



**Chair:** Devon Neary, RRPC  
**Vice-Chair:** Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC  
**Treasurer:** Charlie Baker, CCRPC

## **VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING**

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024, 8:30 AM**

#### **MEETING DETAILS**

Virtual: [Microsoft Teams](#), ID: 29725510850, Passcode: JQ3mDr, 802-440-1368, 3649950905#

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

##### ATTENDANCE

Devon Neary, Bill Colvin, Chris Company, Adam Lougee, Christian Meyer, Charlie Baker, David Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Jason Rasmussen, Seth Jensen

##### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

##### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chris moved to approve minutes from the September 12 and 13 retreat. Jason seconded; Motion carried.

##### VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

1. VAPDA salary survey has been sent out, please send responses asap.
2. Election of Vice-Chair has been tabled until the December meeting.

##### ASSOCIATE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

###### Emergency Management

Emily noted that contracts should be out. She requested that RPC sign and return those contracts as soon as possible. She also asked that everyone get their quarterly reports in by October 30th. She requested that the planners take care in preparing their reports. Reports should contain sufficient information for VEM to clearly understand the activities completed. Also, financially, the narrative should match the billing. Last month's tasks and expenses should be deleted each month. Please take the time and do the reporting accurately. Charlie asked why the LEMP's were cut from the RPC workscope. Emily explained because of federal cuts, VEM needed to cut some scope of work, this was the easiest work to cut. Also, the state legislature gave VEM money for more regional coordinators. Therefore, they transferred the work to new coordinators. Charlie noted he would prefer more communication before cuts and changes like this. Emily acknowledged the request for a meeting. She also noted VEM is still working on how it addresses the federal funding cuts.

Chris Company raised a concern about what AoA and FEMA are trying to create for a response to Hazard Mitigation. Emily noted VEM shared the RPC concerns. Chris and Emily will work together to steer the conversation. Chris also notified Emily that the RPC's will ask the legislature to set a policy for individual assistance.

#### Transportation

Matt noted we should have contracts executed shortly. They will go back to October 1st. Mathew and Faith will share the results of their road trips from this summer at TPI and at VAPDA. VTrans will be reorganizing TPI guidance and other resources. Please get your invoices in on time to make sure we close out 2024 strong. VTrans is feeling in good shape otherwise. Jason noted that having VTrans Design standards reflect land use would be a very powerful tool for planners to use. Jason is putting together legislative report. Planners will see a Park and Ride Plan shortly.

#### Community Development/ACCD

Chris Cochran noted that the NRB will have a long list of Changes to Act 181. DHCD will have its own changes it asks for at the legislature this session. This will also be the subject of the meetup in November. Priority housing projects have become less important. Trying to figure out ways to incentivize housing in non-regulatory manners. County Governance Study Committee- Also due next year. It will probably work with the study above. Leahy Institute and UVM will keep working on the water and sewer mapping project and the Zoning atlas. Municipal Planning Grants hope to have the new platform launched by the beginning of next year. It will be much easier to use, but the software is taking time. Municipal Planning Consultations - want to make sure that RPC's still meeting statutory requirements. Legislative session, Chris anticipates housekeeping and staffing will be DHCD's priorities this year. DHCD is investigating a housing bond to support infrastructure investment to support housing. They may ask RPC's to identify housing opportunities for housing constrained by infrastructure. Land Use Review Board had 80 applications. Richard Amore is moving on to Rural Development. SHPO concerns continue on water/wastewater and housing projects. Specific comments should be sent to Catherine.

#### Energy

MERP applications due last Friday. Decisions will be made by the end of the month. Contracts will need to be signed by end of November. RPCs will have role in project management. Energy planners meet Friday. MVI task 2 should be completed, moving on to Task 3. CPRG contract working its way through the Secretary's Office.

#### Water Quality/Natural Resources

No general updates. CWSP comments on gully project's being finalized. Flood bylaw contract is coming, no ETA yet. No additional updates on 604B. SHPO reviews continue to be a bottle neck for some projects.

#### FOOD SECURITY ROADMAP

Becka Warren, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund and Monica Collins, VT Law School and Town of Hancock presented the details of the food security road map and the local food access toolkit. They stressed the opportunities to align food access issues into regional planning programs and local plans. Directors discussed opportunities for collaboration, including the hunger councils, transportation concerns, agricultural economic strategies, LEMP development and table top exercises.

#### NADO STUDY UPDATE

Three surveys that RPCs fill out as staff should be done by the end of next week. Revised language to send out the local officials and RPC Commissioner surveys was provided by Jason. Legislative Body Chairs (plus key members as appropriate), Managers and Administrators, and PC Chairs should be included on the local official surveys. This should be sent out this week to enable responses by October 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### STATEWIDE CONTRACT COORDINATION

Directors discussed the best methods for communicating on statewide contracts and initiatives. The end goal is to ensure effective and efficient work across RPCs and with state agencies.

#### RPC UPDATES / NEW BUSINESS / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The group discussed the county governance study committee, with update from C. Campany.

#### RPC GROUP INSURANCE

RPC Directors and finance staff heard an overview of the potential self-insurance opportunities by the insurance broker that supports CCRPC's plan. Several RPC finance staff joined the meeting for this presentation.