

VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025, 9:00 AM

MEETING MINUTES

9:00 – WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Devon Neary opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed members.

9:35 – VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

Treasurer's Report / Financials

Financial statements were reviewed. No action items were noted.

9:45 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

Emergency Planning & Disaster Recovery

Discussion on CDBG-DR applications and coordination to ensure consistent regional approaches.

Energy & Climate

MERP: Updated reporting forms from BGS have been released. All funds must be expended by December 2026.

Mini-Grants: RPCs must complete the follow-up survey related to \$4,000 BGS mini-grants.

Nuclear Energy: The Department of Public Service (DPS) asked RPCs for input regarding potential new nuclear development in Vermont.

Energy Building Code: CC reported progress on transitioning municipalities out of the energy code documentation process; Fire Safety will assume responsibility for recordkeeping.

Government Relations

A letter requesting increased ACCD funding will be drafted and circulated to all RPCs for review.

The Olson water/wastewater bill will be distributed for reference.

Tasha is scheduling a meeting with the new DEC Commissioner.

Catherine and Devon will prepare a half-page summary outlining key water and wastewater issues for advocacy use.

Planning & Economic Development

Catherine provided an update on work plan progress and ongoing deliverables.

Training and Outreach: Two statewide trainings are planned—one on Land Use Essentials and one on another planning topic. Coordination with DHCD is needed to update the Land Use

Essentials presentation. The local planning officials list needs updating using VPIC's two new resources. Planning continues for a Regional Planners' Meet-Up later this fall.

COG Updates: The UVM Leahy Institute review of regional governance models has been approved. The VERTA report will be reviewed on November 13 and submitted to the Legislature by December 15. Chris and Devon will coordinate to invite the FRCOG Executive Director to a future VAPDA meeting.

Rural Caucus: Catherine, Adam, and Tasha will present to the Rural Caucus on October 7 about Act 181 implementation.

Transportation

Design Standards: Ongoing discussions with VTrans about maintaining realistic expectations for municipal design standards. JR and DN met with Matthew to address Maintenance District concerns.

Discussion on VTrans restructuring and financial challenges following Michele and Amy's retirements.

Review of TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) performance and engagement across regions.

A Transportation Committee meeting will be scheduled soon.

Natural Resources

Conservation & Forestry: No updates.

Water Quality: Discussion of Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) target and funding adjustments.

Water/Wastewater: Addressed above under Government Relations.

Brownfields: Another funding round may be released soon.

Flood Recovery Funds: Over the next five years, the State will distribute recovery funds; members were reminded to submit invoices to Jason/MARC on time.

Outdoor Recreation: No specific updates noted.

10:45 – BREAK

11:00 – RETREAT FOLLOW-UP

Discussion on transitioning to in-person VAPDA meetings every two months, alternating between Middlebury and Randolph. The Chair will decide the night before if conditions warrant switching to a remote format. Chris is collaborating with UVM to strengthen relationships between faculty and RPCs, supporting joint research and student engagement opportunities.

11:30 – ACT 181 / LURB / FUTURE LAND USE MAPS / PLAN

UPDATES

Discussion on LURB pre-application review of Regional Plans. Each region will host a shared meeting and site tour with LURB. The Rutland Region will hold a four-hour bus tour of four growth areas, followed by a two-hour public meeting (4–6 p.m.) to review maps. NRPC is conducting multiple site visits without a bus. The primary focus will be on Future Land Use (FLU) Maps and consistency with Act 181 categories. Legislative discussions continue regarding definitions of “centers” and regional plan amendment procedures.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.