



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC

Chair

David Snedeker, NVDA

Vice-Chair

Charlie Baker, CCRPC

DRAFT VAPDA Minutes

July 11, 2024

Conway School of Design, Collaboration Opportunities

Faculty member and program outreach coordinator CJ Lammers reviewed program. 18 students graduate annually with MS in Ecological Design. Emphasis is on project-based learning. Community projects winter and spring – 3 month process; 2 community engagement sessions; work products are community-driven. CJ's email is Lammers@csl.edu.

H. 687/Act 181 Implementation

Discussion of RPC Responsibilities and Update on Act 250/NRB Activities. Will discuss in detail at August VAPDA meeting. NRB establishing standards for what's in and out of new Act 250 exemptions, including mapping. Directors are encouraged to have staff review maps for accuracy once released. Likely next week. RPC evaluation underway. Land Use Categories Study due end of December. Develop methodology among all RPCs. Can build upon discussions we've already had, mapping templates. CCRPC will coordinate. Should involve planners, directors, and GIS staff. Keep this simple: 1 page per land-use area. Relates to criteria LURB will use to review our plans.

Associate and Committee Reports

Transportation: Amy Bell, storm damage still being assessed but not as severe or extensive as 2023; TPI work program out and being developed by staff; agency of administration is interested in how VTrans works with RPCs (contracts, indirect rates, etc.); Bulletin 5.0 changes in effect-may be some trickle-down impacts but still being assessed. Jason will give update on meeting about Road Erosion Inventories. Chris noted that he'll be working with VTrans on local road closure protocol.

Natural Resources: DEC business office update; 604B is coming from Devon; Chris noted success of Northeast North America Landscape Connectivity Summit; first meeting of River Corridor Infill Pilot Mapping Process working group on July 30th.

Community Development/ACCD: Chris, Jacob, Jenni: Act 181 items; "Downtown Board" is no more – "Community Investment Board" is new name. Treasurer has joined. Adam Grinold is RDC rep. Coordination getting underway among parties. Agencies have some corrections they'd like to have made, asking VAPDA if we have any. Schedule meet up for fall, help provide foundation for town/region outreach. Devon will take lead. What is most meaningful structure to take place of priority housing project. New CIB will be looking at how to untangle various state programs to better meet community needs. NDAs – individual communities and regions need to decide what works best for them. Designation renewals no longer needed. Company updated on wastewater mapping project. Designations – investment area; Tiers – Act 250 criteria – same thing. Climate

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

Resilience – Governor and Treasurer identifying state programs that have some connection to climate resilience. Going to try to do gap analysis. It's only within State agencies right now (i.e. not VHC and other similar entities). Designation 2050 – ANR put in additional funding to hire someone how to improve resilience of existing centers; report being reviewed. Bond Bank bringing UPenn studios to Central VT October 14 through 18th. Homes for All – staffperson leaving for Harvard. Outside funder has interest in continuing effort. Will be new leads (ACCD will support). Some money set aside for communities interested in NDA designation (\$5K / community; \$100K available). First come, first served. Additional Act 181 allocation included in FY25 contract info. Loaded into quarterly payments. FY24 carry forward language will be included in new grants. Housing navigator funding has to be spent by end of FY25. MPGs – announcement is going to be delayed because GEARS is going to be upgraded and migrated. Late winter/spring deadline. Tasha – draft VPI training manual templates coming soon for revisions.

Emergency Management: EMPG applications due in August. HMGP application assistance proposals due to Stephanie now. Some indication of challenges communicating with SEOC. Chris advised going directly to VEM and other staff if necessary. Chris will arrange meeting with Public Safety senior staff about evolution of long-term relationship. Chris will draft white paper suggesting long-term recovery legislative initiative. Chris Cochran noted that business recovery should be included.

Agriculture: Ari described Act 181 related to ag – 9B ag soils change – allowing off-site mitigation fee of 1-1 ratio. Changes to Accessory On Farm Businesses; does not apply to construction/improvements for farm events and farm stays (still act 250 trigger).

Health: Email Tasha what you'd like to work on.

Energy: Still awaiting MERP application guidance. Advice – work with most vulnerable towns on implementation of assessments as those are the towns that are most likely to get funding. Climate Resiliency Contracts – needs response from everyone on whether or not regional energy plan has been updated and whether or not municipal energy data has been analyzed/distributed. Chris – Building Energy Code Committee – needs to know if VAPDA has position on residential building code adoption.

General Discussion items: All set for retreat lodging.

RPC Evaluation: Discussion of Next Steps for RPC Evaluation with NADO – Get peer evaluations to Jason. Contract signed with NADO. Reviewed points of contact for the NADO review team within state government, legislature. Devon setting up guest accounts on SharePoint site.

Adjourned at approximately 12 noon.