

Re: FW: NBRC & Chittenden Co Awards

Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>

Mon 6/3/2024 1:24 PM

To: Bard Hill <bardrhill@gmail.com>; Taylor Newton <TNewton@ccrpcvt.org>
Cc: morgan.wolaver@gmail.com <morgan.wolaver@gmail.com>; david.sander@richmondvt.org <david.sander@richmondvt.org>

Hi,

That is a good summary from Bard. I would only add that Richmond has not returned the NBRC award but we have asked for two extensions and have run into the issues that Bard outlined, so this puts us in the second category that Kristie defines as "in jeopardy".

Josh Arneson (he/him)

Town Manager
Town of Richmond
P.O. Box 285
Richmond, VT 05477
(802) 434-5170

From: Bard Hill <bardrhill@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:27 AM

To: Taylor Newton <TNewton@ccrpcvt.org>

Cc: Josh Arneson <jarneson@richmondvt.gov>; morgan.wolaver@gmail.com <morgan.wolaver@gmail.com>; david.sander@richmondvt.org <david.sander@richmondvt.org>

Subject: Re: FW: NBRC & Chittenden Co Awards

Hi Taylor

You may recall that this NRBC grant is associated with an expansion of water/sewer into the Richmond gateway, specifically for the historical Willis farm now owned by the Reaps. The short version is that we could not come up with a financially viable approach to extending the line(s).

While many (not all) of the gateway residents/property owners were interested in accessing public water and/or sewer, the high costs of extending the line(s), connecting to them, and then paying user rates/fees has been prohibitive for the small number of properties. One property owner recently invested in a costly septic replacement, which would represent stranded investment costs should the lines be extended. I note that our w/s rules specifically state that extensions will only be made if paid for by the new users/customers (ie not the current users/customers).

There were some secondary wrinkles associated with line(s) passing through the school property and the conserved land between the school property and the Reap property.

At this point the Reaps are constructing storage units at the rear end of their property, near the highway. Obviously this reduces their need for water/sewer and their interest in accessing the public systems.

Further down the road, literally: At one point the owner of the mobile home park (Mr. Brown) expressed some interest in connecting to public sewer but was daunted by (a) the cost of extending

the line, (b) the fact that the public water sewer system would not take over the antiquated septic lines within the park, including installation of individual meters at each property, and (d) the challenges of exploring expansion of the park as a quid pro quo, which involved zoning and DRB separate from the water sewer commission, and for which at the time he seemed to anticipate town-funded installation of water/sewer lines and service.

Including Morgan Wolaver, current chair of the water sewer commission, and David Sander, current chair of the selectboard.

Any comments questions or corrections?

Cheers

Bard

On Sun, Jun 2, 2024 at 10:32 PM Taylor Newton <TNewton@ccrpcvt.org> wrote:

Bard and Josh – Please see the email at the bottom of the chain. Can you provide me with some context about why Richmond returned its NBRC award? I have a decent understanding of the other projects, but not Richmond’s project. Any information would be much appreciated. Thanks!

Taylor Newton

Planning Program Manager

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

110 West Canal Street, Suite 202

Winooski, VT 05404

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From: Taylor Newton

Sent: Sunday, June 2, 2024 10:30 PM

To: Sam Andersen <sam@vermont.org>; Charles Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org>

Cc: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>; alexd@vermont.org; Cioffi, Frank <Frank.Cioffi@partner.vermont.gov>; NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; Brooks, Tayt <Tayt.Brooks@vermont.gov>; Nance, Elisabeth <Elisabeth.Nance@vermont.gov>; Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>

Subject: RE: NBRC & Chittenden Co Awards

Thanks, Kristie. While I have decent understanding of what happened with a few of these projects (e.g. Westford had a failed bond vote and Hinesburg couldn’t get their project through the NEPA process in a timely manner), I do think it makes sense to meet to discuss. Does your team have time to meet on Monday, June 17th at 1 PM?

I am very confident that the two Chittenden Co pre-applications invited to apply in Spring 2024 have sufficient local staff capacity to successfully implement their projects, if awarded.

-Taylor

Taylor Newton

Planning Program Manager

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

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From: Sam Andersen <sam@vermont.org>

Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 1:44 PM

To: Charles Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org>

Cc: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>; alexd@vermont.org; Cioffi, Frank <Frank.Cioffi@partner.vermont.gov>; Taylor Newton <TNewton@ccrpcvt.org>; NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; Brooks, Tayt <Tayt.Brooks@vermont.gov>; Nance, Elisabeth <Elisabeth.Nance@vermont.gov>; Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>

Subject: Re: NBRC & Chittenden Co Awards

Hello Kristie,

Like Charlie, we would appreciate a meeting to better understand this situation.

Thank you. Sam

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 1, 2024, at 11:24 AM, Charles Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org> wrote:

Hi Kristie,

I'd like to hear more about your understanding of what is happening in these situations. Is there something that you think we could do that would help.

Thanks,
Charlie

Charlie Baker, Executive Director
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
110 West Canal Street, Suite 202
Winooski, VT 05404
Cell (802) 735-3500
www.ccrpcvt.org

From: Farnham, Kristie <Kristie.Farnham@vermont.gov>
Sent: Saturday, June 1, 2024 10:28:45 AM
To: sam@vermont.org <sam@vermont.org>; alex@vermont.org <alex@vermont.org>; Cioffi, Frank <Frank.Cioffi@partner.vermont.gov>; Charles Baker <cbaker@ccrpcvt.org>
Cc: NBRC Admin <admin@nbrc.gov>; Brooks, Tayt <Tayt.Brooks@vermont.gov>; Nance, Elisabeth <Elisabeth.Nance@vermont.gov>; Long, Brett <Brett.Long@vermont.gov>
Subject: NBRC & Chittenden Co Awards

Partners,

I am alerting you that we have a 4th Chittenden Co NBRC investment that is on the cusp of deobligating their award. Prior deobligations and/or projects in jeopardy funded in Chittenden Co include the **City of Winooski**, the **Town of Richmond**, the **Town of Westford**; the present-day example is the **Town of Hinesburg**.

City of Winooski = Catalyst 2019 \$450,000 for underground infrastructure – power and telecommunications for Main St revitalization project

Town of Richmond = EID/EDA 2021 \$147,947 for extension of ww infrastructure

Town of Hinesburg = Catalyst 2022 \$460,020.00 for well #6, drinking water capacity

Town of Westford = EID/EDA 2021 \$466,194 for public WW capacity.

TOTAL = \$1,524,161

We have lots of municipal partners, in much more rural areas, that are managing contributions of federal funding to their municipally lead infrastructure projects. It would be great to collaborate on how we could collectively buck this trend.

We saw a lot of interest from Chittenden Co in the Spring 2024 cycle; 5 preapplications totaling \$3.375 were received. Two of the Chittenden Co pre-applications were invited forward to apply, which are in the 19-application portfolio currently under review.

Please be in touch if you or additional members of the GBIC/CCRPC teams are interested in connecting on this topic.

Best,

Kristie Farnham (she, her) | Director of Business Support
Vermont Department of Economic Development
1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
802-398-5268
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