

# Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

## Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)

Michael Zahner (MZ)

Gary Smith (GS)

Josh Pitts (JP) – part of meeting

Karl Bissex (KB)

Michael Billingsley (MB)

Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom

Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom

Bram Towbin (BT) – not available

Thad Leugemors, PMP (VEM Recovery Team) - not available

Carter Ivey (VEM Recovery Team) via Zoom at 11 am

Sheila McGraw & Lauren Scott (TIG @ 11 am) - via Zoom at 11 am

Celina Barton (Goddard) (CB) – not available

## **Agenda: 10-11AM**

### **Transition from Emergency to Recovery Phase discussion -**

Moving from Emerg grants work into the Recovery phase – moving to grants administration and management – this changes how we will be working – what needs to be different in how we're operating?

MZ, Josh & Ross Gouin - Transitioning to management phase - we need project manager for Mill St. Bridge – Ross said each project will need its own project manager – need to group projects together – everywhere there is a bridge is a separate project.

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What projects to identify and each project has funding then we will need to fund what is missing –

KH how do we manage projects to miss any funding sources and make sure we get reimbursements and how do we prepare for future disasters?

KB hiring someone to be a Recovery Manager as an employee will be a challenge. The SB has no appetite for another position.

Josh discussed the Administrative Assistant position and finding the right person – big need to build the position into what we need administratively – finding someone long term they may be able to provide multiple layers of administration

GS – shoestring office staff – 2024 disaster is major league compared to 2023 disaster – looking at possible \$50M plus in funds to manage and coordinate next 2-3 years – this is just getting rolling and need to staff up teams and management

KH – recommends we look into hiring a consultant since the board isn't interested in a permanent employee. And could be reimbursable and an easier sell to the community

KH – may need another public info mtng. to get everyone up to speed

Every grant and funding source needs management and is recommended by FEMA and TIG – need professional management assistance

KH how do we move forward – need another level of coordination – needs Recovery Coordinator – pursue contractor piece like TIG – ask Katie Buckley (VLCT) if she has a template to put out RFP – funding is available through grants -

MZ – position will hire engineers, studies, etc.

Josh will work closely with the position as Treasurer

KH will do some research on RFP's w/ VLCT

FEMA Local Disaster Recovery Manager Responsibilities:

<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/community-recovery-management-toolkit/recovery-planning/local-disaster-recovery-managers-responsibilities>

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## **Debrief Great Brook Roundtable discussion**

MZ – working w/ Ross Gouin and raised concerns regarding Brook Rd. Bridge and work that was done incorrectly – sent letter

Josh – waiting for follow up from DuBois & King

Plan is for MB to consult w/ Geo Springston and draft letter to VTrans and Karen will review and get it to Karl for SB review and signature

## **Municipal Planning Grant- Karen**

CVRPC willing to help us strategize how best to use the Municipal Planning Grant. Eli Toohey and Keith Cubbon will be invited to join us next week to discuss options for using this grant.

## **EWP Grant update- Karen**

Brian Voigt from CVRPC will partner with us to manage the application process on the four properties that were approved for an EWP grant.

## **Village Expansion update - Arion**

Public presentations last week – 150 ppl (in person & Zoom) – good feedback and followup questions – overwhelmingly positive feedback – some not in my backyard – preliminary not to exceed budget 1.5M from VCF – 26 families signed up as prospective buyers – 12 of which will receive FEMA buyout funds – Habitat for Humanity wants to buy 6 lots and DS buy 5 single family lots (commitment letters) – shared equity model – presale of 10 lots – draft ballot item for SB review & approval – KB the SB will have a public hearing on 1/30 or 1/31 for proposed zoning changes if SB goes ahead it would be ready for a town meeting vote

Town PC wants 1/10 of an acre – state minimum is 1/5 of an acre – if 1/5 is not approved then the lots will cost more – MB looking for a copy of buyout list – Arion will send spreadsheet to MB some info is confidential – state pays for appraisal if they want to contest they can hire their own appraiser -

(Karen had to leave at 11 for an appointment.)

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## **FEMA PA DI Wrap Up**

11-12PM (Carter, Sheila and Lauren to joined by Zoom) Sierra Davidson leader of VEM. public assistance coordinators checking in before DI submission date 1/17/25

Sheila working through the list – rec'd more edits than anticipated

GS – biggest concern rec'd numerous last minute updates from State – doesn't want to take chance in jeopardizing relationship w/ FEMA and share immediately w/ Byron (FEMA) –

Sierra – sharing DI with Byron – yes, she encourages us to do so if that is what Plnfd. feels is most comfortable to avoid bad relations with FEMA – State can continue to update DI until lock in date of 1/17/25 – do whatever we feel is best

1PM - FEMA Meeting with Byron Daniels- Gary, TIG, Carter