

Regional Dispatch Governance Group

Meeting notes, 11/28/16

Dawn Francis, Aaron Frank, Charlie Baker, Joe Colangelo, Jeffrey Barton, Steve Locke, Al Barber, Lee Krohn, Dan Manz.

Reviewed process and “top ten” governance issues identified previously.

Reviewed the draft summary/pros and cons presentation. If a regional entity is desired, which model might be more acceptable to municipalities (CCRPC or new regional entity)? This is a more operational matter than CCRPC typically manages; and would involve Board and Director in new areas such as Union negotiations. RPC is an existing, trusted entity among municipalities, but this might be seen as too far afield of traditional topics and projects.

Would likely need dual layer governance (the existing Board as the top tier policy board, and a lower level comprised more of public safety practitioners). A regional authority might only have a single board, a mix of public safety practitioners and municipal managers).

RPC can do anything a municipality can do except tax, legislate, and use eminent domain. CVPSA can assess taxes. Advantage is requirement to pay.

Contract options and issues; need for longer term agreements.

To work with RPC, can be by vote of leg. body. To join regional authority, need citizen vote.

Regional authority needs more complete ‘ramp up’, RPC works with existing structure where appropriate.

Ability to grow – allow for agencies outside of county...why limit?

Could CUSI board come within PSA? One or more specialty sub boards... work toward consistency in ordinances (animal control...).

Contracting: too many pitfalls.

RPC: could be easier re: existing authority...

Regional Authority: likely best overall, even though needs legislative approval...looking long term, other possible shared approaches to service deliveries... 40 year history of special purpose governance (solid waste, etc). But with a regional authority, might voters rebel from others telling them what to do? Berlin and Barre Town voted not to join into the CVPSA, now only Barre City/Montpelier partnership, and that not even solidified as previously thought.

Need to clarify a cost sharing formula up front? Consider a blend of grand list, population, and call volume... and compare with current costs.

Difference here from CVPSA: domino effect...bring in enough key players so others choose or have to follow.

Consensus among the group likely that a regional authority may be best, although what's the key difference with CCRPC? A regional authority might allow further expansion beyond dispatch if desired. Takes longer to establish, though...community votes, then legislature... strength of RPC is that reps are usually elected officials, so accountability is clear. May be anxiety if governed by appointed, not elected representatives, and depending upon voting representation, as well.

Legislative body timing? Seek local approval now to seek legislative enabling authority... let us have the tool in place? Or is more detail (cost sharing, etc) needed up front? Follow the existing CVPSA model when drafting legislation, as it already exists and was approved by the Legislature.

Next governance group meeting 12/19. Is there anything we need to do besides cut and paste from the CVPSA model? Timing re: local leg. bodies... sooner than later? Important re: timing and momentum.

Can or should we devise voting and \$ formulas in advance, go slower?

Or propose a hybrid approach - start via RPC as a known entity, with an eventual move to a standalone entity? Perhaps Deltawrx will help us clarify an approach as part of this Wednesday's 'roadmap workshop'.

Consider an interim mechanism, with an interim Exec. Dir. to continue work and champion concept, keep momentum alive, develop financial model, etc...?

Consider asking municipalities for supplemental funding to help pay for this continued work? If hope to propose in next year's budgets, need suggested amounts ASAP. It was agreed to consider this.

Meeting adjourned. 'Roadmap workshop' with the larger group this Wednesday at South Burlington City Hall at 8:00 A.M.; next governance group meeting on 12/19 at Noon at Colchester Town Hall.