

VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, April 2, 2026, 8:30 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Members Present: Charlie, Christian, Jason, Devon, Adam, Peter, Bill, Chris, Dave, Tasha, Catherine

Call to Order

Approval of March Minutes – Peter moved, seconded by Chris; approved

Approval of Treasurer’s Report – Chris moved, Tasha seconded; approved

Card Room – Friday, April 10th – Director Sign-ups – 2-hour shifts

Salary and benefits – FY26 data is available. Self-funded health insurance is not working for a couple of the RPCs – major claims have blown up the coverage. Thanks to Tasha and Christian for compiling.

Committee Reports

Emergency Management

- a. BRIC info was sent out by Chris – emphasis on projects that are ready to go.
- b. No news on EMPG – fed shutdown
- c. Hazard Mitigation meetings with each RPC have been happening. There was a comment about a LHMP getting different reviews from staff (unclear whether this was state or federal staff)
- d. What is RPC role in messaging to communities re: lack of BRIC, EMPG funding? EM Committee to meet to discuss
- e. EM Committee to start to work on recommendations for next legislative session – how should these efforts be restructured to be effective given the federal and state changes.

Energy

- a. CPRG – Catherine will be communicating to each of us soon. Pilot projects – just getting started. Questions about the usefulness of the climate guide. We should encourage staff to be honest with the state staff about how useful this is.
- b. Hearing concerns from BGS on project changes. Important to make sure that staff are in meetings with BGS. Next meeting of all the planners with BGS is end of April. Important to make sure updates are clear.

- c. Concerns over BGS Reallocation of funds; EM planners in room at AoA, BGS meeting on 5/15; Adam will attend Planners, BGS meeting in April. Ask planners to have updated status list of projects

Planning & Economic Development

- a. Quarterly reports due. Contract amendments are coming for retainage.
- b. CD trying to get a meeting to discuss FY27 scope.
- c. FLU map data standards – updated data standard coming out soon.
- d. Budget adjustment was done in a way that impacted smaller RPCs more – not using the formula. Will be a subject of the next meeting of the committee with DHCD.
- e. VERTA – still continuing in some manner. \$250,000 in VERTA funding is in House budget. Opportunity to adjust how this funding might be used?
- f. Communications Plan – to focus on technical assistance. Mine data from the VERTA report. 2-pager to be developed. Chris to pull a few bullet points from the VERTA data. Devon, Jason, Christian to assist. Also suggested documenting the number/% of LEMPs currently happening vs the previous 100%.
- g. Peter pulling together the partners in May – trying to coordinate efforts. Perhaps capital planning, financing. Tasha working with someone who is using AI to create capital plans. Bill to talk to Pieciak. Chris, Catherine, CB to go to capital planning session next week and discuss funding for us to do capital program process pilots or training.

Transportation

- a. Municipal asset management – VTrans has hired GPI to help develop a training program.
- b. VTrans to work with us – payback of cancelled projects, municipal grant programs, muni speed limit.
- c. Western Corridor Study – implementing recommendations from Western Corridor and 22A studies.
- d. Vermont Multimodal Roadway Guidance – finishing review. How to get local motion involved.
- e. Walk/Bike summit – May 8 in Bennington
- f. TPI funding discussion of flexibility. Asking for amendments earlier. Guidance should be coming this spring.

Natural Resources

- a. State Conservation Plan Act 59 – public meetings have been focused on Tier 3 and Road Rule. Comments are due on 4/10. Catherine to share comments.
- b. Tasha to work on meetings with Misty.

LURB – comments due tomorrow to Catherine

- a. Make clear that interim exemptions continue past regional plan approvals

Government Relations

- a. S.325 –
- b. 181 FAQ – get a VAPDA version done by tomorrow.
- c. Transportation
- d. Budget

Other Business

Statutory planning requirements

- a. Focus on municipal planning requirements – focus on zoning and capital investment and programming; more people focus?
- b. Get better connected to implementation
- c. Role of state agencies?
- d. Partners – VPA, LURB, VLCT
- e. Also include regional plan requirements

AI

- a. Charlie shared CCRPC draft policy
- b. Rutland RPC is using game cameras with AI analysis to do bike ped counts
- c. Could it be used for moving counts
- d. Share AI prompt for meeting minutes
- e. Share record retention policy

Meeting schedule

- a. Retreat – Chris looking at Grafton in September 2 & 3
- b. May – virtual
- c. June – CVRPC – Michael Gaughan. Anne Watson

Mailing list

- a. Emma – share system for tracking selectboard members, town committees, RPC committees

COG

- a. Review H.762
- b. Gov't Relations Committee to serve as the staff to the study committee – draft legislation by the end of the year

Respectfully submitted by rotating committee members

