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YCGI, Microsoft, Vantor

SLR
1 SOUTH MAIN STREET
WATERBURY VT, 05676



FULL SURVEY AT DAM

TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY AREA (2.8 AC)

VT ROUTE 15 W

HYDRAULIC OPENING AT RT 15 BRIDGE

Jackson Dam Removal Proposed Survey Area

Jackson Dam Removal Feasibility Analysis
Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District

Proposed Tasks
Dam Removal Design - Concept and Drawdown
Jackson Dam, Hardwick, Vermont
May 20, 2026



Task	Description
1.0	Data Collection & Field Reconnaissance
1.1	Section survey and sediment probing (17 cross sections)
1.2	Infrastructure and resource conflicts
1.3	Sediment samples (15 samples)
1.4	Survey dam, bridge, and sediment end points (set pins)
1.5	River walk/ paddle to review geomorphology
1.6	Plant and invasive inventory
1.7	Existing conditions base map
2.0	Hydraulic Analysis
2.1	Hydrology updates
2.2	Existing hydraulic model updates with new survey
2.3	Model validation with recent flood data
2.4	Prepare inundation maps
2.5	Existing conditions technical memo
2.6	Project team meeting, virtual
3.0	Hydrology / Storage Analysis
3.1	Hydrograph development (S, M, L Floods)
3.2	Model change of dam storage to floodplain storage
3.3	Unsteady 1D model, add hydrographs to EX model
3.4	Evaluation of downstream impacts
3.5	Hydrology / Storage technical memo
3.6	Project team meeting, virtual
4.0	Dam Removal Alternatives and Concept Design
4.1	Alternatives analysis (full dam removal, with 2 sediment alternatives)
4.2	Project team, virtual
4.3	Regulator and interested parties meeting, in person
4.4	Review of well logs and impact of impoundment change
4.5	Concept design (30%), plan, sections, profile
4.6	Initial engineer's opinion of cost
4.7	Summary memo update, implementation plan
4.8	Project team, virtual
4.9	Public meeting, in person

Task	Description
5.0	Drawdown Design
5.1	Drawdown design draft, erosion control and phasing
5.2	Project team and regulator meeting
5.3	Drawdown Final design and cost (90%)
6.0	Drawdown Permit Assistance
6.1	USACE
6.2	VTDEC Water Quality Certification
6.3	VTDEC Dam Safety
6.4	VTDEC Stream Alteration
6.5	VTDEC Wetlands
6.6	VTDEC Construction General Permit?
6.7	Town Zoning / NFIP
6.8	Plan edits (100%)
NOT INCLUDED	
	Delineate Wetlands
	Topobathymetric survey
	Structural Assessment or Design
	Lakes & Ponds Permitting
	Facilities / Boat Ramp Design/ Coordination

Proposed Tasks
Dam Removal Design - Concept and Drawdown
Jackson Dam, Hardwick, Vermont
May 20, 2026

Task	Description	Budget
1.0	Data Collection & Field Reconnaissance	\$77,280
2.0	Hydraulic Analysis	\$15,055
3.0	Hydrology / Storage Analysis	\$32,440
4.0	Dam Removal Alternatives and Concept Design	\$40,180
5.0	Drawdown Design	\$18,085
6.0	Drawdown Permit Assistance	\$24,880
	TOTAL	\$207,920

Jackson Dam Project – Proposed Steering Committee

Purpose

To provide a focused, community-informed structure that guides both the technical work (30% design and beyond) and a coordinated public engagement process. The goal is to ensure that decisions are informed by local knowledge, reflect community concerns, and are communicated clearly and consistently.

Why Now

The Town is moving into a more defined phase of work with the 30% design scope. At the same time, we have received consistent feedback from the community that communication around major projects needs to be stronger. Establishing a steering committee at this stage allows us to build that communication and engagement into the process from the outset, rather than reacting later.

Role of the Committee

The steering committee is not a decision-making body. Its role is to:

- Help shape and guide public engagement (community meetings, informal events, listening sessions)
- Identify key concerns, questions, and information gaps early
- Provide a consistent forum for reviewing project updates as they develop
- Help connect the project team with different parts of the community
- Ensure continuity between phases (feasibility → design → implementation)

Proposed Composition

This would be a small, working group (5–7 people) to remain effective and manageable:

- One Select Board representative
- One representative from the commercial district
- One representative from HED
- Town staff (staff lead/point person)
- One to two at-large community members

Additional technical partners (state, federal, engineering, etc.) would participate as needed, but not as standing members.

How Members Are Identified and Added

The goal is to create a balanced group that reflects key perspectives in the community while remaining small enough to function effectively.

- The Select Board would appoint its representative.
- The Town would invite participation from the commercial district and HED based on existing relationships and involvement in related work.

The Hardwick Plan – 2026 Update Select Board Summary

The Hardwick Plan serves as the Town of Hardwick's Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) and is required to be reviewed, updated, and adopted annually by June 1 in accordance with Vermont Emergency Management requirements.

The Hardwick Plan was originally adopted by the Select Board in 2025 following the July 2023 and July 2024 flood events. The 2026 version represents the Town's annual update to the plan and includes revisions based on operational experience, coordination with community partners, updated contact information, and refinements to emergency management procedures.

The plan continues to provide a practical framework for emergency preparedness, response, and short-term recovery operations in Hardwick. It outlines the structure and responsibilities of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), identifies lead and support roles for Town departments and community partners, and establishes procedures for communications, volunteer coordination, shelters, and resource management.

The 2026 update maintains the Town's whole-community approach to emergency management by continuing to integrate local organizations, volunteers, and partner agencies into the operational structure of the plan. The document reflects the operational realities of emergency response in Hardwick and incorporates lessons learned from recent flood response and recovery efforts.

Key components of the 2026 update include:

- Updated personnel, contact, and resource information
- Revisions to Emergency Support Functions and operational language
- Continued integration of volunteer coordination and community partners
- Updated communications and sheltering information
- Expanded emergency assistance and food security coordination language
- Flood-specific operational guidance and preparedness information
- Emergency animal planning annex and preparedness checklists

The Hardwick Plan continues to satisfy Vermont Emergency Management LEMP requirements while providing a more locally usable operational framework for the Town and its partners.

Vermont Emergency Management staff reviewing the update provided positive feedback on the structure, organization, and practical usability of the document.

Respectfully Submitted, *Kristen Leahy*

Kristen Leahy, Resilience and Adaptation Coordinator

Buffalo Mountain Town Forest
Steering Committee

Suggested Agenda for First Meeting (approx. 2 hours)

May 21, 2026 Draft

1. Adjustments to the agenda
2. Opportunity for public comment
3. Introduction of committee members: Each states why they are interested, any special skills/knowledge/perspective
4. Overview/History of project to date
5. Timeline of upcoming project tasks
6. Overview of duties of the Steering Committee
 - a. Gather public input with public forums on specific topics such as land use, hunting, recreation, partnership with school and with surveys: both paper and online (Hannah and Jack can share Wolcott example)
 - b. Draft Management Plan: will include history, documentation, natural resource protection, priorities, uses, values, community desires, financial decision making and technical tasks and methods (Wolcott example available)
 - c. Recommend governance to selectboard: Conservation Commission, permanent Town Forest Management Committee? Who will oversee and implement the plan?
7. Determine best file sharing system—google drive?
8. Review of upcoming Steering Committee tasks
 - a. Review resources provided by TPL (will be placed into file sharing system)
 - b. Community Survey
 - c. Site visits
 - d. Seeking input of experts
9. Elect chair, vice-chair, and secretary
10. Set regular meeting frequency, day, and time