Town of Waitsfield

Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) Implementation Grant 2024 Public Hearing

Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, April 4, 2025
Time: 3:05 PM

Meeting Called to Order

Attendees: Joshua Schwartz, York Haverkamp, Larissa Ursprung, Chach Curtis, Dave Babbott-Klein

Larissa Ursprung: Waitsfield Selectboard Vice Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

Purpose: To solicit public testimony regarding the town's intended grant application to the Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) for $1 million to partially fund the first phase of construction of the Waitsfield Community Wastewater System.

**Grant Overview and Project Details**

Josh Schwartz: Mad River Valley Planning District

The town is applying for a 2024 VCDP Implementation Grant for $1 million, the maximum amount available.

The grant requires a 10% local match, which has been identified through other committed project funds.

The wastewater project aims to provide collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal for up to 95,040 gallons/day.

Phase 1’s service area focuses on Irasville and Fiddlers Green with a treatment capacity of 50,000 gallons/day. Phase 2 will expand the service area and disposal capacity to serve Waitsfield Village.

**Key Updates and Discussions**

Grant Application Process

Pre-application VCDP was approved inviting the submission of a full application.

Median household income thresholds and environmental reviews are being met.

**Engineering and Design Status**

John Ashley the projects Engineer with DuBois & King has provided details for our current status which Josh Schwartz reported:

Project is at the 60% design stage; final design expected later in 2025.

Easements for pump stations and private property connections are being negotiated.

**Funding Overview:** Josh Schwartz

Total project cost for Phase one: $11.44 million.

Additional funding applications are in progress (e.g., Northern Border Regional Commission Catalyst Grant).

Chach Curtis: Selectboard speaking

Wastewater loading tests at the minefield site confirmed favorable results with no surprises. Thresholds for nitrogen and phosphorus levels have been provided by the Agency of Natural Resources.

Josh Schwartz:

Stated the grant funds and project will ensure Build America, Buy America Compliance (BABA)

Federal compliance requirements have been incorporated into the budget analysis with a 15% contingency for construction costs.

**Easement Process**

Easements will clearly define responsibilities (e.g., homeowner vs. town) for maintenance and damages to pipes on private property.

Josh Schwartz speaking on co-locating of the wastewater project and the potential for a walk/bike path

Opportunity identified to co-locate an active transportation corridor (bike/pedestrian path) with the wastewater conveyance pipe along Route 100 right-of-way.

Coordination between engineers for both projects (wastewater and active transportation) is ongoing to explore feasibility and potential cost implications.

**Project Management Costs**

Discussion on including project management costs (8–10%) in the budget for administration of easements and construction oversight. Considering the project expectations are less than the 8-10%, referencing a 2% already included in the budget.

**Environmental and Permitting Considerations**

Wetlands, archeology, historic preservation, and natural resources reviews are ongoing. Coordination with Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) regarding right-of-way use is underway.

**Next Steps**

Finalize all easements before securing additional funding approvals.

Submit additional grant application with the due date of April 18, 2025.

Continue coordination with property owners regarding easements and non-binding agreements.

Advance permitting processes and finalize design details.

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting concluded at 3:31pm.