

Date: April 14, 2025  
To: Plainfield Select Board  
From: Plainfield Recovery Grants Work Group  
Re: Recovery Grants Update

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**Save the Date! Monday, May 5, 2025 from 6-8pm at the Town Hall**  
**Flood Recovery Community Information Update**

The Grants Work Group will report on our progress, provide detailed information about the process of repairs through FHWA and FEMA-PA, and answer questions about future planning.

The focus of our work this month has been on moving the processes of emergency repair reimbursement, site inspection and identification of permanent repair projects forward with both FHWA and FEMA-PA.

1. FEMA Public Assistance: (Gary, Karen, The Integrity Group Consultants)
  - a. During the week of March 31st, over 30 site inspections took place with FEMA inspectors, our consultants and our Plainfield team (Gary, Josh, Michael Bingham) primarily on Cameron, Lee, Gore, Maxfield, and Recreation Field roads, as well as other roads in town. These inspections included damage to roads, bridges, culverts, water and sewer lines, and other items related to calculating funding for permanent repairs. The weather was challenging, but the work got done thanks to our amazing team!
  - b. Our consultants from The Integrity Group are now working with Gary on finalizing the list of emergency repair expenses to be reimbursed by FEMA.
  - c. Preliminary estimates for FEMA permanent repair projects will likely be between \$5-10 Million.
  - d. Next steps will be having FEMA provide cost estimates for permanent projects. We expect we will be working on this process for the next couple of months.
  - e. We've learned that the local FEMA office will be closing in July 2025, so we are hustling to get everything submitted into the FEMA portal before that happens.
  
2. FHWA: (Josh, Keith, Karen)
  - a. Josh Pitts is now being supported by Keith Cubbon of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission and they have completed nearly all of the DDIRs (Detailed Damage Inspection Reports) for all sites in and along the Brook Rd right of way.
  - b. Emergency repair reimbursement figures for all of the damages along Brook Road total over \$800,000. We expect these funds to arrive within the next three to six months.
  - c. Eleven different project sites have been confirmed, the majority of which will be slated for permanent repairs and will each have its own project process whereby repair options will be explored.
  - d. VCB Engineering has been hired as our project manager for the Mill Street Bridge. This is our first permanent repair project under FHWA. They will likely also be the firm we use on the two sites just above Mill Street Bridge.

3. ~~ADVANCE SYSTEM FUNDING GRANT:~~ BRIC FUNDING GRANT: (State of VT, CVRPC)  
In order to ensure we have the technical report detailing the condition of the Great Brook in time to make good decisions about the repairs on Brook Road, Vermont Emergency Management and Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission will be coordinating a three town BRIC grant to study the Great Brook. The Town of Plainfield will not need to apply or manage the grant application.
4. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION GRANT: (Karen, George Springston)  
**These funds are now under a moratorium.**
5. BATCHELDER DAM STUDY GRANT: (Michael Billingsley, Michael Zahner)  
Michele Braun from Friends of the Winooski is coordinating this grant, estimated at \$125,000 to cover feasibility study of removal of the dam, which is **100% FUNDED**. The grant application is nearly complete and will be submitted by April 30th. A number of documents will need to be signed by the chair of the Select Board prior to submission.
6. CDBG, VCDP GRANT: (Arion)
  - a. This grant is for an engineering study on the East Village Expansion Project. \$60,000 with a 10% match.
  - b. The Public Hearing for this grant was held on April 7th with a five day public comment period, and now the application can move forward.
7. CDBG-DR GRANT: (Karen)
  - a. **We are still awaiting an update from the Division of Commerce and Community Development about the details for this grant program.**
  - b. \$68M to Vermont; \$55 Million to Washington and Lamoille Counties. \$10 Million maximum on project application.
  - c. Preliminary plans will be presented on March 20th, with a 30 day public comment period.
8. ANIMATING INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT: (Karen)
  - a. Working with local artist, Jesse Cooper, this initial pitch was submitted to the Vermont Arts Council by the April 1st deadline. Awaiting a decision on whether we will be asked to make a full application.
  - b. Jesse will head up the project, which is being sponsored by the Plainfield Recreation and Public Arts Committee.
9. BECCA BALINT EARMARK REQUEST: (Karen)  
**Heard back that no earmark will be occurring this year.**

10. FEMA BUYOUT: (Arion)

- a. We heard that 10 of the buyouts have moved forward. We are awaiting confirmation from Vermont Emergency Management for the rest of the applications.

11. ARTS FACILITIES GRANT: (Karen)

- a. We are exploring a grant possibility through the Vermont Arts Council for replacing the lift in the Town Hall/Opera House.
- b. We need two estimates to include in the application. Working with Keith Swann on this.
- c. May 15th deadline.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hatcher, Town Grants Administrator

On behalf of the Grants Work Group: Gary Smith, Michael Zahner, Josh Pitts, Arion Thiboumery, Michael Billingsley, Karl Bissex and Denise Wheeler

**Note:** Team member names in parenthesis next to grant names are those who are actively working on the listed grants.