

VAPDA Minutes 5/6/2021 prepared by Chris Campany

In attendance: Tasha Wallis, Chair; Ed Bove, Chris Campany, Charlie Baker, Adam Lougee, Catherine Dimitruk, Bonnie Waninger, Jim Sullivan, Tom Kennedy, Dave Snedeker, Pete Fellows, Peter Gregory

Minutes: Approved on motion by Chris, seconded by Charlie.

Office reopening plans: Adam sent around his plan that he's running by his Board. ACRPC is having annual meeting at restaurant. Catherine mentioned trauma of death or fear of death; some may not recognize they've been traumatized; parental skills may be more important than executive skills in helping people readjust; BCRC feels in-person full commission meetings are critical. CVRPC is reopening with accommodation of staff concerns. Some concerns noted about equity of participation when some are remote and some are in person. Chris noted commissioner survey indicates that commissioners with children welcome the remote option as they feel they can fully participate now. Some RPCs holding off on making decisions until late summer, at least in part to relieve pressure on staff to give them time to take vacation, etc.

Filling vacancies: Concerns about quality of candidates and salary demands, and what it might mean for overall salary schedules.

Federal funds/ARPA and working with the towns: Exploring opportunity for collaboration with VLCT. VLCT would also like help from RPCs with listening sessions related to their own services. NADO issued bulletin regarding how towns should prepare (SAM, DUNS, etc.). Concept of RPCs working with VLCT to use county money if refused by towns for regional projects – idea pitched to Doug Farnham. Government Relations Committee meeting with VLCT on 5/17. VLCT is hosting meeting for towns on 5/18.

Government Relations/legislative update: Discussion with Mary Hooper about possibility of RPCs hiring "Climate Coordinators." Hire entry-level person to work on climate-related issues. Tom expressed need for agreement and to move quickly with request. Chris will revise work description and distribute to other directors today. VNRC is taking lead on the ask to policy and appropriations committees. Peter discussed zoning analysis re: housing with Sirotkin and he seemed supportive. Brownfields - \$14 million in "little budget." Going to BERA projects. \$11 million going to ACCD – of that \$1 million going to RPCs for assessment funding. Governor wants that to come out of ARPA funding but federal delegation staff don't think that's an eligible expense. Dave spoke with Joan about the \$1 million; NVDA would be the project manager. Concerns raised about state approach to identification of regional economic development project priorities and lack of an inclusionary process. Concerns also raised about how "list" is being used to prioritize funding in different projects, including NBRC.

Committee Reports:

- Community Affairs: ACCD contract for coming year will be pretty much the same as this year. Working with RPC planners on Zoning for Neighborhoods presentation.
- Natural Resources: Other parties are asking for more of the basin planning funding, potentially putting our share at risk. Dan is going to forward a spreadsheet to more explicitly define what we're going to do under generic task. Each region was asked to reflect on efficacy of CWAC and staff performance. Pete Fellows noted water quality block grants don't sufficiently fund administration and it's good to have basin planning funding as back up.

- Emergency Management: The committee met with Erica on Title 20 changes and EMPG admin (setting the stage for next year). Catherine has a draft template for the Act 161 reporting and will send to a few EM planners for comment. It is not a huge lift.
- Grants in Aid: A second contract will be coming at some point when you run out of DEC funds or August, whichever is sooner. It is about the same amount as you current DEC\$ and will last until December. Following that, for FY 22 there will be huge changes to the program and greatly decreased RPC role- focused primarily on pre-construction activities. Plan on 1/2 or 1/3 of your contract with NRPC.
- Transportation: Projects in VPSP2 may move depending upon funding availability, regardless of ranking; concept of sending up projects that were solicited from towns through VPSP2 process for potential development, and informing VTrans of municipal projects that may be developed by earmarks, ARPA, etc. to facilitate coordination/harmonization. Equitable engagement project is in TPI guidance for next year. It was noted that this work couldn't be done beyond a review of recommendations in the absence of funding.
- Energy: Discussing standards update related to CEP. Arranged for meeting with VELCO for RPCs about VELCO's plan. Regional CEP update meeting agenda sent around and point of contact requested.
- Health: Ed solved the pandemic and all issues related to vaccine hesistancy.

Treasurer's report: Approved on motion by Tom, seconded by Ed.