

VAPDA Meeting Minutes (via Zoom) – January 6, 2022

Present: Tasha Wallis, Chair; Chris Campany, Ed Bove, Catherine Dimitruk, Peter Gregory, Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen (minute taker), Dave Snedeker, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Adam Lougee, Michael Gaughan

December minutes and treasurer's report approved by unanimous vote on motion by Jim, seconded by Bonnie.

Vermont Bond Bank Capital Planning Initiative – Michael Gaughan discussed the first capital planning contest, planned for February 1st. The Vermont Bond Bank wants to develop a library of good capital plan examples, appropriate for Vermont communities. An announcement went out recently to towns and through VLCT. RPCs can help to get towns to respond. In April, the Bond Bank will have a capital planning forum to discuss financing/funding, long-term visioning, and project prioritization.

Community Affairs – Adam reported the ACCD mid-year reports are due January 15th. Awards for Bylaw Modernization Grants (BMG) have not been announced yet, but are expected this week.

Natural Resources – Regina reported for Charlie. CWSP guidance is still in the works. A second meeting with Neil Kamman is being organized; the date is to be determined.

Ed mentioned that 604b is waiting for the DEC business office.

Emergency Management – There is not much to report. Bonnie indicated that follow up is needed to get more consistent responses for the Act 166 inventory (e.g. Public Safety Plans are broader than LEMPs).

Transportation – Chris mentioned that Charlie sent around yesterday Michele's testimony that she is giving today. If there are delays, talk to your planning coordinator, not VTrans contract admin staff.

Energy – Jim discussed reporting energy activities for the ACCD mid-year report. There was a question about the ability to carry energy funding over into the next fiscal year. Some thought the answer is no. Comments on the CEP are being considered at this time. Jim discussed the draft changes to Act 174 standards. There was general agreement with Jim's sentiments. LEAP model version 2 is still under development.

Government Affairs – Tom discussed the committee's priorities for this session, including housing, Act 250/permitting, brownfields, climate change, public meeting law and money. Tom will be testifying on brownfields in 2 weeks. He will need detail from other RPCs on the new brownfields program roll out. Peter said there is \$400K to fund viable projects that did not get funded through MPG or BMG. There is an ongoing effort to secure \$2 million for 2 years for energy audits. There was consensus for the ability to use these funds on general energy. The Committee is working on \$1.2 million for a staff person at each RPC to implement of the Climate Action Plan. Peter's suggestion for that effort is to beef up local and regional plans. An extension to 2023 for the Open Meeting Law bill looks to be moving forward; enabling fully remote meetings has been tabled.

Health – Ed explained that he and Tasha are still working on the contract with Suzanne. There will be about \$20K for each RPC and additional funds to administer pilot grants to towns. He hopes to finalize the contract next week and get subgrants out soon thereafter. The subgrants will be backdated to

January 1. At this point, deliverables will be training and toolkit. Any additional ideas in the next few days are appreciated. There was also discussion of funding for backbone organizational services through VDH districts.

Climate Action Plan – Chris and Catherine noted there is a lot of work in the CAP for the RPCs to do, but we will need funding to make it happen.

Adjournment – motion by Chris, seconded by Dave at 11:26 a.m.

DRAFT

Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies

MINUTES

February 2, 2022

Via zoom

Present: Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Charlie Baker, Chris Company, Jason Rasmussen, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Dave Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Ed Bove

VT ACCD: Jacob Hemmerick

VTrans: Amy Bell, Costa Papis

VCGI: John Adams

VDH: Suzanne Kelley

Vermont Arts Council: Karen Mittelman

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tasha Wallace at 9:32 AM.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Approve January minutes and financials: Motion by Catherine Dimitruk; Second by Jason Rasmussen. Passed unanimously.

General Reports:

Transportation Bill: Costa Papis and Amy Bell from VTrans were present to discuss federal transportation programs. Costa presented a brief summary of the bill. His presentation is attached [here](#).

Big takeaways - Lots of big new funding programs. 20 new programs. Many new programs emphasize local and regional government. **Costa will send announcements of all of the guidance to directors and transportation planners.** Costa especially emphasized off-system (Town) (long >20 ft.) bridge grants. Regional and local entities should take advantage of the competitive grants. There is also a specific culvert grant for which local govt, rpcs and VTrans should consider joint applications.

Lastly, Costa noted that a lot of non-transportation activities will impact VTrans with a lot of other work in the ROWs. He recommended RPCs plan to address all the demands for infrastructure in the ROWS.

Creative Sector Recovery Bill: Karen Mittelman of the Vermont Arts Council noted that the creative sector was very hard hit by the pandemic and incurred \$136M of collective losses. Omicron has only exacerbated that. She stated the sector needs help and that representatives of the creative sector have introduced a bill in the legislature requesting \$17.5M of funds helping them to rebuild for the future. The Creative sector lost a lot of membership and sponsorship base. Examples include theaters that have not had a production for a year or two or bands that have not been able to perform. Covid related equipment is also expensive. The funding requested covers supporting 300 creative based

businesses. It includes operating support, equipment for safe spaces, marketing and maintaining the network. A link to Karen's Presentation is here (Tasha, please attach it.).

Committee and Associate Reports:

Planning and Economic Development: Adam reported that mid-year reports were due at the end of January. He assumes all is going well.

Better Places Grant - Jacob Hemerick announced that the Better Places Grant is out. It has tremendous interest. There will be a Webinar on February 10th on the program and how to apply.

Municipal planning grants - Jacob also noted that there may be additional funding for municipal planning grants. If they get more money, they will relook at the top scoring previous applications.

Bylaw modernization grants- So far the program is going well. The legislature is looking at adding \$600k next year.

Electric vehicle charging station for multifamily housing - Jacob urged the RPCs to work with affordable housing developer's in their respective regions to apply. The application deadline is in April.

Jacob concurs that mid-term reports are going well.

Legislative issues: Jacob switched to discuss legislative issues:

Senator Sirotkin is creating a housing bill. It will be large and will look to create additional accessory dwelling units.

H511 is still stuck on the wall.

Lot's of Act 250 bills in the legislature. Nothing is moving.

Jacob noted that the legislature is looking at intermunicipal agreements to share assessors and noted it appears to be a problem in all regions.

Catherine asked about the VPIC website and creating and maintaining the resource library.
Adam will work with Jacob and DHCD to see if we can find funding for its upkeep and maintenance.

Natural Resources: Charlie noted he is largely engaging on CWSP issues.

Ed noted he received a 604B contract yesterday, so **will send out sub-contracts shortly.**

Jen Mojo spoke for ANR.

Expansion of the Current Use Program: She noted ANR was helping to craft legislation to allow the Current Use Program to support “wildlands”. She noted ANR supports some expansion of the program, but can’t financially allow everything.

Environmental Justice. ANR is the Administration lead agency on this issue. They are working on the details with other groups and will have more information later. Charlie asked if there is a role for RPCs.

Jen noted that she does not know of any large- scale forestry regulations currently before the legislature.

Agriculture: Ari Rockland Miller noted that the cost schedule supporting Section 9B of Act 250 has been revised for FY2022 and the specialty crop growing grants from the Agency of Agriculture are open.

Emergency Management: Catherine noted that a lot of RPCs were having problems with VEM making payments. **She will follow-up with a global check-in to VEM about payments. She will also set up a committee meeting with the new VEM Director of Planning.**

Transportation: Chris stated that he would like RPCs to hold public engagement meetings on the transportation portions of the Climate Action Plan. **The group will support this activity, but others need to organize the programs.**

Amy stated that RPCs will somehow need to be involved with their municipalities regarding use of the ROWs.

Amy also noted:

TPI is 30 years old.

VTrans is fully staffed.

TPI guidance for 2023 is starting internally at VTrans. She has seen a lot of new demand. She will bring a proposal in the April meeting. VTrans is moving to restructure different topics in TPI, like Planning and Data vs. Long Range Planning and Short Range Planning.

Catherine noted that it may be difficult for their planner to attend all of the meetings scheduled for every other Friday concerning the prioritization process.

Catherine also noted that the Grants in Aid program going forward will be directly related to performance this year. **Catherine will speak with individual RPC transportation planners about any specific concerns.**

FY 2021 Audit reports and indirect rate calculations for next year are due at VTrans.

Energy: Jim noted all the energy planners got together last week and had a good discussion. Legislatively, Jim noted that the bill for clean energy for municipal buildings is currently structured as

\$10M administered by BGS. and \$35M for direct investment in municipal buildings with general oversight by Efficiency Vermont and project management by RPCs.

Jim also stated that the legislature is investing a lot of attention on clean heat standards this year, specifically focusing on thermal efficiency.

Health: Suzanne Kelley stated the Department of Health's (VDH) interest in creating a toolkit on health and planning. LRPC will lead the policy work. RRPC will lead on the funding. VDH envisions a \$40,000 sub-grant for healthy community design and equity and community projects for each RPC.

VCGI: John Adams noted that VCGI is looking to get back to its regular work and working less on Covid. It will look to do its new digital imagery this spring. It is updating a lot of datasets now. It is also doing monthly training. RPCs are invited.

Census has delayed the release of a lot of their detailed files. John is not sure when they will be available. VCGI will be doing some training on the "Census data" and how the privacy filters work. **He would also entertain training on other programs. Please ask if you have training suggestions.**

Government Affairs:

S19 - Tom Kennedy noted this is a bill about RPC's providing assistance to local hospitals. Charlie will reach out to the Senator to define the financial package and scope of work involved in that bill.

Brownfields: Tom is looking for at least another \$1,000,000 in municipal assessment for RPCs. **Tom requested that if RPCs are using their current funds, please let him know for legislative testimony. Tom encouraged RPCs to use their funds. He warned all RPCs that if you do not use them, you may lose them to other RPCs that are using them.**

Funding: RPCs are lobbying for significant increases in the MURPH funding formula to full funding. It has allocated funds to specific issues and will pursue them individually if we cannot get a MURPH fund increase. VAPDA will be sending a letter to all funding committees.

[here](#)The Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Lougee

Added per T Wallis

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you and the VAPDA group last week. I appreciate your interest in our proposed bill.

Here is a link to the slide deck about the Vermont Creative Future Act, our proposed recovery package for the creative sector:

VAPDA Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2022
Meeting via Zoom (video)

RPC Attendees: Bonnie Waninger (CVRPC), Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Adam Lougee and Mike Winslow (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Regina Mahony (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Jim Sullivan (BCRC), Tom Kennedy and Jason Rasmussen (MARC), Ed Bove (RRPC), and Dave Snedeker (NVDA).

Guests: Kevin Chu (VT Futures Project), Katherine Otto and Amy Bell (VAOT), Sarah Waring and Misty Sinsigalli (USDA Rural Development)

Meeting began with roll call at approximately 9:30 a.m. Tasha Wallis chaired the meeting.

- Approval of February 3, 2022 minutes & treasurer's report. CD motion to approve, BW second. Minutes approved.
- Kevin Chu from the VT Futures Project (VFP) introduced himself and re-introduced the VT Futures Project to VAPDA. The VFP can assist RPCs with research and data needs. <https://vtfuturesproject.org/> VFP is differs from the UVM Office of Engagement's data assistance efforts.
- Chris Company updated VAPDA on a "Green Justice Zones" presentation scheduled for March 23rd at 6pm. He requested that VAPDA members share the meeting opportunity with members.
- Katherine Otto and Amy Bell (VAOT) introduced VAPDA to the "Transportation Equity Framework" which will be ongoing through February 2023. RSG is the consultant working with VAOT and Charlie Baker and Mike Winslow are RPC representatives on the working group. RPC work in the framework will be beginning in May 2022 (*tasks 3, 6, and 7*). Katherine posed a few questions to VAPDA, and responses and questions can be submitted to aotequity@gmail.com More information can be found at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/equity>
- Sarah Waring and Misty Sinsigalli of USDA Rural Development introduced to VAPDA members. Sarah is the new VT/NH State Director for USDA, and Misty is the Area Director for USDA. They discussed the current focus areas for RD: Recovery, Climate Resilience, Local & Regional Food Systems, and Community Capacity building through technical assistance. The new FSA Director is John Roberts.
- VAPDA Committee Reports:
- Government Relations (TK) – Acknowledged legislative confusion about multiple RPC requests for funding. Funding RPCs through the current funding formula would work best. Senate ED Committee was requested to provide more brownfield funding (\$2M). RPCs need to spend funds quickly. CC will be testifying on S.96 bill regarding state planning office.
- DHCA Committee (AL) – Adam discussed meeting with DHCA on workplan tasks, establishing a methodology for standardizing future land use areas, and possibly adding an environmental justice task to our contracts. Regional Plan update schedules need to be considered before implementing new land use methodology. If VAPDA is seeking funding to maintain VPIC, DHCA would like to see a work plan and budget. John from WRC, Alison from NVDA, and Regina from CCRPC were volunteered to look into this.

- Natural Resources (RM, EB, AL) – Regina noted upcoming guidance for CWSPs. Ed noted that 604b agreements would be coming next week. Adam gave an update on watershed project development grants.
- Emergency Management (CD) – Catherine asked for VAPDA representatives to the CERC. Andrew from ACRPC and Alex from LCPC were volunteered. Stephanie from RRPC was volunteered for the project review committee.
- Transportation (CC) – Chris discussed RPC testimony in support of VAOT budget. There will be TPI guidance modifications. Catherine will be testifying on GIA.
- Energy (JS) – Energy implementation funding for year 2 is not in budget. RPCs should provide status of year 1 energy funding so that a request can be made to rollover unspent funds into next FY.
- Health Committee (EB) – RRPC and LCPC worked together on securing Health Equity grant funding. Melanie from LCPC will be leading for RPCs. \$40K per RPC and contracts expected in late March.
- VT Climate Council (CC, CD) – Municipal Toolkit for resilience will be developed (collecting existing tools). Municipal Vulnerability Index will be developed with consultant assistance. April/May expected timeframe.

Next meeting: April 7, 2022 – via video conference

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by D. Snedeker

**VAPDA Directors and Associates
Meeting Minutes**

April 7, 2022

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86358426510?pwd=UGNTalQrYzRaVEluZnJlVXZld292QT09>

Attendance: Chris Campany, Ed Bove, Dave Snedeker, Jason Rasmussen, Adam Lougee, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Elani Churchill, Bethany Remers, Seth Jensen, Jared Ulmer, Amy Bell, Jacob Hemmerick, Amanda Holland and Ari Rockland miller

Welcome/Agenda – Campany called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

VAPDA Financials and March Minutes – Motion by Lougee to approve as presented. Second by Bove. Approved by voice vote.

Downtown and Historic Preservation Conference Sponsorship: Motion by Bove to sponsor at \$500 level. Second by Campany. Approved by voice vote.

Jared Ulmer (VDH): Has reached out to RPCs about hot weather planning. VDH is managing CDC climate and health grant. New round of funding was introduced in 2021 for local hot weather preparedness strategy.

Cooling Center project will launch an online map of community cooling facilities. Could be places such as libraries with A/C. Project will identify overnight facilities and have varying GIS data layers and template plans. RPCs could be used for data collection, mapping and preparation of plans.

Grants to RPC to develop local hot weather emergency plans for a couple of communities, adopt heat specific strategies during heat warnings by NWS, and identify high risk communities and individuals. Response strategies to long term adaption such as urban forestry, energy efficient homes and weatherization projects are possible on bigger scale.

This funding to be spent by October. Could be future funding past September if successful. Contact Jared if your RPC is interested.

VEM day of learning on May 26. There will be presentation on home weatherization for heat-related impacts.

Seth asked about water supply during events where residents lose water during drought - State revolving loan system will not fund well replacement. Should be interagency communication on the subject.

Heat pumps for existing community facilities not eligible. Could do building assessment for potential cooling center buildings. Could fund assessments of equipment upgrades as well.

Nominating Committee for FY23 VAPDA Officers and Committees: Will be Jim and Charlie.

Retreat Planning: September can be hard with School. Bonnie will coordinate venue in Central Vermont.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS – VAPDA and DHCD Workplan talks continue. Committee to meet soon. Equity deliverable could be added to contract – maybe included as part of VAPDA Annual report. MPG round 2 funding was announced – all regions received an additional town receiving funding. DHCD working on FY23 MPG Program Guide. Through RPC work with communities on bylaw modernization projects, let DHCD know if there are any towns interested in NDA. Probably another round of BMG funding through S226.

Discussion on potential RPC future land use map deliverable in Workplan. Not all directors in favor of. Maybe ok with a methodology for how things could look more consistent across regions. Directors noted that these maps are driven by their Boards and would need Board approval.

RPC Meet-Up on May 13 in Waitsfield. Will be discussions on demonstration projects. Potential future topics include Cannabis regs. Maybe VLCT will do something on this front.

Better Places Healthy Design grant discussed. Downtown Board increasing grace period for municipalities with expiring designations from 90 to 180 days. DHCD encouraging municipalities to use RPCs to create their designation maps as they are seeing more municipally created maps that stink.

June 8 Downtown and Historic conference in Saint J. NDA project checklist reboot on hold. New DHCD housing staff coming on board and will do ADU support.

TRANSPORTATION – Amy Bell discussed upcoming changes to TPI Guidance. Modest increase in funding but looking at the funding formula to calculate the number of municipalities similar to how DHCD makes calculations for RPC Workplan.

Further discussion on FY23 TPI Workplan Guidance and deleted/new tasks (no more short range and long range categories). Reorganization chart was presented with existing and proposed framework. Workplans due August 5th. This is the 30-year anniversary of the TPI program!

Back to in person quarterly TPI meetings in April - no hybrid because technology is not there. VTrans staff excited to be able to do deeper dives into particular topics, which is hard to do virtually....like trainings. In person meetings will be in large facilities to address health concerns.

Jason added to Transportation committee. Ed will update VAPDA Website.

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Middlebury, VT 05753

NATURAL RESOURCES - CWSP funding discussed – specifically funding formula allocation under Appendix A. Min 650k for all CWSP at expense at Missisquoi Basin (reduced by 850K) Should add that amount back to total. WQ project development money back on the table again. Would be same application process as before.

Urban and Community Forestry Council to get \$1 million. RPCs could work with municipalities on topics related to forestry and climate. Proposed Act 250 legislation related to forestry discussed.

VTrans/ANR coordination around TPI and REI discussed. Not cool that RPC staff time and energy in TPI being used to cover DEC work.

VAPDA not interested in NOFO for Scenic Byways.

AGRICULTURE - No big updates. AAFM provided testimony on Criterion 9b. Discussion on NRCS farmland rating of soil. Towns feel the definition is too broad and this is a tax. There are no changes proposed in the rating system between Prime and Statewide soils.

EMERGENCY MANAGMENT – Rich Cogliano is the new Lee Dorf. EM Committee meeting April 28.

ENERGY - OK to roll over FY22 energy funding in DHCD workplan. Energy planner meeting was held and provided project updates per region. In Legislature, BGS gave overview of funding for municipal buildings for fuel switching, but not clear on RPC role. Requirements could cause more money spent on a reduced number of buildings and there won't be money left over for fuel switching programs after up front planning for weatherization work. Bill in Senate now.

CEP – LEAP data being developed and regionalized. Proposing a slightly modified process with more regional data, may need some RPC support for this. Need new data for new energy plans, however, still no real thermal or transportation level data at the sub-state level. Emphasis on demand forecasting through 2050 and less focus on instate generation like last time. Not sure how will play out in new 174 standards.

Lougee noted a new VHFA program for weatherization to get investment in home weatherization. Potential RPC role in getting word out.

HEALTH – VDH Healthy Communities work commencing. First meeting on April 15. Contract end date June 2023. Hot weather project discussed – some RPCs are participating. VAPDA Health Committee needs new Chair.

CLIMATE – Vulnerability index discussed and Transportation task group GHG reduction target. Discouraging the lack of land use development pattern discussion on subject of GHG reduction.

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Tom is working with Senate Appropriations on RPC money. Bylaw modernization is topic of conversation. H518 fuel switching and brownfields money in flux. Some discussion on Environmental Justice bill and S96 State Planning Office testimony.

Adjournment – 11:53 PM

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

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MINUTES

May 5, 2022

Meeting Held via ZOOM

Present: Bonnie Waninger, Ed Bove, Dave Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Charlie Baker, Jim Sullivan, Adam Lougee, Jason Rasmussen, Peter Gregory, Tasha Wallis

Guests: Al Wakefield and Bob Harnish for the Vermont Inclusion discussion

1. Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Baker to approve the April Minutes and the May Treasurer's Report. Second by Dimitruk. Passed unanimously.

2. Regional Planning Commission Funding – Discussion

Gregory reported on increased budget levels for RPCs, including the increase in the base ACCD grant and reviewed the proposal/compromise developed by Baker regarding how the increase and bylaw modernization funds are/are not juxtaposed under various scenarios. Gregory has been and continues to work with legislators and ACCD staff to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that the allocations are rational. Overall, base RPC funding for next FY expected to increase by about \$1.49 million. Discussion ensued as to the amounts and relationships between the RPC and Municipal Planning Grant appropriations (and how both relate to bylaw modernization). Noted that implications for FY 2024 are not clear; will have to stay on it to be sure that the base increase carries forward.

3. Vermont Inclusion Initiative/Week

Al Wakefield and Bob Harnish were present to provide an update on the Declaration of Inclusion and their goal of having Vermont known as a state that embraces inclusivity – a welcoming state of welcoming communities. Suggested that people be referred to the program's website:

<https://vtdeclarationofinclusion.org> .

Forty-four towns have adopted a declaration. Inclusion Week is next week with activities happening around the state; VSECU, VT Arts Council, and others sponsoring events. Al, Bob, and

others are continuing to support adoption by additional towns, businesses, and organizations. They encouraged more RPCs to adopt the Declaration.

4. VAPDA Retreat Planning

Bonnie reported on progress; looking at locations in/near Chittenden County (Sleepy Hollow?). Noted paramount importance of access to quality craft beers.

5. Committee Reports

- Planning and Economic Development – Adam. Sent out draft ACCD work plan with changes noted. New items:
 - Land use planning initiative. VAPDA study committee to look at regional land use mapping and report on possible ways to make land use designations, including regional land use maps, more consistent among RPCs. Discussed possibility of initially focusing on an examination of existing plans and maps to identify issues and develop an understanding of differences and whether/how it would be useful to create greater uniformity statewide. VAPDA okayed Adam agreeing with some modified language around process, timeline, and constitution of the study committee.
 - Designated Area Assessment task – will there be an assessment and how RPCs should participate.
 - Noted that the Pandemic Response/Plan Implementation task should be continued as the funding runs for up to three years.
 - VPIC – it would be a good idea to identify needed updates and sources of funding. Discussed for the 29th time whether information should be housed at separate VPIC site or at VAPDA site, with previous arguments rehashed and no decision made for the 29th time.
 - Equity and Environmental Justice task/activities discussed – noted examples of what can be included and the relevance of the health and transportation equity initiatives all RPCs are working on.
- Natural Resources – Charlie.
 - Noted upcoming CWSP (not Quake) meeting.
 - Continuing to work on issues with watershed groups, conservation districts, and DEC.
 - Discussed efforts to study/integrate ARPA and Infrastructure funding into DEC water and wastewater grant/loan programs.
 - 604b paperwork done – thanks to RRPC.
 - Discussed cost-effectiveness of various clean water projects, including potential agricultural initiatives and what can/can't be done on/with farms (where effectiveness of CW investments tend to be greatest).

- Emergency Management – Catherine.
 - VAPDA EM committee meeting with new VEM Director of Planning.
 - Discussion of possible new local hazard mitigation plan/module – not FEMA approved, necessarily – that would be simpler and could still come with an ERAF benefit.
 - Hot weather planning program – get proposals in!

- Transportation. TPI Guidance is coming out; VAPDA comments submitted and considered. Noted regional bike-ped work element and additional \$400K funding!

- Energy – Jim.
 - H.518 (Municipal Building Energy Resilience) moving forward with RPC funding for local project management and coordination. Some concern that the program, as envisioned by BGS, is moving toward an emphasis on large buildings and projects, potentially at the expense of simpler projects involving smaller buildings in rural towns. Also, issue with program beginning with BGS putting out an RFP for \$5 million in municipal energy assessments and how that is likely to delay much of the RPC work, resulting in timeline challenges. All agreed it would be beneficial to have a separate approach for small rural towns (e.g., simple energy assessments of town halls, basic air-sealing work, and addition of alternative heating system like heat pumps – quick and effective, while also widespread throughout the state). Sullivan will work with Wallis to attempt to get VAPDA at the table as the program guidelines are developed.
 - Presented information from recent work with PSD on:
 - LEAP data for regional and local plans (will be looking for some basic RPC data to allow full regionalization of the data in June-July with projected data release in August);
 - Electricity Generation modeling (new spreadsheet system allowing disaggregation of data to regional and even local levels, choice of targets based on varying assumptions re amount of total electricity supply from imports, and inclusion of regional/subregional grid and transmission constraints as a check on viability of targets by location...will be looking for some basic data from RPCs in July);
 - Mapping renewable energy resources (most constraint layers the same, but with some new qualifiers around forest blocks and need to make decisions about whether/how to re-do renewable energy potential base layers, especially given availability of new LIDAR data for solar – Sullivan to recruit some RPC staff for a discussion with PSD and VCGI);
 - Revised Act 174 Guidelines proposal expected in June.

- Health – Ed.
 - Health Equity project moving along; planners have started meeting and collaborating.

- Climate – Catharine.
 - Equity and Resilience toolkits being developed.
 - Voiced only tepid enthusiasm about prospects for reappointment to the Climate Council.
- Government Affairs – Tom Kennedy.
 - Act 250 reform bill headed to veto.
 - Brownfields - lots of EPA assessment money if state funding doesn't develop as hoped, but noted benefits of state program.
 - Expect several vetoes of major legislation, likely including the budget, and an override session.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Sullivan

Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies

MINUTES

June 2, 2022

Via zoom

Present: Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Charlie Baker, Chris Company, Jason Rasmussen, Bonnie Waninger, Dave Snedeker, Ed Bove, Seth Jenson, Catherine Byars

Guests and Associates: Chris Cochran, Jacob Hemmerick, Amy Bell, Jen Mojo, Rebecca Pfeiffer, Rob Evans, Brian Sewell, Erik Filkorn, Tyler Deshong

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tasha Wallis at 9:32 AM.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report: Approve May minutes and financials: Motion by Adam Lougee; Second by Charlie Baker. Passed unanimously.

FEMA Floodplain Map Updates – Rebecca Pfeiffer, State Floodplain Manager: Rebecca reported that FEMA will finally complete an update of all of the floodplain maps in Vermont. They hope to do the work between this summer and spring 2023. They expect to release drafts of lake Champlain direct this summer, Otter Creek, Fall 22 and Winooski spring of 23.

FEMA rules require all town bylaws to comply with requirements at the time the new maps go into effect. If they do not comply, the town will lose their eligibility to get flood insurance.

ANR would like to help with public outreach to towns. RPCs should also review all town bylaws to make sure they comply by the time FEMA adopts the new maps.

ANR will share a database it has documenting where it believes whether each town's zoning complies with the FEMA Requirements

FEMA funding is not available for this work. VAPDA Emergency Management Committee should work with VEM/EMPG to cover this work.

H.518 – Brian Sewell, VT Building & Grounds BGS presented its plans to work with the RPCs to implement 518. Everything is very preliminary at this point. BGS stated they would like to work with “energy burdened” communities as those communities were identified in a 2019 study. The study identified 94 communities. **(The Energy Committee needs to secure the study and identify communities).**

\$45M for weatherization. \$2.4M for RPCs via a formula to be released after July 1st (Energy Committee should comment on Formula). Energy Committee should also vet the application forms for towns to make sure they are good. BGS would like feedback from the Energy Committee on documents BEFORE they send them out.

Tasha, Chris Cochran and Brian shall meet on the scope of the RPC work.

Nominating Committee for FY23 Officers and Committees

Tausha as outgoing chair announced that the nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers:

Catherine Dimitruk, Chair
Bonnie Waniger, Vice Chair
Charlie Baker Treasurer

Chris Campany moved to elect the slate of officers as proposed by the nominating committee. Ed Bove seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The group also discussed committee chairs. Charlie Baker volunteered to head the legislative committee, Chris Campany volunteered to take over Emergency Management, Tasha Wallis volunteered to take over the Natural Resources Committee Chair and Jason Rasmusen volunteered to chair the Transportation Committee.

Approval of FY23 Budget

Chris Campany moved the budget. Dave Snedeker seconded the motion to pass the FY 23 VAPDA budget. The budget passed with unanimous support.

VPA Sponsorship Request

Chris Campany moved to give VPA \$200 in sponsorship for their request. Ed Bove second the motion, which passed unanimously.

Committee and Associate Reports:

Community Affairs – Chris Chocran and Adam Lougee noted that the VAPDA contract was complete and in good shape for next year.

Chris noted that he had sent out an update on this year’s legislative session this morning. DHCD wants to focus its efforts on fixing gaps in grant programs. It has funding to work with one or two towns.

It will also study how the State designation programs should change to encompass whole town centers.

RPCs asked to be involved in that effort.

The legislature put \$5M into creating ADUs.

MPG Program may release a little late because of technical needs. Chris asked RPCs to work with towns on MPGs to fill gaps in consultant availability.

DHCD is hiring.

Natural Resources – Charlie Baker and Jen Mojo

Jen noted Municipal day at ANR is Oct 1st. The CWSP process is on-going. 604B grants out shortly.

Emergency Management – Rich Cogliano is the new Planning Lead. **We should have a EMPG workplan by June and it should include funding for the floodplain work discussed earlier.**

New Trainings are available on WebEOC.

Transportation – Chris Campany noted he would organize a meeting between leadership at VTrans and ANR on how to fund road erosion inventories. He will work on a letter with VLCT asking how the work will be funded.

Amy Bell announced that Grants in Aid funding will be available next round, BUT only if a town requests RPC assistance. TPI funding cannot be used to support GIA work.

Joe Segale is retiring, but will be available to help in transition.

RPC TPI budgets will increase 5%, plus the additional bike ped funding for planning. Dave Pelletier will send out a survey on the scope of that planning shortly.

VTrans will spend \$82M on bridge replacement this year in 34 municipalities. THAT will free space for a lot of new projects.

Energy – Cat Byars reported that enhanced energy plans will require new maps this year. Jim is working with DPS to decide on the scope of that change.

Jim, Chris Tasha and Catherine will serve as the energy committee for the purpose of working with BGS to create a scope of work for H. 518 municipal building weatherization

Health – Ed Bove

No report.

Climate – Chris Company Resiliency needs to be elevated up to the level of greenhouse gas reduction in the climate solutions bill.

Government Affairs – Tom Kennedy Tom noted we did well in the funding committees this year. He noted that the turnover in legislators next session will be unprecedented and will require more RPC work and introductions. Chris Cochran asked that VAPDA agree to work with DHCD on presentations to Commerce, Natural Resources, Appropriations.

Tom also asked whether Department of Economic Development funds will go to RPCs for Brownfields. **Ed will reach out to DED copying Charlie Chris and Tom.**

The Meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Lougee