

VAPDA Meeting Minutes (via Zoom) – January 6, 2022

Present: Tasha Wallis, Chair; Chris Company, Ed Bove, Catherine Dimitruk, Peter Gregory, Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen (minute taker), Dave Snedeker, Jim Sullivan, Bonnie Waninger, Adam Lougee, Michael Gaughan

December minutes and treasurer's report approved by unanimous vote on motion by Jim, seconded by Bonnie.

Vermont Bond Bank Capital Planning Initiative – Michael Gaughan discussed the first capital planning contest, planned for February 1st. The Vermont Bond Bank wants to develop a library of good capital plan examples, appropriate for Vermont communities. An announcement went out recently to towns and through VLCT. RPCs can help to get towns to respond. In April, the Bond Bank will have a capital planning forum to discuss financing/funding, long-term visioning, and project prioritization.

Community Affairs – Adam reported the ACCD mid-year reports are due January 15th. Awards for Bylaw Modernization Grants (BMG) have not been announced yet, but are expected this week.

Natural Resources – Regina reported for Charlie. CWSP guidance is still in the works. A second meeting with Neil Kamman is being organized; the date is to be determined.

Ed mentioned that 604b is waiting for the DEC business office.

Emergency Management – There is not much to report. Bonnie indicated that follow up is needed to get more consistent responses for the Act 166 inventory (e.g. Public Safety Plans are broader than LEMPs).

Transportation – Chris mentioned that Charlie sent around yesterday Michele's testimony that she is giving today. If there are delays, talk to your planning coordinator, not VTrans contract admin staff.

Energy – Jim discussed reporting energy activities for the ACCD mid-year report. There was a question about the ability to carry energy funding over into the next fiscal year. Some thought the answer is no. Comments on the CEP are being considered at this time. Jim discussed the draft changes to Act 174 standards. There was general agreement with Jim's sentiments. LEAP model version 2 is still under development.

Government Affairs – Tom discussed the committee's priorities for this session, including housing, Act 250/permitting, brownfields, climate change, public meeting law and money. Tom will be testifying on brownfields in 2 weeks. He will need detail from other RPCs on the new brownfields program roll out. Peter said there is \$400K to fund viable projects that did not get funded through MPG or BMG. There is an ongoing effort to secure \$2 million for 2 years for energy audits. There was consensus for the ability to use these funds on general energy. The Committee is working on \$1.2 million for a staff person at each RPC to implement of the Climate Action Plan. Peter's suggestion for that effort is to beef up local and regional plans. An extension to 2023 for the Open Meeting Law bill looks to be moving forward; enabling fully remote meetings has been tabled.

Health – Ed explained that he and Tasha are still working on the contract with Suzanne. There will be about \$20K for each RPC and additional funds to administer pilot grants to towns. He hopes to finalize the contract next week and get subgrants out soon thereafter. The subgrants will be backdated to

January 1. At this point, deliverables will be training and toolkit. Any additional ideas in the next few days are appreciated. There was also discussion of funding for backbone organizational services through VDH districts.

Climate Action Plan – Chris and Catherine noted there is a lot of work in the CAP for the RPCs to do, but we will need funding to make it happen.

Adjournment – motion by Chris, seconded by Dave at 11:26 a.m.

DRAFT