

FY14 Municipal Planning Grant Synopsis

9/16/2013 by Alex Weinhausen, Director of Planning & Zoning, Town of Hinesburg

***Note – the formal grant application is done on-line. What follows is a synopsis of the project for Selectboard consideration prior to voting on the resolution needed for the application.*

Project Title & Brief Summary:

Hinesburg Village Stormwater Infrastructure. Design stormwater infrastructure to help treat and control runoff in Hinesburg’s historic village area. The proposed engineering will be informed by substantial work done previously (some via past MPG funding) that identified village-area runoff patterns and areas of concern. The project will help enable continued in-fill and redevelopment in Hinesburg’s Village Center designation area, and will help ensure that Hinesburg’s waterways remain unimpaired. The design work will be completed by consultants with guidance from Town staff & board members, landowners, VT ANR staff, and watershed groups. Designing such critical infrastructure will provide “shovel-ready” projects that the Town and private partners can implement as funding is available (e.g., VT ANR Ecosystem Restoration Program or ERP grants, Town impact fees, etc.). As an example, in August 2013, the Town and the Lewis Creek Association (a non-profit watershed protection group) were awarded a VT ERP grant to install a substantial stormwater control structure (3-tiered rain garden) that had previously been designed as part of our FY12 MPG-sponsored village hydrology study.

In 2012, we applied for, but were not awarded, a VT ERP grant (\$24,500 request) to do a very similar project on the Cheese Plant property. Working in partnership with landowners, there is potential to do village-scale stormwater control at this and other sites within the already developed village core area. We will work collaboratively with landowners to select sites and do design work. The project will also include a community education element to raise awareness about the importance of stormwater control, and how individual landowners can implement small-scale measures (e.g., rain barrels, rain gardens, etc.). Additionally, the project will summarize the existing village-area stormwater infrastructure managed by the Town, in order to elucidate required ongoing maintenance and cost of what we have today in addition to any proposed/new infrastructure.

Cost Centers & Budget:

Total Project Cost = \$26,000

Grant Request = \$20,000 (maximum grant allowed)

- \$6,000 local match; to be covered by a “Special Projects” project item in next year’s proposed Planning & Zoning Budget (FY14-15). The grant request and local match may be reduced depending on the estimates I receive.
- The vast majority of the funds will be used to hire an engineer with expertise in hydrology evaluation and stormwater system design. I am in the process of getting cost estimates to check that the proposed budget is sufficient.

Project Timeline:

Grant Application Deadline:	September 30, 2013
Grant Award Decisions:	Early December, 2013
Project Kick-off:	July 2014
Project Completion (approximate):	December 2014
All Grant Funds must be spent by:	May 18, 2015