

Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project Update

Joint Meeting of the
Waitsfield Selectboard & Waitsfield Planning Commission
4.17.23

Joshua Schwartz



Presentation Overview

- Context
 - Mtg Packet
 - The Why
 - Efforts to Date
 - Planning Project Structure
- Recent Activities
- Project Timeline
- Next Steps
- Questions

Context: Mtg Packet

- WW Planning Proj. Update #1 (4.12.23)
 - Enclosures
 - MOU – Waitsfield & MRVPD
 - ETT Update
 - Funding Summary
 - Project Timeline

Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project

Update #1

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: April 14, 2023
Re: Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project Update
Enclosure: MOU between the Town of Waitsfield and MRVPD for the Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project, 3.30.23
Waitsfield ETT Update 4.12.23
Waitsfield Wastewater Project - Funding Summary
Waitsfield Wastewater Project Timeline 4.13.23
(overview & detail versions)

I'm writing to provide an update on the Waitsfield Wastewater Planning Project. 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*, effective 3.30.23 (enclosed), this serves as the first of what will be regular project updates to the Waitsfield Selectboard. 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 first update is being submitted in advance of a 4.17.23 Joint Meeting of the Waitsfield Selectboard & Waitsfield Planning Commission focused on Wastewater Planning Project updates. As such, this document serves the triple duty of 1) articulating my baseline understanding of the project's context and efforts to date, 2) providing an update on recent activities, and 3) ensuring pertinent information is available in advance of the meeting and subsequent dialogue.

Context & Efforts to Date

The Town of Waitsfield has recently made many strides in its effort to *maintain the town's historic settlement pattern of compact growth centers surrounded by rural countryside*.¹ In the winter of 2022-2023, the Waitsfield Planning Commission launched the [Vibrant Villages Initiative](#) which includes several projects intended to promote lively neighborhood centers in Waitsfield. These projects include a current bylaw modernization initiative, efforts to secure a Neighborhood Development Area designation for Irasville Village, and future master planning efforts for Irasville.

At the same time, the Town of Waitsfield has engaged in a concerted effort to explore wastewater infrastructure options focused on supporting the development pattern envisioned in the town plan and focused on its twin villages. The [2022](#)

¹ [2017 Waitsfield Town Plan, Policy 12.E-1](#)

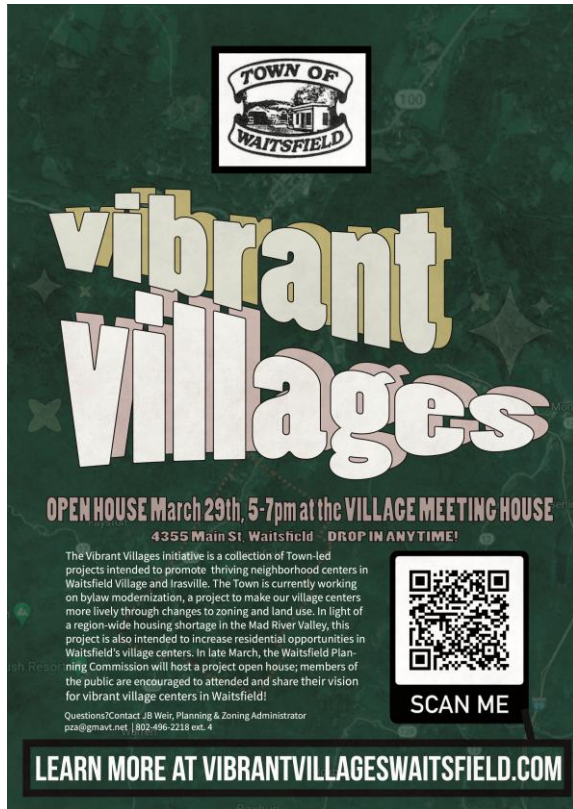
Context: The Why

- Water quality effects from septic systems
 - Human health concerns with wells located too close to septic systems
 - Lack of capacity to support the housing need
 - Lack of opportunity for infill and growth, especially in the villages
 - Need to provide an option for replacing aging septic systems

Context: The Why

- Waitsfield Town Plan (Policies)
 - Housing
 - “Investigate and support development of wastewater resources in town centers.”
 - Economic Development
 - “Support the creation and construction of wastewater resources in our Town center.”
 - Facilities and Services
 - “Develop municipal wastewater systems to serve the Town center areas of Irasville and Waitsfield Village, in order to meet current needs as well as allow for additional growth in residential and commercial properties.”
 - Natural Resources
 - “Support the establishment of municipal water and the further investigation of wastewater options to serve designated growth centers as a means of avoiding contamination of ground and surface waters.”

Context: Efforts to Date




TOWN OF WAITSFIELD

vibrant villages

OPEN HOUSE March 29th, 5-7pm at the VILLAGE MEETING HOUSE
4355 Main St. Waitsfield DROP IN ANYTIME!

The Vibrant Villages initiative is a collection of Town-led projects intended to promote thriving neighborhood centers in Waitsfield Village and Irasville. The Town is currently working on bylaw modernization, a project to make our village centers more lively through changes to zoning and land use. In light of a region-wide housing shortage in the Mad River Valley, this project is also intended to increase residential opportunities in Waitsfield's village centers. In late March, the Waitsfield Planning Commission will host a project open house; members of the public are encouraged to attend and share their vision for vibrant village centers in Waitsfield!

Questions? Contact JB Weir, Planning & Zoning Administrator
pz@gmavt.net | 802-496-2218 ext. 4



SCAN ME

LEARN MORE AT VIBRANTVILLAGESWAITSFIELD.COM

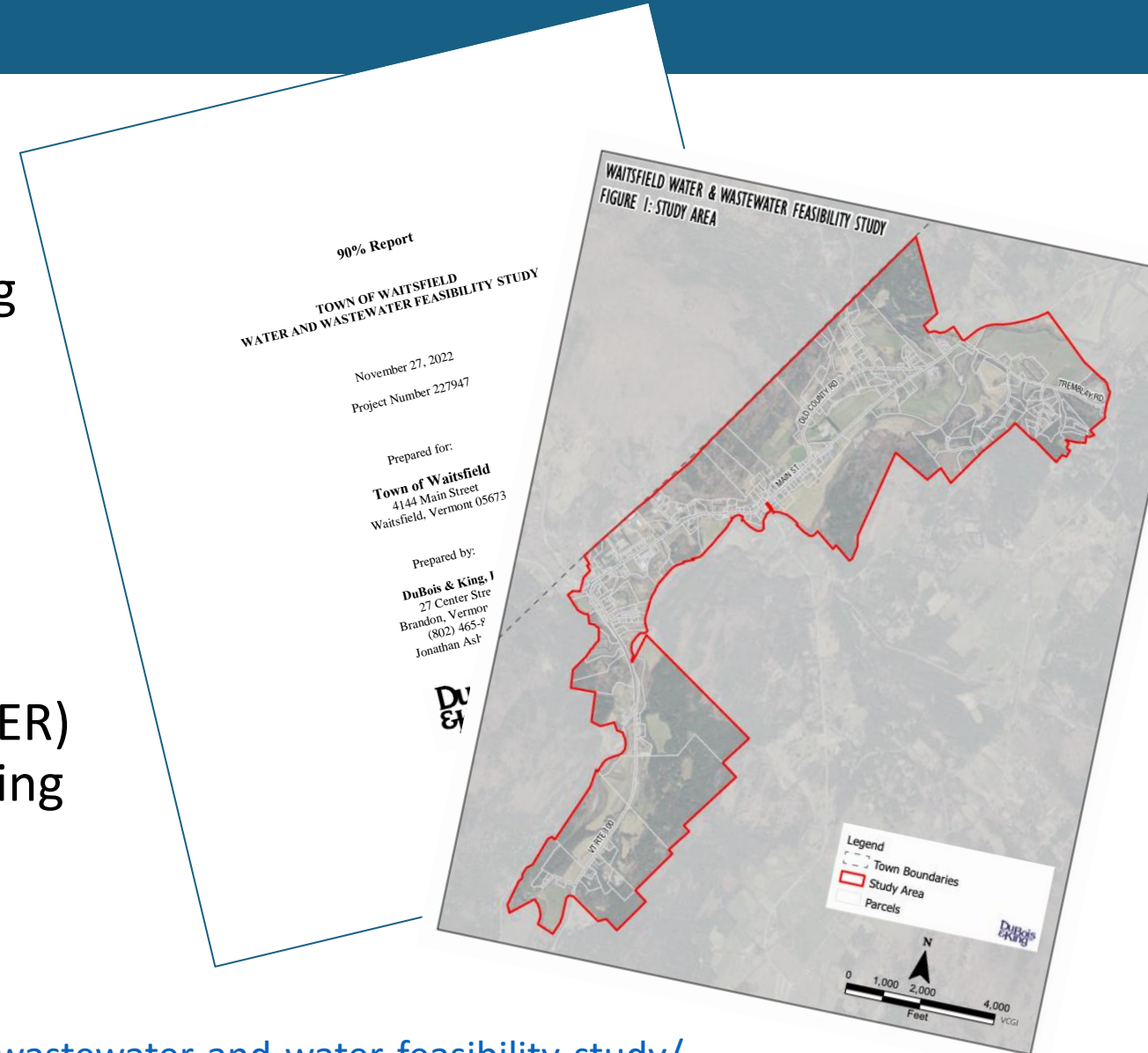


- Irasville & Waitsfield Village
 - Bylaw Modernization
- Irasville
 - Neighborhood Development Area Designation
 - Future Master Planning Efforts

<http://vibrantvillageswaitsfield.com>

Context: Efforts to Date

- Water & Wastewater Feasibility Study Committee
 - Members from the Selectboard, Planning Commission, & Water Commission
 - Feb. '22 – Jan. '23
- 2022 Wastewater & Water Feasibility Study
 - Selectboard selected two scenarios to proceed with preliminary engineering (PER) and environmental documentation, making it possible for submission to the state's 2024 funding list



Context: Planning Project Structure

Project Coordination Team (PCT)

Joshua Schwartz
(lead)

Annie Decker-
Dell'Isola

JB Weir

Engineering/Technical Team (ETT)

Bob Cook

Chach Curtis

Robin Morris

Jon Ashley

Joshua Schwartz

Funding Team (FT)

JB Weir (lead)

Randy
Brittingham

Joshua Schwartz

Jon Ashley

Public Outreach Team (POT)

Annie Decker-
Dell'Isola (lead)

Joshua Schwartz

Chach Curtis

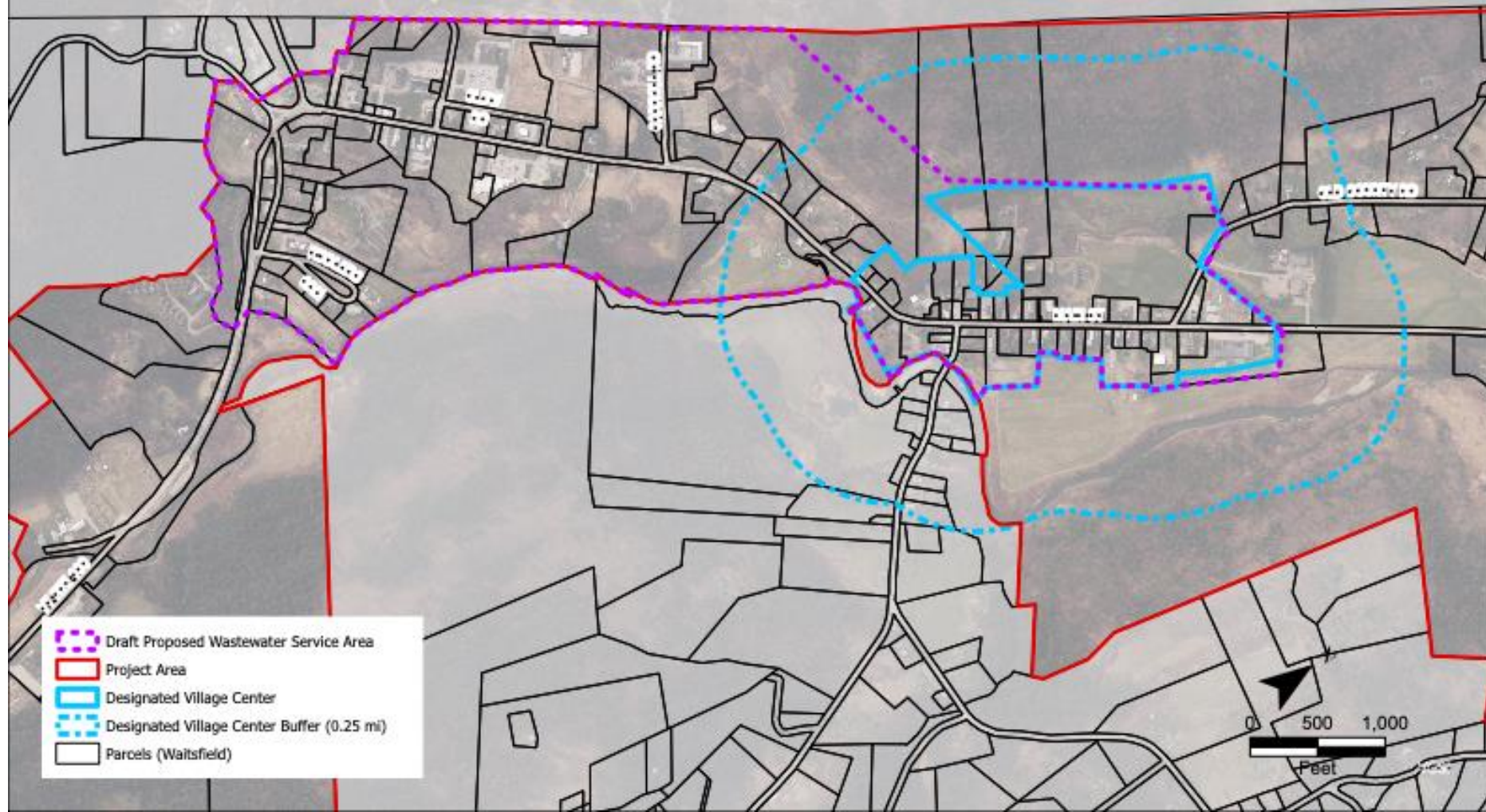
Recent Activities: Project Coordination Team (PCT)

- Meeting Weekly
- File organization structure
- Correspondence protocol
- Updates and coordination of various team activities
- Waitsfield Wastewater Project Timeline

Recent Activities: Engineering/Technical Team (ETT)

- Meeting Bi-Weekly
- ETT Update
 - Working w/ D&K on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
 - Clarified PER purpose, identified scope's infrastructure elements, and developed guiding principles of the ETT work
 - PER wastewater distribution and connection drawings (80%) and water connection drawings (90%)
 - Currently working on wastewater capacity engineering
 - Draft PER will include a recommendation to the selectboard for phased capacity, distribution, and connections
 - ETT & D&K will be preparing a joint PER recommendation to the Selectboard in advance of the 6.5.23 Final PER Meeting

WAITSFIELD VILLAGE WATER & WASTEWATER PER PROPOSED WASTEWATER SERVICE AREA



Recent Activities: Funding Team (FT)

- Meeting twice this week
- Funding Update
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) \$ received for Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)
 - Project Priority List (PPL) for Design & Construction (FY24) application submitted
 - Congressionally-Directed Spending request submitted
 - Northern Borders Regional Commission LOI (4/21)
 - Met with DEC today re: CWSRF for design & construction
 - Preparing a Design Phase Funding Recommendation (SB's 6/5 mtg)

Recent Activities: Public Outreach Team (POT)

- Meeting this week
- Updating town website
- Planning public outreach items on/around 6/5 SB mtg
- Reaction to this update and mtg serving as basis for outreach materials.

Next Steps

Preliminary Engineering Report (PER)

- Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) Public Hearing
 - 5/22 Selectboard Mtg
- Draft PER Submission to Town
 - 5/23
- PER Mtg w/ Selectboard (incl. recommendations from D&K/ETT (PER) & FT (Final Design Funding))
 - 6/5 Selectboard Mtg
- Amendments to PER Finalized
 - 6/9

Funding

- Northern Boarder's Regional Commission
 - LOI, 4/21
- Waitsfield WW Project Funding Eligibility by Median Income Memo
 - Response from DEC
- Neighborhood Development Area (Irasville)
 - Application by PC

Questions?

- Project context?
- Activities to date by Project Team?
 - Project Coordination Team (PCT)
 - Engineering/Technical Team (ETT)
 - Funding Team (FT)
 - Public Outreach Team (POT)
- Role of the Waitsfield Planning Commission? Other entities?
- Project Timeline?

Thank You!

Joshua Schwartz
802-496-7173
joshua@mrvpd.org



MAD RIVER VALLEY
PLANNING DISTRICT
Fayston • Waitsfield • Warren