

2023 PRA National Conference

September 6 - 8, 2023



Capitol Plaza Hotel in downtown Montpelier, Vermont (100 State Street, Montpelier VT)

Wed, September 6 ~ Opening Dinner, Welcome & Keynote 6-9:00pm

Capital Plaza, Ethan Allen Room

- Arrival & Check-In at the Capitol Plaza Hilton, Montpelier
- Opening Dinner & Programming starts at 6pm
 - Welcome: Bill Menner (PRA Chair, Iowa), Nancy Smith (Maine), Brian Lowe (Vermont)
 - Keynote: Sarah Waring USDA RD Director for VT & NH and Rhiannon Hampson USDA RD Director for ME
 - Taste Testing Challenge for PRA Members and Guests: Vermont and Maine Beers

Thurs, September 7 ~ Bus Tour 8am-6pm

Bus departs from the Capital Plaza at 8am

In-Transit Discussion emceed by Sarah Waring (USDA Rural Development) and Ben Doyle (Preservation Trust of Vermont) with topics such as infrastructure funding (how it is showing up / reflecting needs, etc.) and other topics that come up.

- **Hardwick** – arrive 8:45am / depart 10am
Center for Ag Economy (Working Lands, Community Visits, Food Systems)
Jon Ramsey, ED, CAE, confirmed
- **Montgomery** – arrive 10:55am / depart 1pm
Village Downtown Investment, Wastewater, Forest Economy (Community Visit Process 3 Years Later, Downtown Revitalization, Working Lands Site)
Lunch @ Café Oma
Charlie Hancock, Select Board Chair, confirmed
- **St. Albans City** – arrive 1:50pm / depart 3pm
Working Communities Challenge in NW Vermont + Broadband Buildout + Dynamic City and Community Leaders
- **Burlington** – arrive 3:40pm / depart 5:00pm
Climate Economy, Net Zero, 100 Percent Renewable and Utilities +/- Small Cities in Rural States
Darren Springer, BED, not confirmed

Fri, September 8 ~ PRA Annual Meeting & Panels 9am-3pm

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- **Update / Presentation:** U.S. Farm Bill Status
- **Maine Panel Discussion:** Ag Planning & The American Farmland Trust
- **Lunch**
- **“The Future is Rural” Panel Discussion**
 - Preservation Trust, Vt Community Foundation, VCRD (Village Trust)
 - Matt Dunne, Center Of Rural Innovation
- **Adjourn**