

# Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting

Tuesday, February, 18, 2025 @ 10 a.m.

## Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)  
Michael Zahner (MZ) – not available  
Gary Smith (GS) – via Zoom  
Josh Pitts (JP)  
Karl Bissex (KB) – not available  
Michael Billingsley (MB)  
Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom  
Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom at 11:15  
Carter Ivey (VEM Recovery Team) – via Zoom at 11:00  
Sheila McGraw & Lauren (TIG @ 11 am) – not available

## **Agenda: 10 AM**

### Grant Program Updates:

FEMA Buyout- Arion

FEMA-PA- Gary

FEMA Portal damage inventory now in-sink w/ Plainfield damage inventory. Site visits won't start until the end of March given the weather. Maybe some table top visits. Byron said given the extent of damages all damage inventories will be on site. Some will be funded outside of FEMA. FEMA will still create estimates in case other sources fall through and will remain on the inventory list. Focus over the next couple weeks is getting the reimbursement process going for some projects completed – Sheila will be working on reimbursement. We will be ready for site visits - then there will be a large volume of work to do after the site visits that will coincide with reappraisal work and will be extremely busy March thru May.

Karen - Can we rely on Chris Scarlet, TIG to jump in and help?

Gary – Yes, we will definitely need his assistance and help to coordinate w/ FEMA so that we have good information when responding to FEMA.

Gary – Byron now officially done – new FEMA PDMG Chandler Roberts is our new contact – background is FEMA field assessments – seems to have a good background. Good integrated team w/ FEMA and VEM – good interest in helping us move on and recover.

FHWA- Josh

Karl & Josh negotiating price and services w/ Ross (Vtrans) – looking at how site 2 (the roadway that connects to Mill St. bridge) can be rolled into site 1 (Mill St. bridge) – 13 total sites need to select those that align and require permanent solution.

Gary – the FEMA list is very broad.

Josh - 13 sites are on the Federal Highway list and Ross said there are 5 sites that require permanent repairs and are on the FEMA project list – he went through all the GPS list w/ Sheila and those on the FEMA list and Federal highway list to assure accuracy.

MB – George Springston has done a rivers engineering study – based on this there might need to be some changes.

Josh - Creamery St. & Cameron Rd. is site 3 – if something needs to change based on George's study they can open it back up as a permanent project

Karen – we need to prioritize and take into consideration the spring melt and what is at risk.

MB – concerned about snowmelt and rain and ice jams beginning of March and flooding issues – need to be prepared. Need to think about engineering studies. He is communicating w/ Julie Moore, ANR.

Gary said anything that receives more damage this spring already has a place holder in the FEMA damage inventory.

Josh - Michael Bingham checked and no temporary bridges are available – can George Springston estimate how the 2 residents on Cameron Rd. might be affected?

KH – what is the coordination between George, Josh, Michael Bingham and residents?

Josh will call George and ask for assistance.

GS – helpful to have a plan because Vt. has a short construction season – need coordination on projects – KH will put on next agenda

MB – suggests using CVRPC maps and color code project areas to see what is FEMA and what is Federal Hwy. – he will ask Keith Cubbon (CVRPC) for assistance

EWP Grant- letters went to property owners for buyout – 2 have responded yes – preparing packets and moving forward.

CDBG VCDP Planning Grant for (Village Exp. Engineering) and CDBG-DR Update- Karen

Karen – on a call w/ VCDP & CDBG DR for funding of a grant for \$60K to do final engineering work on the village housing project – all background paperwork is done for DR funding – CDBG issues are covered. Conversation with Pat Moulton – there is conversation about non-competitive funds being reserved available for Plnfl.

KH & Arion – noticed the CDBG-DR announcement document was removed from the HUD website – they have asked Pat M. to see if she can get answers about the status of funding. Waiting for an answer.

KH – look at another way to fund Recovery Project Manager position – may not be able to be funded through DR. Possible contracting with CVRPC, Karen will contact Keith Cubbon on this.

MB – where would mapping funding come from? KH maybe could pay administrative fees – maybe for reimbursement through FEMA cat. Z?

Animating Infrastructure Arts Grant- Karen - \$5K grant for sculpture design work – kick off for community conversation re: green space sculpture – money would come to Town to pay Jesse Cooper for his work. – Pat M. suggested to also investigate a river trails grant. MB has mapping software to layout the area. Jessie has design software as well to help community visualize the green space project.

NBRC- Karen – on March 11<sup>th</sup> Kristie Farnham & Melissa Bounty joining our meeting to provide information on the grant programs at NBRC.

FEMA Advance Assistance (Great Brook Study) - MZ coordinating w/ Steve Libby – on a scoping study.

HMPG (Batchelder Dam) – MB & MZ working on this project.

Other Items:

Follow up items from Funders Roundtable will meet once a month. Carter helped prepare a list. Link to running list of tasks to be completed:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YZLDJH\\_pQKgken0DliY5Af8EUZTpZoSi/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114775336642612674384&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YZLDJH_pQKgken0DliY5Af8EUZTpZoSi/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114775336642612674384&rtpof=true&sd=true)

KH – to update SB on Monday, 2/24 on this group’s progress. Schedule another community special SB meeting update after town meeting. Have info about upcoming session ready for Town Meeting when public info meeting will be held.  
MB – include clarification on funding sources and how the town won’t go into debt.

Grant Administrative Fees discussion- move to next meeting

In-kind Matching discussion- move to next meeting

**Meeting ended at 11:30.**