

VAPDA DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025, 8:30 AM

Present: Devon Neary, Jason Rasmussen, Chalie Baker, Tasha Wallis, Sue Westa, Adam Lougee, David Snedeker, Catherine Dimitruk, Bill Colvin, Callie Fishburn, Christian Meyer, Kevin Geiger, Pete Fellows

VAPDA BUSINESS ITEMS

The group discussed having associates join quarterly meetings.

Treasurer's Report was presented. Charlie moved to accept the treasurer's report. Adam seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VAPDA Website Update: The web designer is normalizing logos and directors reviewed regional landmarks. Kevin, Bill, and a CCRPC staff member will help review the updated site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Directors discussed opportunities for speakers for future VAPDA meetings. VAPDA will invite a partner to join a meeting hosted at the Plaza in December. The Resilience Implementation Strategy (RIS) came up as a likely topic.

Emergency Planning & Disaster Recovery

Kevin shared that we are waiting for the FEMA report. Senator Welch's office is still working on federal FEMA bill. EMPG is still a big unknown. There continues to be bureaucratic nonsense coming from FEMA. Most RPCs are trying to maintain a minimum of emergency planning services while we wait on the EMPG. Some RPCs are coordinating with VEM on REMC meetings.

Energy & Climate

From our municipal quarterly reports, RPC staff should all have a good idea of where MERP projects are.

Government Relations

Directors discussed how municipal shared services can be better facilitated by RPCs. This seems to be a linked to the structure of statute and human nature. TRORC has had some success. They also serve in the ZA and planning role for some communities; they are expanding to administrative assistant to municipalities through individual contracts. Many towns are entertaining the idea but they never get over the hump. Maybe we need to back way up and rethink who does what at which level. Charlie and Christian will follow up with Rep. Mihaly

Directors discussed possible updates to Title 24. Efficiency related updates may fit well with proposed DPS energy planning modifications. More Broadly directors mused that there is an opportunity to better align all the moving parts. Future land uses areas preserve historic settlement

patterns and are not limited to historic places. The past designation project had a different charge from the FLUAs and should not be the yardstick by which we assess our new Tier 1 eligible areas. Some of the designation steps seem out of sync between neighborhoods and centers. Future land use area geography may be beneficial to some ANR rules.

With regard comments being provided to the LURB from state agencies and partners, if only a limited number of agencies provide comments, this may skew the feedback the LURB is receiving. Not everyone has the capacity to make in depth comments.

Directors requested that each of the RPCs calculate the percent and acreage of land in Tier 1 eligible areas. Currently, Tier 3 is expected to encompass 6-8% of land area.

Rural Caucus has a draft bill to delay Tier 3 and Road Rule implementation.

Planning & Economic Development

Planner meet up is later this month.

NVDA and LCPC have completed the updated planning materials, and they will be posted.

Transportation

TPI contracts completed.

The design study is in its final month. No extension is being pursued.

New studies on the repayment provisions and the municipal process have very short timelines and it is not clear municipal concerns will be well integrated.

There may be an opportunity for RPC trainings on MPM work.

Transportation revenue is down significantly as new vehicle sales are lagging. We should be vigilant on impacts to local match.

Better Connections – seven applications received. Responses forth coming

Jason will set up a meeting with Erin Sisson

Natural Resources & Conservation & Forestry

Federal Lands Access Program - Applications due in December.

Water Quality

CWSP – P-targets will be reduced. Thresholds for \$/kg are being increased. Concern and support on procurement changes for partners. Some directors felt competitive bidding is necessary, the DEC has indicated that they feel competition is achieved by having projects compete with other projects.

Outdoor Recreation

No business

Water/Wastewater

VAPDA representatives will meet with new DEC commissioner on water/wastewater. RPCs are encouraged to share issues with Tasha and others and how they feel ANR support housing with Water/Wastewater work.

Brownfields

On hold with federal shutdown.

There is a small amount MARC brownfield funding remaining.

LURB PREAPPLICATION HEARING DISCUSSION

The recommendation from RRPC and NRPC is to make time to think about how the process will go for your region. Pre application submission takes about a week (25-30 hours). RRPC facilitated site visits, the LURB will lead these in NRPC planning area. The LURB may pursue be some virtual site visits that mirror how the FLUA were created. Testimony received on site visits was not considered formal testimony so it must either be submitted in written form or during the hearing. All info is being compiled on the Act 250 web site. Some directors see their municipalities as wanting to wait before opting in on Tire 1b. If a municipality opts in to a Tier 1b after regional adoption, a full amendment process will need to be reinitiated with the LURB to include that new Tier 1b. Directors discussed which partners had commented regional plans and if VAPDA and adjoining RPCs should be commenting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Devon spoke with Abby Friedman from VLCT on Select Board meeting ups. Many RPCs are continuing them and VLTC is interested in participating as a guest.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:45AM

Respectfully submitted, Christian Meyer