



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA AGENDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES

July 7, 2022 *Via Video Conferencing*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86103533800>

Meeting ID: 861 0353 3800

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- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:30 a.m. | Welcome, Agenda Changes |
| 9:32 a.m. | Approval of June 5, 2022 Minutes & Treasurer's Report |
| 9:35 a.m. | FEMA Floodplain Updates – Rebecca Pfeiffer, State Floodplain Mg (invited) |
| 9:50 a.m. | Committee and Associate Reports
Community Affairs – Adam Lougee
Natural Resources – Charlie Baker
Emergency Management – Catherine Dimitruk
Transportation – Chris Company
Energy- Jim Sullivan
Health – Ed Bove
Climate – Catherine Dimitruk and Chris Company
Government Affairs – Tom Kennedy |
| 11:00 a.m. | Break |
| 11:10 a.m. | Reconvene Directors Only
Retreat Planning
Legislative Implementation including H. 518
Other items |
| 12:00 noon | Adjourn |

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

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VAPDA Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022
Meeting via Zoom (video)

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

Guests: Amy Bell (VAOT), Chris Cochran (DHCD), Suzanne Kelly (VDOH), John Adams (VCGI) and Ari Rockland-Miller (Ag).

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

- Approval of September 2022 minutes. CB motion to approve, DN second. Minutes approved. Approval of September treasurer's report. BC motion of approve., TW second. Treasurer's Report approved. Rosamund Wallis was added as a second signer to the VAPDA account.
- VAPDA Committee Reports:
- Health (Suzanne Kelly and TW) – Health Equity project update. Megan Rodier is now point person for LCPC. DOH funding is going to each of VT's regional health districts. Health department grants for non-profits are available through the VT Community Foundation.
- DHCD Committee (Chris Cochran) – Bylaw Modernization Grant applications due in November. MPG funding will be addressed through technical correction in money bill. Legislature housing bill will focus on development review. There will be parcel/land value study. AARP will be doing a Complete Streets assessment on VT. Leg to make remote meetings permanent. Neighborhood Development Area program changes are coming. November 16 statewide housing conference in Burlington. NOFA was released for electric charging stations (\$140K available). DHCD planning for Fall RPC meet-up.
- Natural Resources (CB and TW) – CWSP Grant Agreements coming. Up-front funds available. FEMA flood mapping with RPC funding for bylaw assistance. 604B October 31 deadline. LWCF funding – outreach needed for this.
- Emergency Management (CD) – LEOC grant applications due late-October. EMPG grant agreements received. Cybersecurity grant opportunity available.
- Transportation (Amy Bell and CC) – TPI agreements coming. Get final invoices in ASAP. Amy presented RPC adoption dates for procurement procedures – some RPCs may consider updates. VPSP2 short list released – provide comments. Better Connections round in early 2023. MRGP comments need to be provided by VAPDA.
- Agriculture (Ari Rockland-Miller) – Working Lands business grant applications due in late-October. Farm 2 School grants due November 3rd. Farm 2 Plate conference in November in Killington.
- VCGI (John Adams) – Act 174 – LIDAR Resource Constraints. New statewide LIDAR project in 1 year. UVM developing high-resolution land cover data in 2022-3 and also flood plain data that does not replace FIRMs. VCGI developing 3-yr strategic plan.
- Energy – ANR is in retreat from the Climate Council. There may be an opportunity for RPC funding to implement Climate Action Plan goals.

Future Land Use Project Update – Chris Cochran and CC met to discuss intent. Goal is to establish a methodology for RPCs to use in their planning and mapping. CD suggested that the

state designation programs should flow from the land use maps. Also suggested was the desire to have state agency support of regional planning in the regulatory process(es). Discussion will be continued at the November meeting.

Joan Goldstein, DED Commissioner: VCRRGP and Brownfields – Commissioner discussed the VT Community Recovery & Revitalization Grant Program. Priority sectors are: housing, impacted industries, childcare, qualified census tracts, and municipal infrastructure. ACCD will be scheduling more outreach on this. Commissioner discussed that technical corrections are needed by the legislature to subgrant more than \$50K/\$200K for assessments/cleanups. Legal review doesn't allow more funds to pass to RPCs. Requests for funds can be passed along to Kristie Farnum and VT DEC.

Next meeting: November 3, 2022 – via video conference

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by D. Snedeker



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

VAPDA AGENDA DIRECTORS

November 3, 2022 *Via Video Conferencing*

Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk, Charlie Baker, Alison Low, Bill Colvin, Tasha Wallis, Christian Meyer, Chris Company, Adam Lougee, Devon Neary, Terri Sabens, Neale Lunderville.

1. Welcome, Agenda Changes – Catherine opened the meeting at 9:32.
2. a. Approval of October 2022 Minutes & Treasurer's Report – Chris moved, Tasha seconded approval of both. All in favor. Motion passed.
b. Election of Vice-Chair – Tasha moved, Chris seconded. All in favor Motion passed.
3. Assessor Position discussion- Guest Terri Sabens. Tasha introduced the topic. Several towns in Lamoille are interested. Most positions in Vermont towns are part-time. There have been discussions in multiple counties (Lamoille, Rutland, Grand Isle, Addison, others) where there is interest. Terri volunteering to help get new staff up to speed with tools. State offers district advisors. There also free classes for training. Terri willing to participate in zoom meetings if desired.
4. VT Gas, New Initiatives- Neale Lunderville, President and CEO. Neale gave an overview of VGS. Started offer some renewable natural gas. Developed a Climate Plan for BGS in 2019. Aiming for 40% reduction in GHG by 2030 and net zero by 2050. Focus areas – energy efficiency, in-home innovation for home decarbonization, alternative supply. EAN – weatherization at scale coalition. Wants to meet GWSA goals not just in their current territory, but statewide. Needs some state legislation – clean heat standard or something similar while considering impact on low-income customers. RPCs actively involved in addressing climate change – think of VGS all across the state – Jay Peak and Rutland are current areas they are working. Energy code change resource. Adding RPC voice to clean heat standard discussion – keep flexible don't pick a winner. Geothermal for municipalities? Especially for greenfield housing development. Redevelopment projects are iffier and need to be evaluated case-by-case. VGS willing to be a partner, even if its just to think through a possible project.
5. Committee Reports
Community Affairs – Dave Snedeker. No news to report.
Natural Resources – Tasha Wallis. Meeting with Neil regarding legislation opening up funding for RPCs in PE and Construction phases of wastewater projects. GR team met with Commissioner. Project Development RFP coordinating with WUV and NRCD will be reissued in the next few weeks. \$200k available. FEMA floodplain mapping – Tasha got feedback from

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everyone; quite a bit of concern about the potential of requiring DEC model bylaw – DEC issuing email soon. Bring issues to Tasha and Seth to address with DEC. FY23 grant will end in May.

Emergency Management – Chris Company. CC met with Erica and Rich. Will have committee meeting early in 2023. Erica would like to meet with all of us, perhaps in person in December.

Transportation – Jason Rasmussen. We submitted MRGP letter. TPI agreements are delayed. Working on the transportation policy paper – 1-pager of legislative change priorities.

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 Dimitruk and Chris Company. No updates.

Government Affairs – Charlie Baker. Charlie reviewed the outline emailed separately.

6. Future Land Use Project Update- Charlie reviewed the outline emailed separately and updated based upon comments.
7. Health Equity Grant – Tasha reviewed the status. There was a request of directors to monitor the work of our staff on this project.
8. Catherine mentioned that NRPC is adopting a code of conduct. She will share her draft. Tasha mentioned the AICP Code of Ethics as a guide. Chris has a
9. Next Meeting – December 1. In person in Montpelier. All day.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlie Baker



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.

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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



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

VAPDA AGENDA DIRECTORS

January 5, 2023 *Via Video Conferencing*

Attendees: Charlie Baker, Bill Colvin, Tasha Wallis, Christian Meyer, Chris Company, Adam Lougee, Devon Neary, David Snedeker, Peter Gregory, Jason Rasmussen, Rebecca Ramos, Lucy Rodgers, Marian Wolz.

1. Welcome, Agenda Changes – David opened the meeting at 8:48.
2. Approval of December 1 2022 Minutes & Treasurer's Report – Charlie moved and Devon seconded approval of both. All in favor. Motion passed.
3. Committee reports
 - a. Community Affairs – The VAPDA letter concerning ACCD retainage letter has been distributed and comments have been shared. Any other ideas to help meet RPC and state concerns are welcome. Directors shared residual questions regarding non-performance and how RPC can work together to support and address these issues.

VAPDA representatives discussed the ACCD mid-year reporting requirement that pertain to VAPDA reporting requirements. David, Jason, Charlie, Adam, and Peter volunteered to serve as the Regional Plan and Future Land Use Map committee.
 - b. Natural resources – Tasha has been discussing with ANR accessing funding for design and construction for water and sewer projects and how this can be promoted with towns.

Representatives further discussed how basin planning money can be better used and expanded and how clean water programs can be supported when outside of a CWSP.

Adam noted that they received a number of responses for their project development program and that another round should be expected

Towns will have access to urban and community forestry funding to plant trees. Currently there are \$1.5 million available with significant funding expected from federal sources. This seems to indicate a trend toward the need for regional planners to help towns take advantage natural resource programs.

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Devon reported 604b has been closed out for last year. In future years they will try to clarify payment provisions.

- c. Emergency Management – Members discussed local response during the recent storm
- d. Transportation – Jason reported that the transportation policy language has been drafted with Devon and he will send it out to the full group for feedback.

Devon asked the group about local experience with municipal project management work. Discussion ensued.

- e. Energy and Climate – Peter reminded everyone to invoice BGS for the initial \$120,000 for the energy resiliency program.
 - f. Health – Tasha reported that the health equity tool kit work is reaching completion. Work is underway for the project approval process
 - g. The ESRI budget will be adjusted. Peter moved to adopt the revised budget, Chris seconded, motion carried.
 - h. Energy and Climate – Adam was identified as the new director. Motion made by Charlie and seconded Peter.
4. Government Affairs – Rebecca Ramos joined to brief the group on several key issues in the coming legislative session including Committee Jurisdictions and the Budget Adjustment Act

Charlie has a presentation on RPCs for committees. He will start requesting to be added to committee agendas.

H.5 has been introduced by Representative Bongartz. VAPDA strongly supports the act and the increased institutional support. This bill will improve regional plans, and RPCs have demonstrated they can do this work well and consistently.

5. Marian Wolz, Climate Action Office, ANR, joined the meeting to share information on the municipal resilience tool kit. The tool kit is a requirement of the Global Warming Solutions Act and a recommendation from the Climate Council. It is meant to assist municipalities adapt and become more resilient, mitigate GHG emissions, advance carbon sequestration. The tool kit is being developed under the Just Transitions Subcommittee. When it is rolled out it will be accessible to municipalities via Climatechage.vt.gov. This site can become a clearing house for new tools, programs, or data sets.

Marian is looking for a longer deep dive session with RPC planners to improve local input.

Chris hoped clustered development would be called out along with tools to promote hazard

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mitigation through protecting flood plains to avoid flooding and promote aquafer recharge.

David asked if there is something to help communities measure progress, and if not that this could be pursued.

6. Lucy Rodgers from Vermont Community Broadband joined the meeting to discuss the Digital Equity Project. VCBB is in charge of coordinating the build out of the fiber optic network process. Fiber is coming to every connected e-911 address and VCBB wants to make sure everyone can benefit from it. They are working on the implementation plan to focus on disadvantaged groups. The process aims to get greater engagement from excluded groups and traditionally overlooked groups.

Work is being funded through a grant from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. They have one year to develop of the plan and five years to implement. CVBB is working with the communication utility districts identify capacity.

Tasha will serve as the RPC representative at future VCBB meetings.

7. Next Meeting – February 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Christian Meyer



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES

February 2, 2023

Calvin Coolidge Room

National Life

Present: Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Charlie Baker, Chris Campany, Jason Rasmussen, Peter Gregory, Catherine Dimitruk, Bill Colvin, Devon Neary, Christian Meyers

Guests and Associates: Jacob Hemmerick, Amy Bell, Jens Hilke, Mathew Anrancio, John Adams, Elise Schindler, Eric Forand

Meeting called to order by the Chair, Catherine Dimitruk, at 9:32 AM.

Minutes: Chris Campany moved to approve the January minutes. Charlie Baker seconded the motion, all approved.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Baker moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Second by Tasha Wallis. Passed unanimously.

Sponsorship Request

Charlie Baker moved to give \$500 in sponsorship to the Working Lands Initiative. Peter Gregory second the motion, which passed unanimously.

America the Beautiful Natural Resources Planning: Jens Hilke of the Agency of Natural Resources presented a plan to apply for an America the Beautiful program on behalf of the State of Vermont. The funding would be used to house a natural resources planner at each RPC over the period of three years. After some discussion, **Chris Company moved that VAPDA approve Jens Hilke's proposal to seek an America the Beautiful grant to house a natural resources planner in each RPC. Peter Gregory seconded the motion, all approved.**

Urban and Community forestry: Elise Schindler noted that her program had recently received a significant amount of money that will allow it to launch more grants and support more urban forestry programs and planning. She chose to speak to VAPDA because she is interested in using a portion of the funding to support regional planning for urban and community forests through the RPCs. The funding, \$7,000,000 over five years, would be used to support disadvantaged communities first, then other communities. The focus on disadvantaged communities will make the grant eligible for full match waiver. The grant will have 3 focuses: Tree planting, Planning for urban trees and educational outreach to educational institutions around forestry. Elise invited VAPDA to participate with \$600,000 for regional planning over a 3-5 year period. **Catherine will supply a letter of support** (model from CCRPC).

Committee and Associate Reports:

Emergency Management: Eric Forand noted that EMPG grants are going out soon. They are planning a large exercise at the beginning of March, but not involving RPCs.

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Chris Campany noted that the spring flood seminar went well.

Catherine asked about how the Regional Emergency Committees are progressing. Eric responded that the meetings have been going well. VEM is working on changing the quorum requirements in the legislation so the committees can work together. VAPDA offered to help support that work in the legislature. **Eric will send Chris the bill in which the EM language is located.**

Lauren Oates, Director of Policy at the Nature Conservancy: Lauren is advocating for H.29 a bill to expand the river corridor and make it a state issue, rather than a local issue. A significant discussion ensued. Most directors were supportive of river corridor protection, but also expressed concern that the maps that will be used for regulatory effect need to be tied to the substantive life/safety measures that the corridors are intended to protect. RPC's also want to understand the impacts on existing settlement and on complementary uses, like bike paths, sewer easements and other necessary infrastructure.

Transportation: Amy Bell and Mathew Arancio came to discuss the indirect rate certification that the VTrans Audit section does for the RPCS. The current MOU is expired, but it also has a continuing resolution that allows it to move forward. It is a good time to renew the MOU now. VAPDA discussed the MOU with VTrans. VAPDA appreciates having an indirect rate set by one agency for all programs. The parties discussed creating a new 3 year MOU that will work with the same structure of the existing MOU. We discussed making sure the voluntary adjustments remain available so RPCs and VTrans can work together to adjust individual indirect rates to avoid swings in the rate that could negatively impact operations. **Jason and the Transportation Committee will work with Mathew and VTrans staff to redraft the MOU.** Charlie also wanted to make sure that extensions are available upon request when necessary.

Amy Bell noted that the Senate Transportation Committee asked about RPC's budgets. She also noted that every year Senator Kitchell asks about participation in the TPI and the reporting that RPCs do provides good information for reporting to the legislature.

Agriculture: Ari Rockland Miller spoke about the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Catherine asked about the cannabis grower's request to be treated as agriculture. **Ari did not have an answer, but will get back to VAPDA with the answer.**

Chris asked whether the Agency collected data regarding farmland conversion and suggested that the Agency should collect that data. **Ari noted that they could track it through Act 250, but did not have general information. He will send the report to Chris Campany to share with VAPDA.**

Community Affairs: John Adams from VCGI gave an update on imagery collection and lidar information. Both are moving forward and will be available soon.

John also noted that he would like RPC's continued support on uploading zoning data to the VCGI website.

Jacob Hemerick noted Chris Cochran is working on the omnibus housing bill today.

H.5 Regional Land use mapping is in House Energy and Natural Resources and should get taken up shortly.

The RFP to review the State designation program will go out shortly.

The missing middle housing manual should go under contract shortly.

Municipal planning grants should be out shortly, waiting on the budget adjustment act.

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Bylaw modernization grants are out. Jacob will do some outreach on neighborhood development areas.

The governor's budget appropriated \$500,000 for bylaw modernization. Peter asked if the program would be expanded to work for MPGs. Jacob noted that yes, it should be for both bylaw modernization and for other municipal planning.

Grants Downtown are due, Better Connections grants are due next month.

The Downtown Board approved Middlebury's Neighborhood development Area and Hardwick's downtown designation.

Natural Resources: Jen Mojo will send an email update from ANR.

Tasha reported that ANR will allow towns to contract directly with RPCs to provide assistance for the design phase of creating ww systems. The will also allow towns to hire RPCs for planning and outreach services under the Clean Water revolving loan fund.

ANR would also like to make \$7M of ARPA funding available for small drinking water systems. RPCs could serve as the leads on the project.

Energy: Adam reported that BGS is now working directly with our planners on the Municipal Energy program. Several directors requested that we work to involve all energy planners in coordination, especially in the outreach messaging to towns. Adam volunteered that he would speak with Brian to make sure RPCs have the ability to substantively comment on the messaging going out.

Health: Suzanne Kelley was unable to join, but will send updates via email.

Climate:

Government Affairs: VAPDA discussed different legislative issues.

The Meeting adjourned at 2:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Lougee



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

Dave Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

Secretary/Treasurer

VAPDA MINUTES DIRECTORS
March 2, 2023 Via Video Conferencing

Attendees: Bill Colvin, Christian Meyer, Charlie Baker, Tasha Wallis, Jason Rasmussen, David Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Devon Neary; Chris Campany

Guests: Doug Farnham, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration

1. Meeting called to order by the Chair, Catherine Dimitruk, at 9:31 AM.
2. Doug Farnham, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration, joined to discuss the **BAA Municipal Capacity and Community Need Index**. The top quartile of VT communities in the index will be pre-qualified for assistance accessing federal funding through the ARPA. RPCs will be appropriated funding to help provide this assistance directly or through subcontracts. The grant agreements are expected in the early spring and initial outreach will take place in early summer.
3. Minutes: **Charlie B. moved to accept the February VAPDA Board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Christian M. The motion carried.**
4. Committee reports
 - a. Community Affairs – David S. discussed ongoing initiatives, including the zoning atlas, the housing bill, and the development of the work program with ACCD.
 - b. Natural resources – Tasha W. updated the group on details on municipalities contracting with regions to provide technical assistance for managing waste water and small drinking water system using SRF money. Additional written confirmation expected.

Chris C. updated the board the Urban Community Forestry project and its continued to advancement.
 - c. Emergency Management – Little to report on.
 - d. Transportation – Little to report on.
 - e. Energy and Climate – The Board shared questions on several issues in the committee chair's absence.
5. Financial report – **Charlie B. moved to accept the July-February financial report. Jason R. seconded the motion. The motion Carried.**
6. Government Affairs – Board members discussed a number of issues relating to ongoing

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legislation.

7. Zoning Atlas – The Atlas will look to identify exclusionary single-family zoning. The project is being led by a handful of UVM graduate students. They may be reaching out to RPCs for support gathering data.
8. RPC Future Land Use Project – Working group members are in discussions on how the data should be pooled and normalized to represent the 11 methodologies previously employed by the regions.
9. Next Meeting – April 6.

Respectfully submitted,
Christian Meyer



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 Campany, 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

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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 EECBG. 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



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

David Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2023

Via zoom

Attendees: Catherine Dimitruk, Peter Gregory, Charlie Baker, Devon Neary, Sue Westa, David Snedeker, Jason Rasmussen, Bill Colvin, Adam Lougee, Seth Jensen, Christian Meyer

Guests: Sydney Steinle, Doug Farnham, Sean Brown

Commencement:

Catherine D. Called the meeting to order at 9:30AM

Approval of Minutes

Peter G. moved to accept the April meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Bill C. No discussion. The motion carried.

Appointment of a VAPDA Representative to the Consolidated Plan Committee

This representative will help the State develop the consolidated plan for CDBG spending. Charlie B. moved to appoint Bill C. as the VAPDA representative to the Consolidated Plan Committee. Jason R. seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion carried.

Municipal Technical Assistance Program

Doug Farnham, Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Administration, joined the meeting to discuss the current status of the Municipal Technical Assistance Program.

Currently there is a landing page for the program online but it is minimal. The program will rely heavily on RPC relationships for communications. The purpose of the program is to deploy ARPA programs to those communities most in need of capacity. Currently projects are mostly concentrated in cities. RPCs are best suited to expand programs to rural communities. The only exception to this has been the deployment of broadband programs which are well utilized in rural areas. This program is meant to make a difference for water, sewer and housing programs.

The programs is set to support towns from concept to implementation. However, as RPCs work

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

with towns they should pay attention that projects fit in the statutory construct of the programs and that there are existing funding buckets for their projects.

Towns that are not in the first quartile of prequalified municipalities will need to fill out a form to be considered for this technical assistance program.

The goal is to get projects on the board that otherwise would not get completed.

There will be other funding programs coming down through the IIJA and the IRA, if RPCs can prepare a town to pivot to one of these programs that is beneficial. There is more money in the IIJA for water infrastructure than ARPA.

This program can support fire assistance facilities or other public entities so long as the project has a town sponsor.

Dave S. asked at what point the assistance is complete? Once they are connected with a state resource? Deputy Secretary Farnham responded that it depends on their needs. They may need additional support through grant writing and project administration. Additionally, consultants can be hired through the RPCs or directly by the municipality using the MRAP money.

There will be reporting due for June 15 2023 and January 1 2024.

The effective date for this program was March 20th 2023; therefore RPCs can start billing against the future allocations, which may be roughly \$20K per town supported.

This program may continue to the end of FY26.

This program will help towns get ready for a project, but no guarantee of eventual funding.

Regions should communicate if they are willing to offer assistance across regional lines.

Community Affairs

Dave S. reported out on a May 1 meeting with ACCD to discuss the forthcoming agreement, which will largely remain unchanged.

Natural Resources

Seth J. reported on the status of the FEMA bylaw updates program. Varied spending across RPCs. Christian M. asked about how other regions are approaching this.

Devon N. stated the 604 B contracts will be going out 5/5. Contracts should be returned by 5/15.

Emergency Management

No updates

Energy

Adam L. discussed MERP status. The team of energy planners has been doing a really good job coordinating the program across regions. They are currently considering an ADA and historic preservation training. Regions are working with their county side-judges to assign the EECBG.

Transportation

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

Jason R. has been looking through and commenting on the TPI workplan. It is largely unchanged.

Michelle Boomhower reached out to ask if VAPDA will be applying for the Safe Streets for All Program. Several regions are considering regional safety actions plans. There is a July 10 deadline. Several regions are interested in applying as a consortium for safety actions plan.

Legislative Committee

There is a funding increase in the budget for ACCD. Thank for RPC governing boards for their support.

The group discussed other policies that may impact our towns and regions.

Future land use mapping.

There is some concern among regions about specific land uses being included. Submit comments before June meeting.

Future meetings

The July meeting is being moved from July 6 to **July 13**.

The annual retreat is scheduled for September 14-15.

Treasurer's Report

Peter G. moved to accept the April financial report. The motion was seconded by Charlie B. No discussion. The motion carried.

What's New - RPC Round table

TRORC – Is hosting a home expo on ADUs at tech center.

ACRPC – The Green Mountain Forest Service is asking ACRPC for support developing a master plan.

NRDC – Is planning to host a shared zoning administrator.

RRPC – Is finalizing the selection of a housing needs assessment consultant and has received MPG funding to conduct an asset mapping project to create an interactive web mapping tool.

BCRC – Has a number of health equity projects under way and is currently studying the health impacts of new housing development. On 5/23 come join in the Southern VT Economic Summit.

MARC – Is having trouble getting candidates for a shared service position.

LCPC – Jeffersonville is getting congressional funding for water system with a need-based cost share waiver. EPA has better criteria for these waivers.

CVRPC – Has had positive experiences participating in a local energy fair and the Bond Bank Capital Improvement Plan forum.

WRC – Is working on its regional plan.

CCRPC – Is finalizing RAISE grant contracting.

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NRPC – Is purchasing a truck to help with food gleaning and distribution.

Meeting adjourned 12:00PM

Respectfully submitted by Christian Meyer

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Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

David Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

VAPDA DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2023

National Life Building, Montpelier, Coolidge Conference Room

Attendees: Peter Gregory, Charlie Baker, Devon Neary, David Snedeker, Jason Rasmussen, Bill Colvin, Adam Lougee, Christian Meyer, Tasha Wallis, Chris Company, Bethany Remmer.

Guests: Amanda Holland, Allison Storellicastro, Danielle Jepsom, Marian Wolz, Amy Bell, John Adams, Ari Rockland-Miller, Jennifer Mojo, Taylor Newton, Darren Schibler

*Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a presentation was made by **Commissioner Goldstein**, Department of Economic Development, and **Nate Formalarie**, Director of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, on the Statewide Economic Strategy. VAPDA members were joined by the directors of the state's Economic Development Corporations.*

Commencement:

David S. Called the meeting to order at 10:00AM

Approval of Minutes

Devon N. moved to accept the May meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Bill C. No discussion. The motion carried.

Municipal Vulnerability Index

Marian Wolz gave an update on the development of the Municipal Vulnerability Index. The index is a statutory requirement of the Global Warming Solutions Act and will identify populations vulnerable to climate change. The mapping tool will interface with the State Environmental Justice tool that will be developed in coming years.

VANR Sustainable Infrastructure Assistance Strategies

Allison Storellicastro and Danielle Jepsom introduced the Sustainable Infrastructure Assistance Program, which will provide funding and technical assistance and construction to municipalities and individuals to address any lead piping in the water system or residences. Regions can help with outreach and communications.

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Community Affairs

A smaller working group has identified four initial planning manuals from the VPIC resources list for updating. They include: The zoning administrator's handbook, Development Review Templates, Essentials of Local Land Use Planning and Regulation, and Rules of Procedure and Ethics Manual. VAPDA will take the lead on undertaking these revisions.

Natural Resources

RFP for the small drinking water systems will be forthcoming.

Jennifer Mojo gave an update on the State prioritizing ARPA funded projects for permitting to ensure obligation and spending dates will be made. The updates to S.100 pertaining to net-metering is scheduled for June 12. Planning for Municipal Day is underway.

John Adams Shared that the state LIDAR flyover is complete, and the zoning data standards will be updated per the requirements of S.100.

Ari Rockland-Miller announced the Agronomics program is open for identifying best practices, and open farm week is planned for August 8-13. If any of your towns suffered crop losses due to frost, please make sure these are being reported to the state.

Transportation

The VTRANS Planning Unit continues to undergo reconfiguration as new staff are integrated. Work on developing the Transportation Equity Framework is wrapping up. The TPI agreement and guidance for FFY24 has been issued.

Jason R. updated VAPDA that no interest has been expressed for a statewide Safety for All application. He continued that there is a general feeling that with construction cost inflation, the bike and pedestrian funding has been insufficient. Interest was also expressed in a shared training for municipal project management.

Emergency Management

Chris C. raised the topic of Climate Ready America, where RPCs could play the role of a local navigator. He will have more details in the future. Chris also asked if members hear of any towns being asked to open shelters for the unhoused as a consequence of the winding down of the hotel program, to please share the information with him.

Climate and Energy

Adam L. is continuing to work with BGS on the inclusion of design and engineering in MERP applications.

Finance Report

Charlie B. discussed the proposed budget for 2024. The budget calls for an increase to dues to \$6,000. The dues would ensure VAPDA can maintain the same areas of work in the face of increased costs. Peter G. Moved to approve the proposed budget. Adam L. seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Government Affairs – S.100 and Future Land Use

The directors discussed and coordinated ongoing work towards developing a coherent future land use map and possible benefits of this exercise for our regions and municipalities.

Respectfully submitted by Christian Meyer