

Cabot Flood Resiliency Task Force
Meeting Notes
August 6, 2025

Present: Dawn Andrews,, RD Eno, Gary Gulka, Chris Tormey, Karen Deasy, Chris Duff, Michele Braun, Peg Elmer Hough, Roland Payne, Jr.

Next Meeting: September 3, 6:30 pm

Meeting notes of June 4 approved as written

Public Comment

None

Updates

FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant submitted on April 30 for about \$3.59 million. Needed to add ecological restoration (riparian plantings) to raise our Benefit/Cost ration to over 1. VEM ranked our application as a high priority “alternate.” Two Montpelier projects were ranked highest for funding. There is about \$15 million of the total FEMA allocation earmarked for infrastructure projects. The majority of the \$ \$68 million is for property buyouts. We don’t expect to hear back anytime soon.

CDBG-DR funds are now available. Source of funding is HUD. We have submitted a pre-application to Vermont Community Development which was due August 5. Because of limited funding available for infrastructure projects, we decided to apply for the north tributary bridge project. We made the argument that even though we applied for FEMA Hazard Mitigation funds, we are not optimistic about receiving FEMA funding and are redundantly applying to CDBG.

Given that the CCIF originated with HUD monies, we have typically had issues any time in the past that we applied for CDBG Funds. We were told our chances for funding were better if we provided match, even though match is not required. So we included pending match of \$150,000 in the pre-application. Similar funding is available to FEMA amounts, and again, a large portion will be allocated to buyouts.

We are requesting that the Town consider appropriating CCIF funds for the match. We met with the CCIF Committee yesterday and they gave the proposal below favorable consideration.

Village Flood Mitigation Needs

\$150,000 match for CDBG-DR application

\$30,000 for legal work and easements

\$20,000 for debris rack feasibility study on south tributary

\$50,000 in contingencies for unanticipated costs, such as bid exceedances, additional engineering design work

Total Flood Mitigation CCIF Request: up to \$250,000

A full application will be due by September 30 and we must hold a public hearing in September

We have suggested a town vote on the \$250,000 before November 20 – the date when applications will be evaluated and ranked for funding.

Funding decisions will be made soon after – possibly by December. This may even allow for this project to commence in early 2026.

Note: Should we receive CDBG-DR funding for the north tributary, this will lessen our FEMA request significantly and may enhance our chances for funding.

Senator Peter Welch has included our north and south tributary request as a Congressional earmark along with a few other flood mitigation projects in the state. This has extremely low probability of success.

Debris Racks on the South Tributary

\$20,000 of the CCIF fund request will be a site investigation/engineering evaluation of the feasibility of debris racks in the vicinity of the cabin on Gleb Glinka's property. Borings in the streambed will be part of the feasibility study. Debris racks can be an alternative that could be implemented more quickly while we wait for FEMA funding for the larger project. Dubois & King is assisting in defining the project scope for a feasibility study. There was discussion about the debris racks that failed in Barre City on Gunner's Brook that caused major residential flooding. These have been redesigned for possible implementation. Permission needs to be obtained from the property owner, Gleb Glinka, in order to move forward with the feasibility study.

Cabot Garage Relocation

Under the buyout grant, we have completed a property appraisal, Phase 1 site investigation, and have a contract for Phase 2, which involves groundwater sampling and

soil borings. The Garage owner did not agree to proceed with the Phase 2 site investigation until there was more clarity on an alternate location and cost estimates for relocation.

We are working with Dubois & King on a contract for the Cabot Garage relocation. We will need to decide on a list of sites in and around the village ton include in the study.

At the next meeting we will focus on Cabot Garage relocation sites that should be considered in the feasibility study.