

# 6/23/22 VCLN Workshop - Chat

Engaging with Municipal Leadership in Your Community

Susan Culp : Susan Culp from Newbury, VT.

Elizabeth McEwen : Elizabeth McEwen

Daniel Solomon : Daniel Solomon from Craftsbury

karen davis : Karen Davis, Wardsboro select board

Elizabeth McEwen : Wilmington

Jesse Dimick : Jesse Dimick, St. Johnsbury NVRH

Nick Bennette : Nick Bennette, Vermont Mountain Bike Association

Julie Raboin : Good morning! Julie Raboin from Newport - nice to see you all

Emma Paradis : Emma Paradis, Common Good VT

Zak Hale : Bennington!

Mark Grossarth : Mark Grossarth, Heritage Family Cares For You, Rutland, VT

Eileen Boland : Eileen Boland, Wheelock, Running for Caledonia 3 district

Eli Toohey : Eli Toohey, Working Communities Challenge - Greater Barre (out of Green Mountain United Way)

Barry Lampke : Barry Lampke - Housing for All, Northwest VT Working Communities Challenge

Michelle Mccutcheon-schour : Michelle from Efficiency Vermont and Winooski

Steven Isham : Steve Isham, St J Selctboard

Nicole Losch : Nicole Losch, City of Burlington

Amy Tomasso : Amy Tomasso, Community Planner @ Mad River Valley Planning District (Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston)

Regan Dobbins : Regan Dobbins, BDCC Brattleboro

Sam Lash : Sam Lash, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Brian Lowe, VCRD : Good morning! Brian Lowe from VCRD. Great to see so many people joining this morning.

Meg Staloff : Southern Vermont (Brattleboro/Wilmington)

Wichie Artu : Wichie Artu, he/him/his, Athens VT (Northern Windham County)

SETON MCILROY : Seton McIlroy Woodstock

Karen Mittelman : Karen Mittelman, Vermont Arts Council. Good morning!

Alyssa Johnson, VCRD : Link to sign up for Vermont Community Leadership Network (VCLN): <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership>

Thomas Davis : Karen - you said Vermont is a \_\_\_\_\_ state, which is why there are so many bills regarding towns. What was the \_\_\_\_\_?

Rep. Katherine Sims : "Dillon's Law"

Thomas Davis : Thank you

Karen Horn : Yes we are a Dillon's Rule State so a municipality needs to secure statutory authority from the legislature to do anything that is not already in the statutes

Jessica Savage, VCRD (She/Her) : <https://www.vlct.org/municipal-assistance/municipal-topics/municipal-governance>

Here is VLCT's page which explains the Dillon Rule

Thomas Davis : Thanks very much.

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : can we get a copy of this via email or attached in the chat?

Jessica Savage, VCRD (She/Her) : Here is the report Karen referenced:  
<https://www.vlct.org/2022-legislative-wrap>

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : Jessica, I couldn't find this particular infographic in that link

Rep. Katherine Sims : Here's a two-page summary of the session that I put together:  
<https://www.katherinesimsforhouse.com/news/a-legislative-session-to-remember>

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : ditto Wichie... still searching for the infographic on vlct website... please advise. THANKS

Jessica Savage, VCRD (She/Her) : We'll follow up with these resources after the webinar

Thomas Davis : Will you give us links to these buckets so we can learn more?

Karen Horn : The legislative wrap up is on the VLCT website but unfortunately the infographic isn't there right now. I am getting that fixed hopefully!

Emily Rosenbaum : Can we have link to sign up for that newsletter?

Karen Horn : Katie Buckley at VLCT [kbuckley@vlct.org](mailto:kbuckley@vlct.org)

Karen Mittelman : Vermont Arts Council is hosting a July 15 Zoom info session about the Creative Economy grants Chris mentioned, and ACCD's Community Recovery grants, and a VEDA Forgivable loan program. More info on the Zoom session will be on our website: [www.vermontartscouncil.org](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org) as soon as we firm up time. Thanks!

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : TY Karen. CHEERS

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : Landing page <https://www.rd.usda.gov/vt> for profit assistance with renewable energy energy efficiency <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans/vt>

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : Jon-Michael, TY so much for the suggestion of sharing the timeline for funding.

Michelle Mccutcheon-schour : I'll just add that muni's should also reach out to Efficiency Vermont if they are considering any efficiency upgrades - weatherization, HVAC upgrades, lighting, etc. We'd hate to see anyone put local funds toward something we could be incentivizing.

Here is our website to sign up for a free walk-through <https://www.encyvermont.com/towns>

Karen Horn : VLCT.org

Chris Cochran, DHCD : DHCD newsletter sign up - <https://vermont.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=15aa77878d819d6983e8682d1&id=199e77590f>

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : Karen how can we stay in touch so we know when and how it goes live?

Sam Lash (she/hers), CVRPC : Hi Wichie and Matthew and all! I'm the Climate and Energy Planner at Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and I would love to encourage you to sign up for your regional planning commission newsletter and to get

in touch directly (and look out for the emails from them) with the staff member in the program area of interest for technical assistance, questions, etc!

<https://www.vapda.org/>

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : Also Karen, it sounds like we need money for capacity building. Because it's nice that we're helped, but we still need someone to know.

@Sam, yes, we're in conversation with our regional planning commission, but same things --> limited ways that we can be helped. We don't have someone to do that work.

Alyssa Johnson, VCRD : The REDI Program Rep. Sims just referenced:

<https://vhcb.org/redi>

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : What I have also observed is that there is a fair amount of turn over in municipal leadership so it is a challenge to keep up on what's available. Athens is a good example that I have worked with over several years discussing our programs with several people. Always willing to continue conversations with new leaders.

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : REDI focuses on communities of less than 5K in population

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : Thank you for all this insightful conversation!!

Ernest Caswell : Is there any committees or working group working together on farmworker housing issues?? We need to address farmworker issues and build affordable homes for our farmworkers in rural communities..National rural housing coalition website has information.. is there any working group working together on farmworker housing?? We must include our agricultural workforce in building affordable homes

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : ^^

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : We fund health care facilities see <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/vt>

Rep. Katherine Sims : Also, FY2023 Building Communities Facilities Grants administered by the Department of Buildings and General Services includes \$150,000.00 – Human Services Facilities Grant Program <https://bgs.vermont.gov/commissioner/building-communities-grants>

Sara Coffey : Great panel this morning - thanks to the panelists and VCRD for all the Info. I have to hop off.

Sam Lash (she/hers), CVRPC : Ernest I read about a collaboration between Migrant Justice, New Frameworks and Efficiency VT- there was some coverage from Energy News Network last year but I'm not sure where the work stands right now

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : TY Katherine, I didn't know about the BGS funding available for human services facilities.

Sam Lash (she/hers), CVRPC : I believe VHFA has a specific loan program for farmworker housing and VHCB did a study last year which culminated in a report

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : We have funded staff for this purpose see <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants/vt>

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : I'm with Thomas, that it would be very valuable to do that. We would apply for that here at Athens. Wanting to build economic development capacity

Ernest Caswell : VHCB has little information but has Champlain housing trust working on a farmworker housing repair program 1 time and this new program needs to be ongoing

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : VHCB and others are working with RuralEdge in NEK to better address farmworker housing. (I serve on the RE board and can help you connect to RE staff... [trish@kingdomcommons.com](mailto:trish@kingdomcommons.com))

Thomas Davis : Thanks very much - I look forward to talking you!

Ernest Caswell : I recommend this building a committee

Chris Cochran, DHCD : DHCD leg summary --  
[https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD\\_Web\\_Docs/CD/CPR/Resources-and-Rules/CPR-StatutoryChanges2022Preliminary.pdf](https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD_Web_Docs/CD/CPR/Resources-and-Rules/CPR-StatutoryChanges2022Preliminary.pdf)

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : here is my email [jon.muise@usda.gov](mailto:jon.muise@usda.gov) or call 802-689-3026

Ernest Caswell : Discussions are important and grow fruit please join in discussions

The symbol of agriculture sits on the home of all people and include farmers and workers as we all faced food sercerity and we must add agricultural housing to grow our rural Vt. Thanks

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : Our campaign is hosting a listening session with community around housing in Windham County. Feel free to register:

[https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkcuuogDojGd1QvdVp5nW4vLswD7wdzxXw?\\_x\\_zm\\_rtaid=W\\_v\\_iUXhT76ZLe07ss5ceQ.1655992923645.8d8cc4990330e0e1afc067710f238a05&\\_x\\_zm\\_rtaid=194](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUkcuuogDojGd1QvdVp5nW4vLswD7wdzxXw?_x_zm_rtaid=W_v_iUXhT76ZLe07ss5ceQ.1655992923645.8d8cc4990330e0e1afc067710f238a05&_x_zm_rtaid=194)

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : DITTO on legislative salary. I'd be interested in sponsoring a bill like that in collaboration with other folks ;)

Rep. Katherine Sims : Thanks Chris for addressing these barriers - it is an essential step toward enabling our state government to represent the full range and diversity of Vermonters' experiences. Policy conversations informed by a diversity of perspectives lead to better policy outcomes for everyone.

Jon-Michael (Max) Muise USDA Rural Development : jumping in on the change opportunity....the Farm bill will be coming up for re-authorization so if you experienced programs that could be changed for the better or have a new idea for programs to better fit the need please contact the federal delegation

Elizabeth McEwen : Thank you, it is lots to look at and think about.

Alyssa Johnson, VCRD : Information on the Vermont Community Leadership Summit (August 10): <https://www.vtrural.org/Summit22>

Thomas Davis : Thanks for all of your help and support.

Alyssa Johnson, VCRD : Link again to sign up for Vermont Community Leadership Network (VCLN): <https://www.vtrural.org/leadership>

Trish Sears/NEKTI Consulting : MANY THANKS, VCRD. Your time is valuable and sharing it is appreciated. CHEERS

Wichie Artu - VT State Senate Candidate : THANK YOU so much for having this forum. It has been INCREDIBLY helpful.