



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

VAPDA DIRECTORS & ASSOCIATES MEETING

May 1, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual: Zoom

In Attendance: Devon Neary, Tash Wallis, Catherine Dimitruck, Jason Rasmussen, Charlie Baker, Bill Colvin, Adam Lougee, Christian Meyer, Peter Gregory, Dave Snedeker, Chris Company, Amy Bell, Matthew Arancio, Ari Rockland-Miller, Jen Mojo, Emily Harris, Chris Cochran, Miro Weinberger, Corey Parent

Devon began the meeting at 8:35am.

VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes: Catherine made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 3, 2025 as presented. Second by Charlie Baker. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Baker made a motion to receive the treasurer's report through April 2025. Second by Bill Colvin. Motion passed unanimously.

RPC Meet Up Planning:

- Organizing the event are Erin Ladd, Cathlin Lord, Alison Lowe. Chris Company said that Sue Westa can also help.
- Location and date TBD.
- Potential agenda items:
 - Consultations/municipal plan review process
 - Environmental benefits and burdens analysis – using RRPC as an example.

VERTA: UVM wants to contract directly with each RPC. A suggestion was made to send annual reports to summarize what we do for towns.

Bond Bank Waster System Project: Contracts are coming soon.

Agenda for the Next Meeting:

- Tricia Coats
- Michael from the Bond Bank to talk about their expectations and SOW
- FLU mapping
- Legislative updates

VAPDA Website: RRPC staff have added the VPIC materials to the VAPDA website so we don't lose them when the VPIC website expires. VAPDA should budget for building a new website next year. Devon will get a cost estimate, maybe \$10K.

ASSOCIATE & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Emergency Management:

- Emily said that VEM has not seen the NOFO yet; no news on the next EMPG contracts.
- No funding source identified now for LHMPs. VEM is applying for HMGP funding for this.
- Please let Emily know if the VEM regional coordinators are not communicating with your RPC.

Transportation:

- TPI guidance is coming out today. Tasks have been consolidated, the document shortened, eliminated optional tasks, and encouraging more flexibility. Expect level funding. Draft RPC work programs are due in July, with final drafts due in August.
- Three existing Better Connections projects are nearly complete. One new Better Connections project was awarded (Waterbury).
- Comments on the draft detailed outline for the design standards update are currently being collected. Phase 2 is expected to begin in a couple of months.
- Last year's Better Roads Category A funds have now been all spent. There is \$750K in the budget for new Cat. A money. VTrans intends to start accepting letters of intent soon for this new round, contingent upon the budget.
- There is an ongoing assessment of MRGP-compliant segments and how they withstood the 2023 and 2024 flooding.

Energy:

- MERP: Peter talked with Doug Farnum about an extension. There are not enough contractors available in the state. Doug and Peter are going to follow up with BGS.
- County EECBG is in limbo. Kate Donatelli has left her position.
- We can resume work on Task 2 activities for CPRG, Phase 2. There will not be an extension.

Planning & Economic Development:

- There were no comments on the work program; it's good to go.
- A draft new ZA Handbook has been developed. If you have senior staff that can help to review it, let Catherine know.
- CDBG-DR plan comment period is open. The next meeting is May 15th in Weston.
- VERTA: the initial survey is out now. The project involves looking at what other New England states do. Findings will be presented at a summit on Nov. 13th.
- ACCD hired the Incremental Development Alliance to continue the Homes for All work.
- MPG awards were just announced. Back to the normal schedule for the next round.
- The work program will go out by early next week.
- The Village Meet Up will be on June 5th in Reading.

Water Quality/Natural Resources:

- The next Municipal Day is planned for the middle of October. Reach out to Jen with presentation proposals.
- ANR and AAFM are coordinating with the LURB on Tier 3.
- The initial Tier 3 mapping is extensive, with Tier 3 covering much of the state. Refinement is needed for it to make better sense.

LET'S BUILD HOMES

- They want to double home production from the existing ~3,000/year to ~7,000/year.
- They see our FLU mapping as very important, and want to engage with RPCs to “get more pro-housing maps.”
- When asked how can Let's Build Homes support RPCs, the following items were discussed:
 - Support for clarifying legislation, such as needing a simpler regional plan amendment process when a town later on decides to opt in to Tier 1b, etc.
 - RPCs would welcome their attendance at meetings, focus groups and/or providing comments on draft FLU maps.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- ACCD funding with a 3% increase is still included.
- Brownfields and MTAP add-ons may not survive.
- CHIP (project-based TIF) is included in the Housing Bill.
- T-Bill includes 3 studies that involve VAPDA: cancellation of local projects/payback provisions, municipal transportation asset framework, and municipal bike/ped funding.

REVISIT LURB TIMELINES

RRPC Sept. 19

NRPC Oct. 10

CCRPC Oct 24/31

CVRPC Nov.

RETREAT

- Sept. 11-12
- Somewhere in the TRORC area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.