

**VAPDA Directors
Meeting Minutes**

March 5, 2020

Vermont Tech Enterprise Center

Attendance: Adam Lougee, Peter Gregory, Tasha Wallis, Jim Sullivan, Catherine Dimitruk, Charlie Baker, Tom Kennedy, Bonnie Waninger, Chris Company, Ed Bove and Dave Snedeker

Welcome/Agenda – Company called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. No changes made to agenda.

Approval of February VAPDA Minutes and current Treasurer’s Report – Motion by Gregory to approve minutes as presented. Second by Lougee. Approved by voice vote.

Catering and venue for future meetings was discussed. Motion by Snedeker to approve treasurer’s report as presented. Second by Dimitruk. Approved by voice vote.

Website Update –RRPC will take this on and work with NRPC. Updated Energy Plans will continue to be a focal point.

Emergency Management – EMPG billing, timesheets, ledger, match and LEPC structure discussed. Erica Borneman will be invited to future meeting.

Covid-19 and RPC continuity of operations. VAPDA could work with VDH to get information out to towns. Other topics covered:

- Electronic meetings.
- State communications to towns.
- Best practices for municipal government.
- Role of RPCs.
- District Health Offices
- H1N1 scope to review.
- Statistics.
- **Make contact with district health folks.**

RPCs will:

1. Get houses in order.
2. Contact local health office and provide situational awareness to towns.
3. Company and Dimitruk will contact VDH & VEM.
4. Reinforce information sent out by state agencies.

Energy – Check out the PUC Docket on Efficiency Vermont Demand Management Plan regarding VAPDA comments. Potential EV support for more RPC energy work on electric and thermal efficiency. EV project meeting next week for staff to show off work. EV wants continued funding for

RPCs - need to show progress. The question of how to show off electric efficiency was raised. Existing funding lasts through 2020. In proposed Global Warming Solution Act, State Comprehensive Energy Plan to consider RPC energy plans?

Government Affairs – Necrason summary was discussed including, WQ basin planning funding, ACCD recommended 200k from General Fund for bylaw updates, planning fund funding from PTT, All Fuels Bill, TCI, S267, Global Warming Solutions Act, Regional Public Safety Plan, Climate Response Bill, housing bills, S237, regional health needs reporting and Community Health Needs Assessments (in federal, not VT law).

Act 250 – See below summary of VAPDA position.

Act 250 Bill

VAPDA Discussion Points with Legislative Committee feedback

- ✓ Consensus support
- × Consensus oppose
- ~ No consensus or not yet reviewed

Expand Act 250 jurisdiction:

- × Commercial and industrial developments within 2,000 feet of interstate interchanges (unless in a designated area or RPC approval)
- × New road/driveway construction of 2,000 feet in length
- ✓ Elevation above 2500 feet
- ✓ Address road and elevation as more resource-based protection map

Exemptions to jurisdiction:

- ✓ Designated downtowns and neighborhood development areas *and ADD growth centers (9-2 in favor)*
- ✓ ‘Enhanced’ designated villages (adopted/approved municipal plan and adopted zoning and subdivision bylaws that address flood hazard and river corridor areas) – *very small areas, consider updating NDA criteria?*

Process:

- × Shifts the responsibility for jurisdictional determinations from district coordinators to District Commissions
- ~ Environmental Review Board hears major cases. *House kept existing process.*
- ✓ 30-day application notice to RPCs
- ✓ Capability and development plan process – *add RPCs to the process*
- ✓ Municipal plan must be regionally approved to be used in Criteria 10
Regional Plans approved by NRB – (8-3), *review to confirm(?) that they meet statutory requirements by “the State” with additional comments to be considered*
- ✓ Disposition of Act 250 permits by municipality – *with state review*

Criteria:

- ✓ Criteria 5, stronger language on bike/ped
- ✓ Requires ANR to adopt rules to designate highest priority river corridors – *based upon public health and safety while respecting our existing centers. Needs more critical thought from DEC.*
- ✓ Update Capability and Development Map
- ✓ Resource Map

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

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Natural Resources – The following topics were covered:

- Basin planning funding.
- Block Grants.
- CWSP/RFP/Act 76 working group
- Enhancement vs Formula grants.
- Grants-In-Aid/VTrans and DEC. **Send Catherine capital budgeting work conducted under Category A funding.**

Planning & Economic Development – Intermunicipal cooperation information sent to ACCD. This completes RPC list of required non-contract projects. Time to start working on the FY21 contract. ACCD funding to RCDs to compile Northern Border Regional Commission potential project list discussed.

Health – RPCs to follow up with hospitals with Community Health Needs Assessments nearing expiration date.

Transportation – RPCs to provide specifics on experience with archaeological review on projects for future discussion with VTrans staff. RPCs conducting transportation-related studies for towns was discussed.

Adjournment – 1:15 PM