

VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, March 5, 2026, 8:30 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Members Present: Catherine Dimitruk (NRPC), Adam Lougee (ACRPC), Tasha Wallis (LCPC), Charlie Baker (CCRPC), Chris Company (WRC), Bill Colvin (BCRC), Jason Rasmussen and Allison Hopkins (MARC), Devon Neary (RRPC), Christian Meyer (CVRPC), Peter Gregory (TRORC), and Dave Snedeker (NVDA)

Other: VTrans Staff – Jeremy, Erin, Ken Valentine, Matt Arancio, and Dave Pelletier

Call to Order

Approval of Feb. 5th Minutes – Peter motioned, Adam seconded. No discussion. Minutes approved.

Approval of Feb. Treasurer’s Report – Catherine motioned, Peter seconded. No discussion. Treasurer’s Report approved.

Future Agenda Items – April meeting will be in person at ACRPC. Items to discuss include Budgeting, Government Relations, Town Plan contracts, VERTA, and VAPDA Retreat.

Committee Reports:

Energy & Climate –

- MERP is moving along. Adam will attend next meeting.
- CPRG – contract amendments coming in a couple of weeks. 25-35 hours for each pilot communities. EJ – municipal plan climate guide. There was discussion about the climate guide produced by the climate office – maybe it didn’t reflect our input.

Planning & Economic Development -

- Invoices are due 4/1. Catherine will email DHCD to update the overall budget before we invoice.
- There is a group working on the Essentials Training. Should be a draft coming soon.
- Another group is planning the Spring Meet Up.
- Christian discussed Community Investment Board process.

- VERTA – proposal in the Statehouse for \$500,000 through VCRD. We’ll need to discuss how to address this with Rebecca next week. Could this be shifted towards emergency management funding for us.

Transportation -

- VTrans problems with municipal grant programs. Sub to VAPDA?
- ACRPC and CVRPC use TAC to prioritize planning activities.
- Transportation Alternatives – 20 of 22 are moving forward. Christian sits on this committee.
- Multimodal Design Guide is still moving forward. Just took comments on draft.
- TPI testimony experience. House Committee is interested in hearing our views on proposals from VTrans.

Emergency Management -

- Towns with transportation flood damage are unsure if the state will provide funding.
- EMPG – they have a signed application which is on pause with the partial shutdown.
- Do we want to make an ask to backfill the lack of EMPG with State funds? Check with Rebecca.
- How are RPCs dealing with the lack of EMPG funding? RPCs are using DHCD funds, DEC floodplain funding, TRORC is splitting cost of town AHMPs with towns paying \$3500-\$4000.
- Chris is going to work on a follow-up meeting with Stephanie and then Eric to see if they would support some level of state funding.

Natural Resources -

- A few of us met with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for relationship building. Unclear if any progress will result.
- Suggestion to go to the Institutions Committee.

Act 181 Discussion -

- Most recent LURB RPC pre-app meetings have gone well.
- <https://windhamregional.org/wp-content/uploads/Act-181-FAQ.pdf>
- <https://windhamregional.org/wp-content/uploads/Housing-What-Can-Towns-and-WRC-Really-Do.pdf>

Transportation -

- Jeremy, Erin, Ken, Dave, and Matthew joined from VTrans. Jeremy described re-organization to create a more direct conduit between planning and construction. AOT 10-year plan presented. Presentation will be sent to Devon.
- Budget overview and highlights –
 - Interstate bridges - \$55M/yr
 - Roadway - \$40M/yr
 - Paving - \$100M/yr – conditions will decline

- No new VPSP2 projects.
- Discussion of grants and municipal funding pathways. VTrans has 10-12 grant programs. Suggestion to streamline grants, consider formula grants, reduce complexity, and reduce payback provisions.
- Discussion about capital planning's relation to resiliency and damage recovery. <https://www.vtbondbank.org/mcrf>
- VAPDA Transportation Committee should start working on recommendations for grant program consolidation, etc.

Government Relations -

- Budget
- Act 181 – S.325
- Housing Bill – S.328
- Transportation bill
- County and Regional Governance – H.762
COG Study at UVM

UVM – COGs -

Met with UVM students (Zane, Gretchen, Annie, Hannah, Alex) from the MPA program doing research around COGs. Discussion of what functions COGs would take on. Survey coming

Next meeting: The April VAPDA meeting will be at ACRPC.

Respectfully submitted by: Dave Snedeker (NVDA)