



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.

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

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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 5.100 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