding. Not yet passed.

#### Trainings

### *Strengthening the Capability of Governments*

1. The directors discussed RPC staff training needs. Devon N. grouped the need into four categories, including: liabilities, equity, planning, and municipal needs. Other ideas that were raised include, open meeting law, and IT security

Rural assistance program.

1. There is currently an understanding that work should start in May and continue through June contacting the first quartile of municipalities. RPCs should expect to work closely with the municipalities as they request assistance. RPCs should expect significant reporting on the state funding used to support the initiative.

Next Meeting – May 4.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christian Meyer