



**CHAIR:** DEVON NEARY, RRPC  
**VICE-CHAIR:** BILL COLVIN, BCRC  
**TREASURER:** CHARLIE BAKER, CCRPC

## **VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING**

### **THURSDAY, May 7, 2026, 8:30 AM**

#### **MEETING DETAILS**

**Members Present:** Devon Neary (Chair), Bill Colvin (Vice Chair), Catherine Dimitruk, David Snedeker, Charlie Baker (Secretary/Treasurer), Chris Company, Jason Rasmussen, Adam Lougee, Tasha Wallis, Christian Meyer

**Guests:** Matthew Arancio, Stephanie Smith, Denise Smith

#### **Call to Order**

Devon welcomed everyone to the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

No adjustments to the agenda were made.

#### **Minutes**

Catherine Dimitruk moved to accept the April Meeting Minutes and May Treasurer's Report. Bill Colvin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### **Sponsorships**

There was one sponsorship request for VAPDA: Vt Housing Coalition asked for \$250 s sponsorship for their conference. Peter Gregory moved to support a \$250 sponsorship, Jason Rasmussen 2nd the motion, all approved.

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

Devon to get speakers (Michael Gaughn, Mike Pieciak, other) for Annual meeting.

Catherine, Bill and Devon will meet with Bonnie at VLCT concerning the CHIP program.

COG discussion in July and September at retreat with Linda, the ED of Franklin MA COG.

Peter will assist Devon with Retreat Planning.

Devon thanked Chris for setting up the retreat at the Grafton Inn. Chris has blocked rooms. If you are planning to bring a guest, it will be \$45 extra.

## **Emergency Management**

Stephanie Smith noted that the Federal DHS budget passed. She has sent an email out explaining the additional information VEM will need to update our existing budget requests. It will involve a list of officers and directors. Stephanie said we could use town offices as addresses. All RPCs must return the information by Wednesday, May 13th.

Local Liaison agreements expire at the end of June. Stephanie is creating a new MOA, since the current one expires at the end of June and will circulate it shortly.

## **Transportation**

Matthew Arancio noted TPI guidance is under review. VTrans will send it out to the Transportation Committee and then to Transportation planners. Tasks will go down. VTrans wants RPCs to add regional project list.

Mid-year reviews are currently underway and going well now.

VTrans has shared a summary of its federal transportation outreach strategy. VTrans has asked for comments from stakeholders and spoken with each region's TAC. RPCs Can submit comments until June 15th.

Mathew stated he received lots of questions about VPSP2. He explained that even though it is not moving forward, there are still important planning efforts that TACs need to perform to support State transportation Planning.

Dave Pelletier will be asking for TAC time in June to get feedback on the Transportation Planning Model VTrans is developing.

Multi Modal Roadway Guidance – The first draft of the document is completed and currently under review. Draft 2 will be released at the end of May. Wins include local design and planning on state roadways within small villages and downtowns without class 1 ownership.

Catherine will send Mathew a specific design request for alternatives to A-76, that are more right-sized to village development.

The Transportation Committee has a meeting with Jeremy Reed, Chief Engineer for the Agency, to work on 4 summer studies on June 2nd.

## **Natural Resources**

Tasha reported positively that the world has changed. She believes Misty is making things happen for WW permitting at DEC. They are starting a permit revision process. Tasha would like the NR Committee to get together in June with Misty at DEC.

## **Community Development/ACCD**

Devon welcomed Denise Smith, the new Executive Director of VCRD. Denise started September of 2024. She introduced herself and provided the following updates:

1. It is the 30th anniversary of the Community visit program. VCRD has visited over 100 towns. They are currently in Brandon.
2. The Village Trust Initiative Application is out. They are forming their 3rd cohort to help towns under 2,500 to preserve historic buildings by creating a community trust.
3. They are launching a Climate Resiliency Program looking to identify communities to work with on resilience.
4. Community Leadership Program Summit- Save the date, October 6th at Castleton VT. Redoing leadership guide – reprint of guide will be the focus of the summit.
5. Board retreat in Bennington
6. Legislative Standpoint – VERTA report, asked for funding for additional technical assistance \$250,000 in house, out in Senate, looking to get back in.
7. S325 – VCRD/LURB ACD and Land Access Opportunity Board to create public engagement process for Act 181, would like RPC help. Plan to engage public by next session.

Catherine noted that we are having an education forum tomorrow with other rural education providers. We may like to restart the Vermont Education and Training Collaborative.

Catherine also noted that the committee met with DHCD yesterday to work on our contract work program. They are wrapping up the draft FY27 work plan. It was good to have the conversation before the draft was complete.

Changes will include allowing us to submit audits after 6 months, but we will not get the retainage until it is submitted.

All our documents produced with DHCD money will need to meet ADA requirements. Jenni will hold a workshop on what that will mean for us to meet those standards. The budget estimate is complete.

GIS zoning data – How long should it take for us to bring all zoning data to the state in GIS layers. Please ask GIS staff what level of effort this will be. How long should it take? Please respond to Catherine.

Standards should be finalized by DHCD and make sense. Jason R will lead VAPDA committee working on standards. Taylor N can also help.

Also, discussed adding a housing element, data standards, Statewide lands for housing, supporting local housing commissions, Catherine will put together a proposed list and look for comments by Wednesday May 13th.

Dave noted updated priority project list RDCs are putting forward in May.

Also, Opportunity Zones are currently being set. Check in with RDCs before July.

Energy

Adam provided updates on MERP. Towns need to obligate funds by September 30th. Planners must be communicating with Towns and BGS. Adam volunteered to help with awkward conversations.

## **Government Relations Report**

Charlie noted Act 181 S.325 passed with a couple of amendments.

Any plan that expires in 2026 is automatically extended to 2027. Really helps towns to get Tier 1B.

Regional plan amendment and 1B changes are in.

H.941 – Municipal regulation of Ag is going through. It may cause issues with municipalities.

Anticipate receiving full administrative recommendation on funding, plus 3%.

NBRC grant for VAPDA for closed schools. Devon will bring the subject up at NBRC. Bill will also speak with Sara Waring.

Water/wastewater: Chris will speak with Leahy center about pushing the good work done so far to provide some usable deliverables.

**COG Research:**

Charlie will draft a proposed scope of work for the COG before July and have a conversation with Rebecca about moving forward as a government relations committee project.

Chris will speak with the Leahy Institute about setting up a structure and with Linda from FRCOG about speaking to us.

Catherine suggested in the meantime, we start doing shared services paid for by the municipalities.

Reminder: We meet on July 2nd, but not in August. The retreat is September 2-3.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50

Next meeting in person on June 4th at Central Vermont RPC.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Douglas C. Neidemeyer*