



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 aquifer 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