

# Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project

Update 9.19.24

To: Waitsfield Selectboard  
From: Joshua Schwartz, MRV Planning District  
CC: Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Team Members  
JB Weir, Waitsfield Planning & Zoning Admin.  
Bob Cook, Waitsfield Planning Commissioner  
Chach Curtis, Waitsfield Selectboard Member  
Robin Morris, Waitsfield Water Commissioner  
Jon Ashley, DuBois & King  
Date: September 19, 2024  
Re: Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Update

I'm providing this update on the Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project (WCWP), a task I'm carrying out in my role as Project Coordination Team Lead (as articulated in the *Waitsfield Wastewater Project Structure & Timeline | 2024-25*, approved by the Selectboard at its meeting of 7.8.24). This update aims to ensure the Waitsfield Selectboard and Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project Team Members are abreast of project status and developments.

On 6.11.24, the voters of the Town of Waitsfield passed a bond vote for the Community Wastewater Project by a margin of 3:1. This served as a major project milestone, permitting the pursuit of federal and state funding to proceed with the project. Through the summer, the project has progressed on various fronts, moving into the final design phase and working through various design elements, property owner discussions, permitting, funding, and more.

- Design
  - The overall project design has stayed consistent: wastewater collection serving Irasville & Waitsfield Village with a multi-stage treatment and in-ground disposal of 89k gallons per day (GPD) at the town-owned Munn site.
    - Map of Estimated Project Limits for Construction is attached.
  - The WCWP Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) Amendment #3 between the Town of Waitsfield and DuBois & King (D&K) was executed on 8.29.24, which brings the project through Final Design. The project engineer's tasks included in this phase incorporate project management, topographic survey, environmental field work, geotechnical assessment, a site-specific wastewater loading test, a basis for the final design document, SBR manufacturer preselection, process and site civil design, wastewater collection system design, design of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, structural design, permitting/easements, technical specifications, contract documents, an opinion of probable construction costs and a project cost summary, coordination, and attendance at various meetings.
  - A couple of highlights:
    - Munn Site Wastewater Loading Test
      - As a requirement of the Indirect Discharge Permitting process, this loading test evaluates the capacity of the Munn site to attenuate wastewater without adversely affecting the water quality of the receiving water, the Mad River. VT DEC will use the results to determine water quality discharge limitations for the proposed wastewater treatment facility. Effluent from the Waterbury Wastewater Treatment Plant will be used for the test.
      - Preparation of the Munn Site for the loading test will commence 9.21-22.24, initially consisting of tree/brush removal and test trench construction. A 21k gallon storage

tank will be delivered to the site by the end of September, with testing to occur through October and November.

- Detailed task list and map are attached.
- Topographic Surveying, Environmental, & Cultural Resources Fieldwork
  - Initial topographic surveying took place over the summer. From 9.23 to 11.30.24, additional surveying, mapping of wetlands and rare plants, and reviewing cultural resources (such as archaeologically sensitive areas and historic sites) will occur.
  - While most of the work will be in road rights-of-way, DuBois & King's field crews may be required to go onto private property in some areas. Notification of this fieldwork will be mailed to adjoining property owners throughout the project area by 9.20.
  - Sample field work notification letter and parcel map are attached.
- Permitting
  - An Act 250 Jurisdictional Determination for the project was submitted on 8.16. Discussions are ongoing with the District 5 Environmental Commission.
- Easements
  - Design details have been developed for the four pump stations, being utilized in discussion with private property owners.
- Property Owner Discussions
  - Priority Parcels
    - Outreach and discussion with project priority parcels are positive and ongoing. Most property owners have responded to the Engineering Technical Team's (ETT) initial outreach efforts, with 90% of respondents expressing interest in connecting to the proposed wastewater infrastructure.
  - Easements
    - The project design includes four pump stations to be located on private property. The ETT have been leading these property owner discussions, all of which have been overwhelmingly positive. The ETT will be providing easement recommendations to the Selectboard this fall.
- Funding
  - CWSRF Intended Use Plan
    - The FFY24/SFY25 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) was finalized on 8.22. The IUP explains how the CWSRF funding capitalization grants provided by the federal government will be used to support the CWSRF program, identifying program decisions to meet requirements set by Congress in each year's capitalization grants and addressing state programmatic priorities. The IUP addresses critical program details, including discussions of Project Priority Lists and subsidies, loan forgiveness, and loan terms. The IUP's 2025 Pollution Control Priority and Planning List (aka, the Project Priority List, or PPL) lists Waitsfield's project in the fundable range, including grant eligibility for \$5,251,931 from the Pollution Control Grant program. The project's high ranking and eligibility result from MRVPD & the Town of Waitsfield's diligent efforts in meeting various funding program priorities over the past year, including affordability criteria (i.e., Median Household Income, MHI, determination).
  - ARPA VWWW
    - In mid-September, the town was notified that it was awarded \$2,508,085 in State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Village Water & Wastewater (VWWW) Initiative funding. The town's selection for this funding is partly due to the project's status on the 2025 Project Priority List. This grant will pay for the entirety of the final design through biddable contract documents (ESA Amendment #3) and be available for construction. All funding must be spent by 9.30.26.
    - A grant agreement between VT DEC & the Town of Waitsfield is on the agenda for the 9.23 Selectboard meeting, which requires execution by 9.30. This is an amended version of the initial draft grant agreement, including Jon Ashley (D&K) and my suggested changes.
  - USDA RD
    - The town is seeking United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) grants and loans (to be repaid by affordable user fees) to support of the project. ETT members

and I met with USDA RD staff on 9.6 and developed a pathway to submit a completed application packet in advance of their January 2025 deadline.

- CDS
  - Vermont's two senators, Sanders and Welch, accepted and put forward two Congressional Discretionary Spending requests for consideration in the FY25 Appropriations bill in support of the Waitsfield Community Wastewater Project. Unfortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not approve all the proposals, and ours did not make the final cut.
  - On 9.17, JB Weir and I met with Senator Sanders' staff to discuss our application and strategize about the next steps. He shared that Senator Sanders was very impressed with the town's proposal and that the lack of funding had nothing to do with the quality of the town's application or its merits. We were encouraged to apply again next year. Further, he identified additional funding avenues and offered letters of support if we were to seek other funding options.
- Regional Project Priority
  - This month, I am drafting an application on behalf of the project for Central VT's 2025 Regional Project Priority (RRP) List, due 10.15. Regional priority projects are high-priority economic and community development projects that meet certain eligibility requirements. Such regional lists are considered living, dynamic, continually updated, and edited documents. While not funding in and of itself, federal, state, and regional entities use RPP lists to understand a region's funding needs and match federal and state funding projects.

### Near-Term Activities

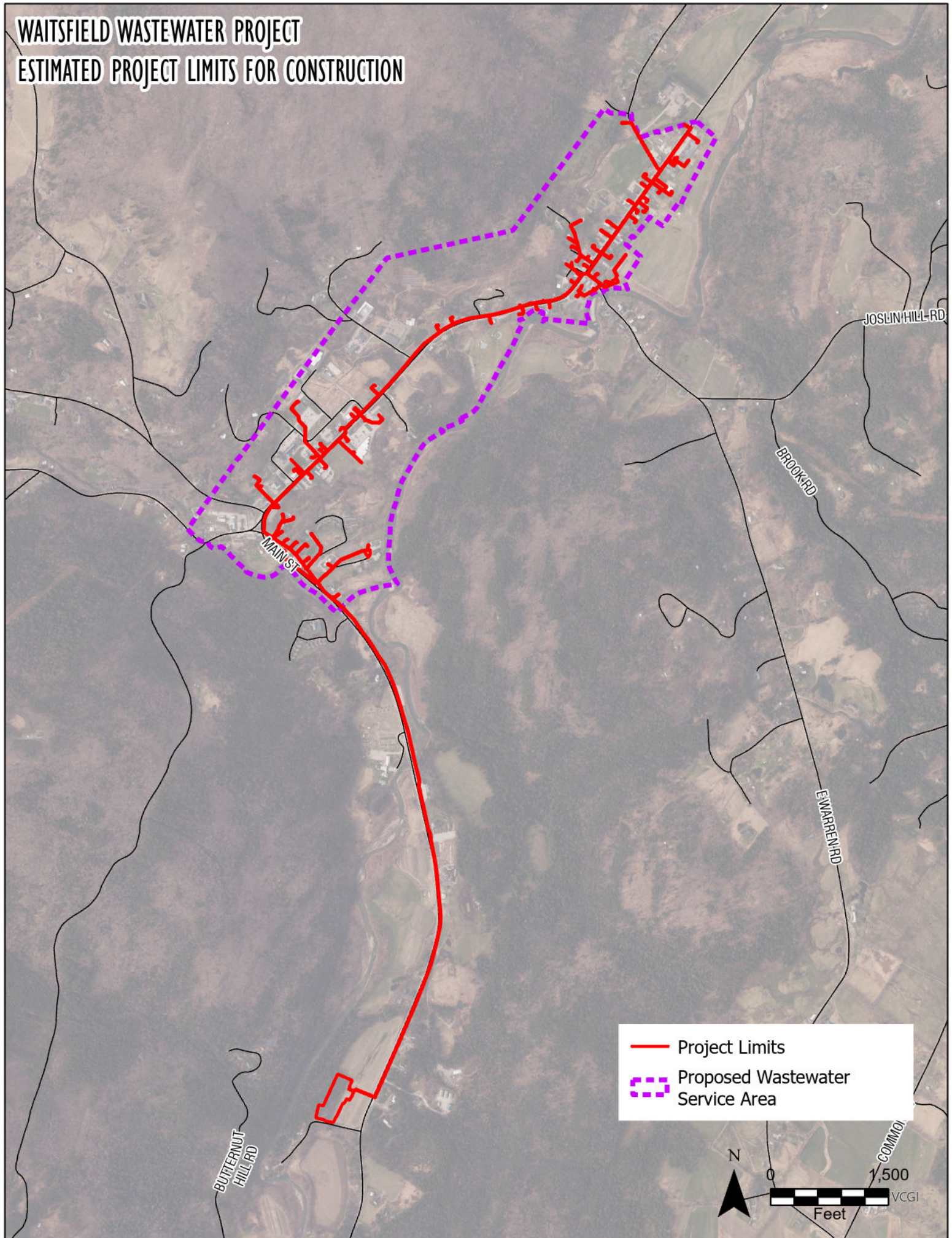
- Munn Site Wastewater Loading Test
- Topographic Surveying, Environmental, & Cultural Resources Field Work
- Continue Priority Property Owner Outreach
- Easement Recommendations
- USDA RD Application
- Regional Project Priority List
- Update WCWP content on the Town Website

### Attachments

- WCWP Estimated Project Limits for Construction Map
- WCWP Munn Site Wastewater Loading Test Task List
- WCWP Munn Site Wastewater Loading Test Map
- WCWP Topographic Surveying, Environmental, and Cultural Resources Field Work Letter
- WCWP Parcels for Field Work Notification Map



# WAITSFIELD WASTEWATER PROJECT ESTIMATED PROJECT LIMITS FOR CONSTRUCTION



<b>Town of Waitsfield Wastewater Indirect Discharge</b>			
<b>Wastewater Loading Test Tasks</b>			
<b>Task</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1. Prepare QA/QC Plan for pilot testing	August 1, 2024	D&K	Completed
2. Sample effluent from Waterbury WWTP	August 1, 2024	D&K	Completed
3. Tree/brush removal and test trench construction	September 21-22, 2024	AS	
4. Collect/analyze groundwater samples from existing wells	Sept 23-27, 2024	D&K and Endyne	
5. 21k storage tank delivery to site	September 30, 2024	Rain for Rent	
6. Effluent delivery to site	October 2, 2024	Wind River/Kingsbury	
7. Pilot test start up	October 7, 2024	D&K	
8. Maintain system	October - November, 2024	D&K	
9. Collect analytical samples	October - November, 2024	D&K	
10. End test	November/December 2024	D&K	Testing duration depends on steady state conditions in groundwater
11. Reporting/Calculations	Dec 2024 - Feb 2025	D&K	



**NOT FOR  
CONSTRUCTION  
PRELIMINARY  
PLANS**

[illegible]

DRAWN BY EBS	DATE SEP. 2024
CHECKED BY JBA	D&K PROJECT # 227947
ROJ. ENG. SDS	D&K ARCHIVE #

# C1

SHEET 2 OF 3







September 18, 2024

*Via regular USPS*

Re: Waitsfield Community Wastewater  
Topographic Surveying, Environmental, and Cultural Resources Field Work

Dear Landowner:

I am writing this letter to inform you that we have been hired to design a community wastewater system for the town of Waitsfield. Designing a community wastewater system includes topographic surveying (which has been completed in some areas of Town earlier this year), wetlands and rare plants mapping, and reviewing cultural resources such as archaeologically sensitive areas and historic sites.

Representatives of DuBois & King will be in Town completing this field work from on or around September 23 through November 30, 2024. While most of the work will be in road rights-of-ways, the work may require our field crews to go onto private property in some areas.

If you have any specific questions or concerns regarding work in the area of your property, please contact JB Weir at the Town of Waitsfield 802-496-2218 x4.

Sincerely,  
DuBOIS & KING, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Jonathan Ashley', is located below the typed name.

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