

Flood Recovery Update
Lamoille Watershed - Hardwick
Select Board version
April 17, 2025

- A. **Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant** – This grant was received by Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) in 2024 and supports the flood modeling of the Lamoille River (to the edge of Hardwick) and the Cooper Brook. SLR was retained and has started the work. This should be done by the end of 2025. This will serve as a foundation piece for several other studies and mitigation work. (No funding match necessary).
- B. **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant** – Scoping and Cost Estimates and Engineering for the Downtown Lamoille River Corridor – submitted, *but the program was eliminated at the Federal level*. Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) identifies the project as critical for Hardwick and is actively seeking alternative funds with the town. (Funding match of 25 % or \$56,250 was approved but is no longer necessary due to the cancellation of the program)
- C. **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** – Three projects were submitted to NVDA in consultation with VEM. The projects focused on Flood Mitigation and Stabilization for three sections of the Lamoille River – above town at the former Inn by the River location, the central corridor, and downstream, below the intersection of Cooper Brook and the Lamoille River. The central corridor concept and the downstream project were removed by NVDA and Stantec without consultation with the Town. A project is still being developed by NVDA and Stantec through the RIVER grant. The grant is due on April 30 and no funding match would be necessary.
- D. **Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP) through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** – Five projects were funded for 2024 and the engineering is being completed by NRCS. The work is expected to be completed in 2025. This includes three privately owned locations and two town-owned locations. This grant will fund the stabilization work at the former Inn by the River location if the HMGP does not manifest. (Funding match of 25% was approved for town properties – approximately \$60,937).
- E. **Municipal Planning Grant (MPG)** – This grant was submitted to the State of Vermont. We will hear this month. Also waiting to hear about the correlating grant, Partners in Place, from CAE. This would fund a Community Resilience plan for the Granite Street Historic District. (A funding match of 10% was approved - \$3,333).
- F. **Granite Street Historic District improvement funding** – NVDA, the Town of Hardwick, and Vermont Preservation Trust are looking at funding sources for assisting with flood proofing residential and multi-family properties. (No funding match necessary).
- G. **Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief (CDBG – DR)** – In response to the 2023 flooding, federal funds will be received in Vermont for flood mitigation, housing, etc. Hardwick was not identified as greatly impacted which reduces the amount funds available to us. The funding will be targeted at the Wastewater Treatment Facility or possibly a flood mitigation project. The application would occur in late 2025. (No funding match necessary).
- H. **Vermont Land Trust** – we have two properties that are in the Vermont Land Trust program and are no longer viable for agriculture. Conversations are occurring to pursue the creation of flood storage in these fields. One is upstream from the Hardwick downtown and one is downstream of Jackson Dam. No monetary request at this time.
- I. **Jackson Dam** – a feasibility study has been funded by a grant with the Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCD). SLR, the same company that is creating the flood modeling for the EDA grant, has been hired to work with Hardwick. The steering committee will be meeting on May 20 from 9-11.
- J. **Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Grant Program and Fund (CRDMF)** – This grant from Vermont provides funds to elevate residential houses in the floodplain. There were 6 identified

properties. Base Flood Elevations were commissioned. We'll be meeting with homeowners over the next few weeks to discuss options and to sign MOUs. (No funding match necessary).

- K. **Private enterprise** – I've been working with three business owners in the floodplain who will be elevating or floodproofing their properties. DRB hearings and state permits are being navigated. (No funding match necessary).
- L. **Buyouts** – Two versions of Buyouts – if a property is not in the floodplain, then we have used the **Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF)**. This fund paid for the initial four buyouts from the 2023 floods (Inn by the River et al). Two additional properties in East Hardwick were identified in 2024 and have just received funding. This funding source has local administration of the elements (appraisal, title work, demolition, etc). If a property is in the mapped floodplain, then **FEMA's** program is utilized. 5 properties from 2023 are at the closing stage, 1 is still in the appraisal stage. Of the 8 that are being funded by FEMA in 2024, 3 have received Acknowledgement of Programmatic Requirements which is FEMA's alert that the money should follow soon, 4 are at FEMA, and 1 is still being reviewed at the State level. The buyout program is currently closed due to lack of funding. Any additional buyouts may require a local monetary match. (No funding match was necessary for the 20 properties that were supported in the program).
- M. **Education Series** – there will be a series of panels and talks in late summer, early fall at the library. The identified topics include Beavers, Dredging, Dam Removal, and Climatology. In addition, we are actively pursuing a Writing for Flood Recovery class in July at the library (No funding match necessary).
- N. **Hardwick Gazette articles** – I have been working on bi-weekly articles on flood recovery in Hardwick as another source of information for residents and neighbors.
- O. **Stream Gauges** – Lamoille Country Planning Commission is working on a stream gauge approach with the Lamoille Watershed. We'll be working with other towns in the watershed, Hardwick Electric (Dams), and USGS. The funding proposal is not available yet but this would be a low-cost approach with no operations and maintenance budget needs. This would consist of manual gauges instead of the satellite linked versions that require a \$50,000 per unit, per year, operation and maintenance budget.
- P. **Streamwise** – The stream bank program is focused on the upstream locations in the Lamoille Watershed (East Hardwick, Greensboro, Stannard, etc) but I remain in contact with the program and we will be working to match homeowners to support a healthy Lamoille River. (No funding match requested).
- Q. **Neighbor to Neighbor, the Town of Hardwick, the OSSU, and the Civic Standard – Local Addendum project.** This collaboration began in 2023. With the assistance of two consultants, who were paid by an MTAP grant through Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), draft local addendums to the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) were created. The draft was presented on Saturday, April 12, as a class in Hardwick State. 45 people participated. Next steps include recruitment of volunteers, integration with the Town's systems, and web page resources. You each have a copy of the draft. If you have suggestions or questions, I'm happy to respond. There will be an official submission made to the Select Board in May. (No funding match necessary).

