

# Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project

Update #4

To: Waitsfield Selectboard  
From: Joshua Schwartz, MRV Planning District  
CC: Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project Team Members  
Annie Decker-Dell'Isola, Waitsfield Town Admin.  
JB Weir, Waitsfield Planning & Zoning Admin.  
Randy Brittingham, Waitsfield Town Treasurer/Grant Admin.  
Bob Cook, Waitsfield Planning Commissioner  
Chach Curtis, Waitsfield Selectboard Member  
Robin Morris, Waitsfield Water Commissioner  
Jon Ashley, DuBois & King  
Date: July 6, 2023  
Re: Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project Update #4

This serves as the fourth update on the Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project, a task I'm carrying out in my role as Planning Coordination Team Lead (as articulated in the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Waitsfield and the Mad River Valley Planning District for the Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project*). The purpose of these updates is to ensure the Waitsfield Selectboard and Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project Team Members are abreast of project status and developments, summarizing activities over the preceding weeks. This update follows Update #1 (4.14.23), Update #2 (5.5.23), & Update #3 (5.26.23).

## Recent Activities

### Project Coordination Team (PCT)

- Meetings: 5.30, 6.5, 6.13, & 7.5 (upcoming: 7.10)
- Activities:
  - 5.30 Selectboard Meeting
    - This Wastewater Planning Project Update & Community Mtg covered broader project history, a project update, and preview of the draft Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) findings and recommendations.
    - Presentation Slides
      - <https://waitsfieldvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/WW-Planning-Project-Update-5.30.23-SB-Presentation.pdf>
  - The 90% PER was completed on 5/31
  - 6.5 Selectboard Meeting
    - Annie & Joshua presented the 90% PER, inclusive of the combined recommendations from D&K and the Engineering Technical Team (ETT), & proposed next steps.
    - Presentation Slides
      - <https://waitsfieldvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/WW-Project-PER-90-6.5.23.pdf>
    - The Selectboard accepted the findings and recommendations of the 90% PER and authorized next steps for the Wastewater Project Planning Teams:
      - Project Coordination Team (PCT) and Funding Team (FT) to work with funding agencies to explore options for self-funding the remaining connections to the water system and bring a summary of options back to the Selectboard for further consideration.

- PCT and ETT to draft a 30% Design Engineering Services Agreement with Dubois & King, including an application to DEC CWSRF for Step 2 Design subsidy, for review and approval by the Selectboard at the 6.26 Selectboard meeting.
- Step 2 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Loan Application for 30% Final Design, including Engineering Services Agreement (ESA), drafted
- 6.26 Selectboard Meeting
  - Presented the draft ESA and CWSRF loan application to cover Phase 1 (30%) of Final Design for municipal wastewater system development. Selectboard approved the CWSRF Step 2 loan application for (Phase 1, 30% design), including draft ESA, and authorized submission, completed on 6.30.
- PCT, ETT, & D&K are continuing to collaborate on finalizing PER, which requires feedback from DEC (forthcoming).

#### Engineering/Technical Team (ETT)

- Meetings: 6.1, 6.7, 6.20, 6.28 (Upcoming: 7.12)
- Activities:
  - D&K submitted the 90% PER on 5.31. The ETT met on 6.1 & 6.7, providing comments for incorporation into the Final PER.
  - Received indication from DEC on 6.29 that substantial comments are forthcoming on 90% PER. Once received, will be incorporated in final PER.
  - Awaiting feedback from state archeology regarding Environmental Information Document (EID), to initiate Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) hearing and results to be incorporated in final PER.
  - ETT, PCT, & D&K are working to finalize PER, to include the items listed above.
  - Working with DEC and other funding agencies to explore options for self-funding the remaining connections to the water system, for further consideration by the Selectboard.
  - Drafted a 30% Design Engineering Services Agreement (ESA) with Dubois & King, including an application to DEC CWSRF for Step 2 Design subsidy, which were reviewed and approved by the Selectboard at its 6.26 Selectboard meeting. Submitted the 30% Design ESA and Step 2 Design subsidy CWSRF application to DEC on 6.30.

#### Funding Team (FT)

- Meetings: 5.26, 5.30, & 6.2
- Activities:
  - Draft FFY23/SFY24 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP)
    - The draft CWSRF IUP, and its included Priority List (PList), was released on 6.28 (postponed from mid-May).
      - <https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/srf/intended-use-plans>
    - It is open for public comment, with a public hearing scheduled for 7.31. Public comment will close on 8.7.
    - Final IUP anticipated to be adopted mid-August 2023 with new loan applications to be processed under the new IUPs.
    - The IUP's included DRAFT SFY2024 Pollution Control Priority and Planning List identifies a Waitsfield Pollution Control Grant eligibility amount of \$3,358,413.
  - Step 2 Funding: CWSRF - Final Design
    - Waitsfield's application for Step 2 funding for 30% Final Design (including draft ESA) was submitted on 6.29.
  - Sen. Sanders FY24 Congressional Discretionary Funding Request update received on 6.28.
    - No substantial progress on Sen. Sanders FY24 CDS Request
      - <https://www.sanders.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/FY24-Sanders-Interior-CDS-Disclosure-Form.pdf>
    - The next step will be for the Appropriations Subcommittees (our project was submitted to the Interior Subcommittee, which funds water and waste water infrastructure projects) to further review projects for eligibility. Each subcommittee then needs to pass an appropriations/spending bill, in which they may include some, all, or none of the projects submitted by the Senators. Next, the full Senate needs to vote on the bills, as does the

House. The very earliest we would see a final spending bill – which we hope still includes the Vermont projects, and is what ultimately secures funding for projects – is October 1. However, Congress often passes a bill much later; for context, in the past two years, they passed it in December in 2022, and in March 2022 (for 2021).

#### Public Outreach Team (POT)

- Meetings: 5.26, 5.30, 6.7 & 7.5
- Activity:
  - Website Update
    - A new Wastewater Planning Project page was created on 6.6, which includes a detailed project background, links to documents and recordings from past meetings, as well as current project updates.
    - <https://www.waitsfieldvt.us/waitsfield-wastewater-planning-project/>
  - Property Owner Outreach
    - Developing a strategy to gauge project interest and collect relevant data from property owners within the proposed Wastewater Service Area.

#### **Near-Term Activities**

- Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) Hearing (*a component of the required environmental review of the project*)
- Finalizing ESA
- Finalizing 100% PER
- Developing Outreach Strategy

In addition to the above, an updated version of the Waitsfield WW Project Timeline has been created (Rev. 3, 7.7.23). Feel free to reach out with any questions, thoughts, and/or ideas.

# WAITSFIELD WW PROJECT TIMELINE

PROJECT TITLE: Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project TOWN: Waitsfield  
 PROJECT COORDINATION TEAM LEAD: Joshua Schwartz, MRVPO DATE: 7/6/23

