

Plainfield Flood Recovery Grants Work Group Meeting Notes Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 10 am

Attending:

Karen Hatcher (KH)

Michael Zahner (MZ) – not available

Gary Smith (GS)

Josh Pitts (JP)

Karl Bissex (KB) – not available

Michael Billingsley (MB)

Denise Wheeler (DW) – via Zoom

Keith Cubbon(CVRPC)

Arion Thiboumery (AT) – via Zoom

Agenda: 10-11AM

Brook Road Repairs Discussion- Josh and Keith Cubbon (CVRPC)

JP – There are 12 Federal Highway projects – 9 EDIRs have been submitted – management by VHB for first 4 projects – Dubois & King as design firm for first 4 projects – Evan Detrick recommended that VHB is better for the design stage of the NEPA process and they have a staff person and is a better choice. Project 4 has a snag because FHWA didn't approve a permanent fix to Bridge 22 – Brook Rd. adjacent to Cameron Rd. – JP has reapplied for a permanent fix – JP identified project locations for 1, 2 & 3. Next steps is a management proposal for 3 & 4; design proposal for sites 1, 2, & 3 – putting out a management request for remaining projects; #12 not permanent;; #11 asking for permanent fix; 10 & 9 is one bridge; #8 Lee Brook & Gray Rd. not a permanent fix.

Keith – setting up a meeting with Evan regarding options – alternatives for NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act) review – looking for cost savings

MB – do they look at historical repairs?

JP spoke w/ VHB NEPA person – asking about realignment of roadway. Has talked with a couple of landowners.

JP intersection redesign discuss at next SB mtng.

Next step: hire project manager and design firm.

MB – Mill St. Bridge has rec'd additional damage in the past 3 months – JP looking at redesign – there may be exceptions – buyouts won't hinder highway projects.

Julie Moore, DEC said needs to have their own study to determine if a stream alteration permit is needed – MB suggested asking for a streambed adjustment to avoid future problems

Karen read George Springstons email with requests – including review of a draft RFP for scoping study

AT – CGBD planning grant info needed today: beginning and ending balances over the past 3 years – JP will get the info needed to Arion.

Planning for May 5th from 6 to 8 pm - Community Update – Infrastructure

KH - Introduce team members – volunteer hours

Goals; Outcomes/take away for audience; topics to cover this time; who presents; logistics; what we know and what we don't know; plan another meeting; what we are and aren't talking about

JP – each federal project will have its own public informational process

KH – catchup on progress

MB – Haz. Mit. Mtng. re: Batchelder Dam – don't deal with this at this meeting

KH – FEMA, Fed. Hwy. grants, infrastructure conversation (roads, bridges, etc.) – not Village Exp. Project

People need to feel a sense that we are actively engaged and what we've done – build positive feeling re progress and process

Present real information and facts – what we know and what we don't know

GS – some sort of realistic timeline – marathon not a sprint

MB – visual map

KH will provide a one page handout

FEMA PA (GS); list # of different projects; FHW – distinguish why they are different from FEMA and an overview of funding sources – emergency repairs/measurements and then permanent repairs

1. General overview (KH)
2. FEMA PA (GS) working w/ TIG
3. FHW (JP & Keith maps)
4. Water/Wastewater – JP

Keith Swan/Dan Fingas – computer stuff – Zoom link

KH – agenda and advertise

KH – slides and map only a couple needed – couple of project samples to look at – interactive map

Keith – slides w/ list of FEMA projects to show the amount of projects

MB – Will the Great Brook study come up? Probably – Geo Springstien to address

Next planning meeting for the public info meeting is Tuesday, 4/29 at 10 am to finalize everything.

FEMA Update - Gary

Site inspections – done

Began doing emergency protection reimbursements

Politely pestering people

GS – has been working on a list of FEMA acronyms'

DDD – damage description and dimensions

EEI - EEI is essential elements of information

Next scoping and cost stage

Preparing budgets for projects (damage inventory items)

Tuesday, May 20 – invite Kristy Farnham

Other Active Grant Updates - All- 10 minutes – not discussed

East Village Expansion Committee- Arion- 10 minutes – not discussed

New Business - none