

Town of Hardwick – Flood Recovery and Resilience Project Summary

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1. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant

Lead: Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC)

Year Awarded: 2023

Scope: Flood modeling of the Lamoille River (to the edge of Hardwick) and Cooper Brook

Consultant: SLR Consulting

Timeline: Completion by end of 2025

Outcome: Technical foundation for all future flood mitigation efforts; five alternatives to be selected – see attached alternative list.

Cost Benefit: No local cost; supports data-driven decision-making and project prioritization across the watershed

2. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Submitted by: N/A

Scope: Three proposed flood mitigation and stabilization projects (upstream, central corridor, downstream)

Status: No longer viable

Update: Miscommunication – RPC was not prepared to submit the \$1.4 million request and thought the Town would be handling the submission.

Cost Benefit: ~~If approved, these projects could reduce long-term flood damage and lower flood insurance rates~~

3. Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) – NRCS

Years Awarded: (2023) and 2024

Status: Program will probably not be available in the future due to funding and staff cuts at the federal level.

Scope: Engineering and construction for five sites—three private properties and two town-owned sites (former Inn by the River, and 41 Brush Street)

Timeline: Engineering managed by Hardwick; construction to conclude in late 2025

Cost Benefit: Protects vulnerable municipal and private properties, reducing future emergency response and repair costs

4. Municipal Planning Grant (MPG)

Status: Received

Use: Planning updates related to flood resilience and emergency response in the Granite Street Historic District.

Timeline: Request for Qualifications has closed – Steering Committee will review and make recommendations to the Select Board at the July 10 meeting. A free Emergency Response workshop series is being developed and will be at Atkins Field this summer. The inventory of the properties will begin tomorrow with the assistance of CAE.

Cost Benefit: Enables flood resilience planning at low direct cost to the Town

5. Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief (CDBG-DR)

Scope: Federal disaster recovery funds in response to 2023 floods

Hardwick Status: Limited access due to MID designation status

Next Steps: Pursue targeted application for projects in the Fall of 2025

Cost Benefit: Opportunity to access federal resources for critical infrastructure planning projects.

6. Vermont Land Trust Collaboration

Scope: Potential floodplain restoration on former agricultural land downstream of Jackson Dam

Status: Ongoing discussions; no active funding request

Cost Benefit: Preserves open space for natural floodwater storage with conservation partners' support

7. Jackson Dam Feasibility Study

Lead: Caledonia County NRCD

Consultant: SLR Consulting

Scope: Assessment of potential dam removal to reduce upstream and downstream flood risk

Governance: Task force and steering committee engaged

Cost Benefit: Informs major resilience decision with no direct municipal cost; potential elimination of future maintenance liabilities for HED

8. Community Resilience and Disaster Mitigation Fund (CRDMF)

Scope: Elevation of six residential structures in the floodplain

Progress: Base Flood Elevations complete

Cost Benefit: Preserves housing, reduces long-term flood risk, and minimizes future recovery costs

9. Private Enterprise Flood Mitigation

Scope: Three floodplain-based businesses pursuing elevation or floodproofing

Support: DRB review and permit coordination provided by Town

Status: Active

Cost Benefit: Private investment leveraged with municipal guidance, reducing potential business disruption and economic losses

10. Property Buyouts

Programs Used:

- FRCF: For non-floodplain properties (4 completed and 2 in process)

- FEMA: For mapped floodplain properties (14 in process or closing stages)

Town-Owned Sites from 2024: 41 Brush Street – demolition preparation underway, 24 Sawmill Lane, and 115 VT Route 14 South

Status: Buyout program currently closed to additional properties due to funding depletion

Cost Benefit: Removes repetitive loss properties from inventory; reduces future emergency costs and community risk

11. Public Education Series

Location: Jeudevine Memorial Library

Topics: Beavers, Dredging, Dam Removal, Climatology on Thursday Evenings in September and on October 1

Additional Offering: Writing for Flood Recovery class in July

Cost Benefit: Builds community knowledge and resilience at no cost; fosters informed public participation and preparedness

12. Hardwick Gazette Articles

Scope: Informative articles authored by the Zoning and Resilience Office

Cost Benefit: Free and ongoing public communication to keep residents informed and engaged

13. Stream Gauge Initiative

Lead: LCPC in coordination with watershed towns and USGS

Scope: Installation of low-cost manual gauges in the Lamoille Watershed

Status: Funding proposal in development

Cost Benefit: Provides essential data for decision-making without high annual operations costs of satellite-linked gauges

14. The Hardwick Plan

Scope: A unified approach to community resilience that includes both local involvement initiatives and the Hardwick Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)

Components:

- Community-driven emergency preparedness, planning, and education
- Integration of municipal protocols with neighborhood-level action
- Coordination with state emergency guidance while addressing local priorities

Cost Benefit: Strengthens whole-community preparedness and reduces response and recovery costs through planning, volunteer coordination, and local ownership of emergency actions