

**VAPDA**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 7, 2021**

Attendance:

RPCs: Charlie Baker, Bonnie Waninger, Tasha Wallis, Chris Company, David Snedeker, Tom Kennedy, Ed Bove

Agencies: Amy Bell (VTrans), Jacob Hemmerick (DHCD), Chris Cochran (DHCD, Lee Dorf (VEM), Jen Mojo (ANR)

Guests: Andrew Perchlik (PSD CEDF), Chris Koliba (UVM)

**Welcome, Agenda Changes**

None.

**Approval of September Minutes & Treasurer's Report**

*C. Baker moved to approve September 23-34, 2021 minutes and Treasurer's Report; B. Waninger seconded. Motion carried.*

**Andrew Perchlik – Public Service Department**

A. Perchlik ([andrew.perchlik@vermont.gov](mailto:andrew.perchlik@vermont.gov)) discussed upcoming programs.

- Funded via a potential Sen. Sanders earmark: \$500,000 each for school and municipal sustainable energy projects (wood heat, solar, etc).
- Funded via ARPA: \$10 million community scale renewable energy project for low income Vermonters. Would need to provide people with ownership shares for ARPA benefit to be achieved by 2024. Clean Energy Board would like to see more activity in the heating sector. Released RFI related to community solar. Alternate could be high poverty school districts. See [PSD CEDF website](#) for details on early thinking. \$5 million for renewable energy projects. Likely direct to homeowners have low to moderate incomes (ex. biodiesel, heat conversions, etc.). Potential eligibility for battery storage for low income residents or emergency generator backup for emergency shelters.

**Committee Reports**

Community Affairs

- Bronwyn Cooke is the new Policy and Planning Manager.
- CEP land use pathways will be nested in the transportation sector. Specific actions are modernize/simplify state designation programs, boost infrastructure investment, and support transportation modal transition for compact development.
- VT Climate Commission progress: need data on energy reductions to make progress on incorporation of land use. .

- Legislative: Potential Act 250 tweaks involve priority housing projects and the link to caps on units to be developed. The cap limits housing development outside of Burlington. Potentially define areas for which 9L is met and priority housing project based on Act 250 Coordinator decision, then don't need Act 250 permit. Requested help on S.101, especially NDA tax credits. One stop water/wastewater connections for municipalities to approve with no ANR action required. ANR testified in support.
- PTV supporting downtown advocacy group.
- Ken Jones need help with EDA grants. Support interagency development of ARPA funds, travel/tourism support (data gathering), CAP investment in transformative economic development.
- Missing Middle Housing training: 2-year approach to deliver toolkit, training, and a small developer collaborative. Support new "missing middle" developers in the bylaw modernization communities. Goal is to subsidize the housing.
- Municipal planning data center: Plan and bylaw database to be renamed VT Municipal Planning Data Center. Integrate with mapping center and bylaw submission.
- MPG: RPCs should verify data in confirmed municipality list when sent. November award decision.
- Bylaw grants due 2 weeks later with January award decisions.
- Downtown Transportation Fund has \$5 million this year. February application due. 20% match this year, rather than 50%. Projects up to \$200,000 eligible. Designated Village Centers eligible if have been through Better Connections or similar planning effort.
- Better Connections: \$1.5 million available. Launch in January. Workshop and Place Making Toolkit available in December. October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> are two half-day virtual placemaking workshops with a focus on placemaking, equity and inclusion. Agenda online and register at <https://aarp.cvent.com/events/aarp-vt-placemaking-workshop-10-28-10-29/event-summary-f3ab8949d62d40bca70f8c12c56370b3.aspx>.
- \$1 Million for multi-unit dwellings.
- EVSE launching in January.

*Follow-up Actions:* C. Cochran will send DHCD program funding fact sheet to Tasha Wallis. Check DED website for their ARPA efforts.

### Natural Resources

- Clean Water Board meeting next week for FY23 Clean Water budget. Meeting materials not available yet. \$3.5 million from ARPA plus Legislative appropriation funds.
- CWSP guidance under development/negotiation with DEC. Estimates by sector available.
- ANR reviewed APRA funding. See <https://anr.vermont.gov/content/arpa-vermont>. Secretary Moore hosting public meeting 10/7 from 4-5 pm:

<https://anr.vermont.gov/content/agency-secretary-will-host-public-meeting-provide-details-100-million-available-0>

- Cannabis Board: Billy Coster is representative. Send environmental impacts of cultivation to him. Expect most impacts to occur indoors due to climate and control features. C. Company noted growing cannabis is becoming a major source of greenhouse gas emissions (<https://www.cpr.org/2021/04/06/colorado-marijuana-industry-environmental-impact/>).
- Net Metering Rule Update: Agency comments noted projects coming in via letters from municipality and RPC involve the most clearing. Provided three options for addressing “excessive forest clearing.” It is helpful when RPCs flag resource issues.

#### **Follow-up Actions:**

- C. Baker will update VAPDA Net Metering Rule letter to insert the TRORC definition and resubmit it.
- RPCs to provide Baker with comments on Maggie Gendren’s 1-pager on Act 250 changes, which Baker emailed this week.

#### Emergency Management

- EMPG 2021 agreements should be fully executed; two pending. EMPG-S close out underway,
- EMPG quarterly report template under development; expect release by end of month.
- Sending out survey on application process.
- Sean Farrell is managing RPC subgrants and MOA.
- ARPA funding: HMGP eligibility gap filling. Contact Stephanie Smith.
- Southern VT disaster applicant briefings underway. Contact Kim Canarecci.

#### Transportation

- FFY22 TPI agreements in process. Confirming Notices to Proceed aren’t required.
- TPI monthly meeting will continue online. T-Planners requested hybrid model.
- Planning Coordinator starting November 8. Will reevaluate RPC coverage; RPCs may have new coordinators.
- VPSP2: list out for comment. K. Marshia may want November VAPDA time for regional bike/ped planning and VPSP2.
- Patrick Murphy is new Sustainability and Innovation Manager.
- Statewide EV Charging Plan Update: Drive Electric Vermont will be working on an EVSE buildout plan for public charging statewide this year. Eleven new DC fast chargers scheduled to be completed by 12/31/21 will bring most Vermonters within 30 miles of a fast charger. Six others will follow in 2022. DHCD is working on a grant program of \$1 million to build out charging infrastructure at multi-unit dwellings and affordable

housing developments. That plan would help guide investment of federal infrastructure funds (if passed) which would result in over \$20 million to Vermont over five years.

Energy - No report.

### Health

PAN grant discussions ongoing with VDH. Workshop in a few weeks. Suzanne Kelly working on new grant process.

### Climate

Climate Action Plan drafting is underway. Asking subcommittee to draft elements of the plan prior to the Council discussion of policies. Anticipate disagreements. Company requested Council agenda time to discuss policies. Draft for November; final draft for December. Timeline will likely be extended.

### Government Affairs

- Brownfields: See email sent 10/06/21; respond ASPA if have issues as contract is under development. Agency proposing to provide half up of funds front with remainder as results are shown. Those will slow program startup will get less allocation. Includes claw back provision for the 18<sup>th</sup> month. Can request additional allocation from Legislature if funds are spent quickly. Application for each site sent to DEC. Projects must be BRELLA. Phase 2 must be enrolled in BRELLA. Must have site access. Semi-annual reporting for finance. Quarterly, web-based database for project input: name, address, QEP, activity (Phase 1, 2, CAP, etc.). Can use funds to apply for grant funds through ACCD's program. Draft contract for MARC should be available next week.
- Invited Speaker of the House to participate in November VAPDA meeting or meet with Legislative Committee.
- Metrics/reporting important for Legislative funds. Be prepared to report on activities.

***Follow-up Actions: Water/wastewater data to Charlie Baker for Legislative use by Friday. See email from VAPDA Retreat.***

### **Chris Koliba – University of Vermont ([ckoliba@uvm.edu](mailto:ckoliba@uvm.edu))**

Chris Koliba, Director of the Office of Engagement, discussed UVM engagement. Three pillars: economic development, workforce development, and business services. Wayne Masica(?) is new Outreach Officer. Want to make in-person visits in the future. Partnering with entities on ARPA. Ex. Build Back Better partner for software development and ag/dairy sector. Working on consortium initiatives around green energy (energy and utility sector and higher education partnership for green energy roll out; Binghamton NY, UMass Amherst, Maine). Have water

resource center, agriculture resource center, GUND institute, EPSCORP pivoting to data and data analytics (data mining), EMBRY program (biomedical industries).

*Amplifying Vermont's Economic Resilience* report released August 2021. Identified issues, made recommendations, and matching with current initiatives/programs. Developing a portal (wiki).

Data services are free of charge, use data request portal, 2-week turn around, follow up survey response required to assess quality of services.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 am.