



Chair: Devon Neary, RRPC  
Vice-Chair: Bill Colvin, BCRC  
Treasurer: Charlie Baker, CCRPC

## VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

### Rutland RPC and Teams

June 5, 2025 - (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)

### MEETING MINUTES

Virtual: Zoom

#### Attendance

Devon Neary, Bill Colvin, Jason Rassmussen, Taylor Newton, Chris Campany (in person)  
Dave Snedeker, Tasha Wallis, Catherine Dimitruk, Adam Lougee, Pete Fellows (via Teams)

#### Minutes

Bill moved to approve the minutes. Jason seconded. Motion carried.

#### Treasurers Report

Increase for annual retreat, reduction in sponsorships to reflect spending patterns. The retreat is planned for September 11 and 12 at Jackson Gore in Okemo. A more formalized process for sponsorships requests will be reinstated, with an online form. The ESRI license cost was clarified that it was related to VT Culverts. There was a brief discussion about coordinating training with VT Local Roads related to municipal access to this data.

Jason moved to approve the budget as presented. Tasha seconded. Motion carried.

#### VAPDA Committee Reports

Energy- Adam reported that MERP is moving forward, CPRG Task 2 is back on track. Taylor reported that CCRPC entered an appearance for the PUC resiliency docket. There will be an effort to try to extend the MERP date due to challenges getting contractors.

Legislative- CHIP passed, VLCT has a good summary. Open Meeting Law changes passed. The budget remained intact for the Governors recommendation.

Emergency Management- VEM reports that RPCs are largely successful meeting the requirements of EMPG agreements. EMPG future years remains unclear as does hazard mitigation grants and any other federal emergency funds. A future discussion will include how to approach municipal and statewide support if EMPG funds are eliminated. EDA Disaster resilience funds should be investigated as a statewide application. Towns need to

get the message that they are likely on their own and need to prepare with surplus funds and a ready line of credit. LEMPs were discussed – reminder that these are the responsibility of VEM and were due June 1.

Community Development- There was a discussion of DHCD surplus and overspending. If an RPC has an anticipated surplus, please let DHCD know asap and copy Catherine. Directors were encouraged to send planners to the meet up schedule for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Development Review templates have been reviewed, and comments were submitted to LCPC. The planning modules are in review as well. ZA Handbook was released. We need a better repository for the VAPDA website and the new resources. Several RPCs offered to support the costs, and Rutland will coordinate. VERTA was discussed- the RPC role and schedule.

Transportation- The TPI workplan timeline was discussed. If you anticipate needing an amendment to the current contract it is recommended you start now. Multi-modal highway design guidelines annotated outline was distributed by Jason. The tie-in to the new FLU categories was not as strong as hoped. Phase 2 participation will be critical.

Water Quality/Natural Resources- Tasha is representing VAPDA on the statewide conservation network. RPCs are coordinating with VHCB on a series of meetings. There was a discussion about the best venue for these meetings. There was a discussion about the basin grants and the watershed coordinators pushing back on the requests. There remains confusion and uncertainty about how the decisions are made about these grants. Adam has signed the main contract with the Bond bank. Sub agreements will go out prior to July VAPDA, when the bond bank will be in attendance.

## **Act 181**

### LURB Processes and Rulemaking

Adam provided a Tier 3 update. Three meetings of the stakeholder group have taken place. Alex W is writing for LURB. What areas are in and out of Tier 3 and the type of jurisdiction that would be triggered is unclear. Adam and Seth will work to develop an initial comment letter from VAPDA. A draft may come out mid-June. Catherine provided an update of the appeal study. Initial feedback is being collected and will be summarized by the LURB. They are attempting to wrap up by November. Catherine will collect and consolidate Tier 1A comments that are due June 20<sup>th</sup>- comments sent to Catherine June 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Non-Profit Corporations

Directors had a roundtable discussion about the value of an affiliated non-profit corporation.

## **Flood Safety Act Outreach and Education**

Guests: Shayne Jaquith, Vermont Nature Conservancy, Alison Spasyk, UVM Sea Grant

Alison gave an overview of the education and outreach efforts related to the Flood Safety Act. Shayne provide an outline of the outreach and education topics and sought feedback from the RPCs about the approach.