



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

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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

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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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www.vapda.org ~ tel. (802) 524-5958 ~ 75 Fairfield Street ~ St. Albans, VT 05478