

# Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project

Update 3.26.26

To: Waitsfield Selectboard  
From: Joshua Schwartz, MRV Planning District  
CC: Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Team Members  
York Haverkamp, Waitsfield Town Admin.  
JB Weir, Waitsfield Planning & Zoning Admin.  
Chach Curtis, Waitsfield Selectboard Member  
Bob Cook, Waitsfield Planning Commissioner  
Project Engineer  
Jon Ashley, DuBois & King  
Waitsfield Planning Commission  
Date: March 26, 2026  
Re: Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Update

I am providing this update on the Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project (WCWP) in my capacity as Project Coordinator, as outlined in the *Waitsfield Wastewater Project Structure & Timeline | 2024-25*, approved by the Selectboard on 7.8.24. This update is intended to keep the Waitsfield Selectboard and Project Team Members informed of the project's status and recent developments.

The Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Team (WCWPT), project engineer Jon Ashley of DuBois & King (D&K), and staff from the VT Department of Environmental Commission's Water Infrastructure Division continue to meet every two weeks to discuss system design, technical specifications, permitting, outreach, funding, and related topics. Key highlights include:

- Design Plans
  - D&K is poised to complete 90% design sets at the end of March. The D90 design set includes the entire project, broken out by the wastewater treatment facility and the broader collection system. Once completed and reviewed by the WCWPT, D90 will be shared with VTrans, DEC, the Division of Historic Preservation, and funders for their review. Associated permits are expected from each entity upon completion of their D90 review.
  - Project design completion is targeted for June 2026, to include final permitting approvals.
- Additional Topographic Surveying
  - While the majority of the project's topographic surveying took place in 2024, additional topographic survey work is scheduled for the week of 3.30 to accommodate design amendments (realignment of the conveyance pipe along Slow Road instead of VT100, additional water and sewer service connections, etc.). JB Weir has reached out to the relevant landowners to inform them.
- Underground Utility Location Work
  - On 4.2-3, D&K is scheduled to undertake underground utility locating at the project's pump station sites as a double-check for any significant conflicts that would affect the design. This consists of the Fiddler's Green, Upper Irasville, Bridge Street, and Waitsfield School pump station sites. JB Weir has reached out to the relevant landowners to inform them.
- Tree List
  - D&K has generated an updated list of trees identified as potentially being impacted by the construction of the collection system. This includes trees along the conveyance pipe alignment and individual service connections. It includes numerous Ash trees, many of which would otherwise need

to be removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer. York, JB, & Joshua reviewed the list with Charlie Hosford of the Waitsfield Tree Board across two sessions (3.18 & 3.19), identifying significant trees. A subsequent discussion at the 3.25 WCWPT meeting led D&K to explore options to avoid impacts to a handful of significant trees. We also didn't focus on Ash trees, as we assume all of those are in need of removal due to Emerald Ash Borer.

- Munn Site
  - The wastewater treatment facility and in-ground disposal for the project will be located on the town-owned Munn Site at the intersection of Kingsbury Road and VT 100. The facility building will be situated at the rear of the open field, with disposal occurring in a 2.75-acre area directly behind the structure. Clearing of approximately 2.5 acres of trees is required for the disposal site. To comply with funding requirements and minimize impacts on endangered bat species and migratory birds, tree cutting must be completed before April 15. York Haverkamp is overseeing the procurement process for tree removal, while York and JB Weir will conduct outreach and notification with neighboring property owners by the end of March.
- Priority Parcel Owner Outreach
  - Since mid-January, JB Weir has led site visits to approximately 70 priority properties. These visits have focused on providing project updates, collecting measurements for final design, and clarifying connection implications.
- Easements
  - A required component of the project is the execution of user agreements and permanent easements that cover property owner connections, pump stations, and conveyance. Town staff is working with the Town Attorney to develop a draft to be shared with property owners this spring.
- Wastewater Treatment Facility Emergency Response Plan
  - RCAP Solutions developed a first draft Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Vulnerability Assessment for Waitsfield's Wastewater Treatment Facility in late February. This work is a condition of the Town's pending USDA Rural Development Loan for Waitsfield's Community Wastewater Project. RCAP Solutions undertook this work at no cost to the Town of Waitsfield, as it was included in RCAP's contract for technical assistance for disaster-related issues for community facilities.
- Wastewater Ordinance
  - The Waitsfield Water Commission is in the process of developing a draft Wastewater Ordinance for future consideration by the Waitsfield Selectboard. Water Commission members have experience in this realm, having authored the Water Ordinance currently in effect.
- Funding
  - CWSRF & ARPA
    - The VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) have funded all engineering and design costs for the Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project and are set to fund the initial construction phase.
    - Due to the Town's ranking on Vermont's FFY25/SFY26 CWSRF Intended Use Plan, it qualifies for CWSRF construction loans. The town is also eligible for a 50% subsidy, up to \$1M in loan principal forgiveness, with a deadline of 6.30.26.
    - On 2.6, the Town of Waitsfield submitted a Project Priority List application to VT DEC for its FFY26/SFY27 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) funding cycle, which provides eligibility for CWSRF funding through the upcoming fiscal year (7.1.26-6.30.27). The results will be published in the State's corresponding IUP. A draft is expected this summer.
    - On 2.12, WCWP had a successful funding meeting with VT DEC Commissioner Sinsigalli and Water Infrastructure Division staff.
  - NBRC Catalyst Program
    - The Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) Catalyst Program's fall 2025 funding round awarded Waitsfield \$1M of construction funding focused on connecting the Waitsfield

School to the broader infrastructure project. This was the third round in which the Town of Waitsfield submitted an application to this program to fund the Wastewater Project.

- The project is currently undertaking NEPA review by NBRC staff.
- USDA RD
  - On 8.27.25, the Town of Waitsfield was notified that it had been awarded a USDA RD grant of \$649,000 and a loan totaling \$7.552M.
- FY27 CDS
  - Applications are currently being developed for FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending requests from Vermont's three representatives, Rep. Balint, Sen. Welch, & Sen. Sanders. The requests focus on EPA STAG Clean Water SRF funding to be applied directly to the construction of the Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project.
- Community Outreach
  - MRVPD & Town staff are in the process of updating the Community Wastewater Project page on the Town of Waitsfield website: <https://www.waitsfieldvt.gov/departments/projects/wastewater>.
  - Town staff are coordinating outreach to property owners adjacent to the conveyance pipe between the service area and Munn Site.

### Near-Term Activities

- Additional topographic surveying (3.30-4.3)
- Underground utility location work (4.2-3)
- D90 review & feedback (3.31)
- Munn Site tree clearing (early April 2026)
- State regulator & funder review of D90 (late April 2026)
- Final Design (6.1)
- Wastewater Ordinance discussions (Summer 2026)
- Bid Phase (Summer 2026)
- Construction (Fall 2026)