

VAPDA

Minutes February 4, 2021

1. Attendance: Peter Gregory, Tasha Wallis, Rob Fish, PSD, Ed Bove, Charlie baker, Ann Margolis, PSD, Claire McIlvennie, PSD, Amy bell, VTrans, Bonnie Waninger, Lea Kilvadyova, Jim Sullivan, Catherine Dimitruk, Adam Lougee, Jake Hemmerick, DHCD, Ari Rockland-Miller, AAFM, Thomas J. Kennedy, Dave Pelletier, VTrans, Matt Dunne, CORI, Dave Snedeker, David Saladino, VHB, Scott Johnstone, VHB, Karen Sentoff, VHB, Jen Mojo, ANR, Jason Rasmussen, Chris Cochran, DHCD
2. Meeting opened at 9:34 a.m. Minutes approved on a motion made by Kennedy, seconded by Dimitruk.
3. Introductions ensued.
4. Matt Dunne and Rob Fish. They each discussed their work with and for the state of Vermont to create an emergency Covid Connectivity Plan. Working with CUDS, adding Wi-Fi hotspots. Fish indicated that “RPCs are essential to the success of CUDS”.
Campany to determine if VAPDA should submit comments on the new GMP filing.
5. Dave Pelletier and the VHB team gave the meeting an update on the Welcome Center project. The effort is ongoing and will be done around May of this year. Long term models for operations are being explored. Comments are still welcomed!
6. Ann Margolis from Public Service Department gave an update on the update of the Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP). They will be hiring an outreach and public relations firm. She is looking forward to VAPDA comments. ***Jim Sullivan will coordinate CEP comments and Act 174 Standards suggestions for VAPDA.*** PSD and ANR working to inform the Climate Council.
7. FEMA Letter. On a motion made by Baker and seconded by Snedeker, the FEMA letter was approved. Lougee and Bove voted no to the letter. ***Tasha will mail the letter immediately.***
8. Municipal Roads General Permit. On a motion made by Baker, seconded by Lougee, the letter was approved unanimously. ***Campany to send the letter to ANR and VTrans Immediately.***
9. Community Development Report from Chris Cochran. There is a lot of one time money, but none for RPCs and MPGs. There could be some money for housing updates to outdated municipal bylaws. A one-time amount of 5 million being proposed for the Downtown Transportation Fund.
10. Natural Resources. Charlie Baker said Clean Water Service Provider Rule comments due February 19th. Encouraged folks to submit comments. ***Tasha will mail out sewer and water letter to House and Senate Institutions Committees immediately.*** Jen Mojo at ANR indicated the final Trail Report is due in March and seeks VAPDA’s review. And ANR has been working on a Permit navigator online tool. Check it out.

11. Ari Rockland Miller indicated that Specialty Crop Grants are now available. And new Act 250, Criterion 9B mitigation rates have now been published.
12. Catherine indicated that she has not yet met with Lee Dorf on the onerous EMPG invoicing and reporting requirements. Stay tuned.
13. Transportation Report. Amy Bell indicated that the FFY 22 TPI Guidance Review has been initiated internally. Mid-year reviews are being scheduled and she appreciates the RPC performance indicators. She reported level funding for TPI.
14. Energy Report. VEIC payments out next week. **VAPDA Energy Committee to get comments on CEP to Jim ASAP. All Directors to identify staff to help Jim on Act 174 standards changes.**
15. Government Affairs Report. Gregory went over the issues Tom's Committee is following and thanks Directors for following through on requests for contact with legislators.
16. January Financials. On a motion made by Baker, seconded by Snedeker, the unaudited January Financials were accepted as presented.
17. Racial Equity. Catherine thanked Adam for his initial efforts. **Charlie will be lining up a consultant for March VAPDA meeting. Tasha to list this topic on each VAPDA agenda going forward.**

Minutes prepared by Peter Gregory
March 1, 2021