



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES

December 1, 2022

CVRPC Offices & Via Videoconference

Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk, Charlie Baker, Dave Snedeker, Bill Colvin, Tasha Wallis, Christian Meyer, Chris Company, Adam Lougee, Devon Neary, Jason Rasmussen, Peter Gregory, Amy Bell, Matt Arancio, Chris Cochran, Suzanne Kelley, John Adams

1. Welcome, Agenda Changes – Catherine opened the meeting at 9:30.
2. a. Approval of November 2022 Minutes & Treasurer’s Report – Bill moved, Dave seconded approval of both. All in favor. Motion passed. Budget adjustment will be discussed at next meeting.
b. On a motion by Charlie, seconded by Jason, a contribution of \$250 in support of the VECAN conference was approved by a unanimous vote.

3. Committee Reports

Community Affairs – ACCD was asked to remove retainage requirements and adopt the same process as other agencies (i.e., claw back provisions). There was unanimous agreement in support of this request. Chris Cochran discussed the \$40 million Community Recovery and Revitalization Program. BIPOC applicants will be given first priority, followed by impacted industries, for- and non-profit organizations, and wastewater for municipalities. Chris asked about the use of RDC/RPC priority lists in the allocation of these funds. Chris Cochran sent a list of items for the legislature to Charlie. They have hired a new planner. Bylaw modernization grant awardees will be announced soon; received 16 applications. Asking legislature to allow remainder of funds to go to MPG. There were 40 applications in the portal. Natural Resources – Tasha Wallis had a good meeting with ANR about engagement on project scoping and design. Act 76/CWSP guidance was discussed. ANR Clean Water Guidance is under review. Capacity needs for partners is an issue for those outside of CWSP basins. There is a discussion being led by the Rural Caucus and VCRD about rural capacity. Tasha provided an update on the FEMA flood map project. Tasha will send out schedule; funding not used by end of May goes away. ANR wants this to be an ongoing project but funding is not in hand at present.

Emergency Management – Erica Bornemann, Ben Rose, Emily Harris, Rich Cogliano, and Eric Forand introduced themselves to the directors, noting that there are a number of new directors and they wanted to go over the MOU in place with RPCs and what they are expected to do in the event of a disaster. Erica went over the history of the development of the MOU in the wake of Irene. The current MOU will be extended while an update is drafted. The REMC quorum issue will be taken to the legislature.

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

Transportation – Matt Arancio will be taking over management of TPI program and discussed partnership between VTrans and RPCs and the value of the partnership. Amy Bell will continue to be engaged. There may be some internal VTrans reorganization as they are having difficulty with hiring and capacity. Would like to have more personal interaction among TPI planners; possible mini-retreats. Matt is new VTrans coordinator for Better Connections. Because towns are having difficulty finding consultants, they may use VTrans consultants at the ready. CCRPC will assist with NADO inquiry about rural transportation planning. VLCT is meeting with RPCs and others to encourage towns to apply for funding through the IJJA. Jason is working with Devon on transportation policy information for the legislature.

Energy - Need a chair. Catherine drafted a one-pager for sustained energy/climate funding. Chris working on revised scope that is more focused and simpler. Needs quick around on review today.

Health – no updates.

Climate – Catherine and Chris' terms are complete. Requesting funding for RPCs to have a climate change and adaptation planner position.

Government Affairs – Charlie Baker. Charlie reviewed the outline emailed separately. Major items include climate change, open meeting law, Act 172, and exemption of RPCs from competitive procurement if legislature wants to use the RPCs.

4. Vermont Bond Bank – Michael Gaughan and Ken Lingo explained there would be a Capital Planning Forum for municipalities on April 13th. They discussed funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act, with \$78 million available for states and municipalities for grants, loans, and other assistance for low-income and distressed communities to employ zero emissions technologies; this will be managed by the U.S. EPA. They discussed other funding opportunities as well. Definition of disadvantaged/distressed communities needs to be defined. Presentation will be shared, as will a specific ask of RPCs.
5. Health Equity Grant – Tasha reviewed the status. There was a request of directors to monitor the work of our staff on this project.
6. Next Meeting – January 5th (remote)

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Campany