

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Agenda
Monday, October 23, 2023
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall & via Zoom

Zoom Link Meeting ID: 845 6051 9888 Passcode: 982324 Call #1-646-558-8656

6:00 pm: Call meeting to order and approve the agenda.

Public Comment

Internal Financial Controls Checklist for Municipalities

Discussion only

Update on 2024 Sand Hill Roadway and Stormwater Project

Discussion only

Update on July Flood Event

Discussion only

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager's Report
2. Selectboard Minutes from 10/9/2023
3. Other Communications
4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

Selectboard Meeting Agenda Notes for 10/23/2023 Meeting:

1. The financial control checklist is an annual submission from the Town Treasurer to the Selectboard.
2. I will update you on the work to be done with Senator Sander's Earmark for Sand Hill, that is scheduled for 2024.
3. Chris and I will give you an update on the status of the flood repair work.

Internal Financial Controls Checklist for Municipalities – Cities and Towns

Document referenced in 24 V.S.A. § 1571(d)

	Yes	No	Don't know	By whom
Are all town account records currently maintained by one individual?		✓		
Do you reconcile bank and ledger balances monthly?	✓			Pam, Dietre
Are checks always written to specified payees and not to cash?	✓			Pam
Does the same individual open the mail and deposit checks?		✓		
Are pre-numbered checks used for all bank accounts?	✓			Pam
Are unopened bank statements delivered directly to the treasurer as received?	✓			Pam, Kelly, Dietre
Do you always provide a numbered receipt for any cash payment made to the town?		✓		
Have select board members attended financial trainings?			✓	
Are bank statements reconciled on a regular basis?	✓			Pam, Dietre
Does someone other than the treasurer review bank reconciliations?	✓			Dietre, Therese
Have you deposited town monies anywhere other than a town account?		✓		
Have you deposited any non-town monies into a town account?		✓		
Is interest in town accounts apportioned to each account?	✓			Dietre
Have there been any changes in authorized signatures during the fiscal year?	✓	✓		Trustee of Public Funds
Has a signature stamp ever been used for any town account?		✓		
Has there ever been a theft, or unauthorized use of town funds or equipment?		✓		
Are financial records maintained in a computerized system?	✓			Dietre, Therese
Does the town have written policies and procedures for financial operations?	✓			Therese
Does each town official have copies of these policies and procedures?			✓	
Have you attended trainings on recordkeeping?	✓			Therese
Are checks written by the same individual who approves payments?		✓		
Are you a participant in any business which does business with the town?		✓		
Do you maintain separate pages, columns or running balances for each fund?	✓			Dietre, Therese
Do elected town auditors attend financial trainings?				N/A
Are bank accounts and fund balances reconciled on a monthly basis?	✓			Dietre
Does the town loan money to town employees?		✓		

As a signer below I certify to the best of my knowledge that the answers provided in this self-assessment questionnaire are an accurate representation of the operation of the Town/City of: Bethel, Vermont.

Preparer: (signature) Pamela Brown (printed name): Pamela Brown Title: Town Clerk/Treasurer

Received by Select Board (signature): _____ on (date): 10/23/2023

Internal Financial Control

Document referenced in:

Are all town account records

Do you reconcile bank accounts

Are checks always written

Does the same individual

Are pre-numbered checks

Are unopened bank statements

Do you always provide a

Have select board members

Are bank statements received

Does someone other than

Have you deposited town

Have you deposited any

Is interest in town accounts

Have there been any changes

Has a signature stamp ever

Has there ever been a theft

Are financial records maintained

Does the town have written

Does each town official have

Have you attended training

Are checks written by the

Are you a participant in

Do you maintain separate

Do elected town auditors

Are bank accounts and financial

Does the town loan monies

As a signer below I certify

are an accurate representation

Preparer: (signature) _____

Received by Select Board _____

**TOWN OF BETHEL
SAND HILL ROADWAY & STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS
REVIEW MEETING**

MEETING AGENDA

October 11th, 2023

1.0 30% DESIGN DRAWINGS

- Stormwater
 - Catch basin locations
 - Stormwater treatment
 - Pipe Size
- Roadway
 - Alignment & Profile
 - Typical Sections
 - Crown/Superelevations
 - Retaining Wall

2.0 COST ESTIMATES

- Base Project
 - Construction Cost - \$490,000
 - Total Project Cost - \$750,000
- Bid Alternates
 - Construction Cost - \$230,000
 - Total Project Cost - \$280,000
- Funding - \$750,000

3.0 HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS

4.0 FRONT ENDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Table of Contents
- EJCDC Format
- Federal Cross-Cutters
 - Davis-Bacon
 - Disadvantaged Business Enterprise
 - BABA vs. AIS

5.0 NEXT STEPS

- Easement Drawings
- VDHP Submittal
- Environmental Review
- 60% Review Meeting



Town of Bethel
Sand Hill Roadway and Stormwater Improvements
Total Project Cost Summary
September 22, 2023

ITEM DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST BASE PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST BID ALTERNATES
CONSTRUCTION ⁽¹⁾		
Stormwater Improvements	\$280,000	
Lower Sand Hill Road Reconstruction	\$210,000	
Additional Subbase (Bid Alternate)		\$95,000
Upper Sand Hill Road Refurbishment (Bid Alternate)		\$135,000
CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL	\$490,000	\$230,000
CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY		
Construction Contingency (15%)	\$73,500	\$34,500
CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY SUBTOTAL	\$73,500	\$34,500
STEP II - FINAL DESIGN⁽²⁾		
Basic Services - Final Design Update	\$30,400	
Special Services	\$3,500	
Special Services - Stormwater	\$3,700	
STEP II SUBTOTAL	\$37,600	\$0
STEP III - CONSTRUCTION SERVICES⁽³⁾		
Construction Services Allowance	\$93,000	
Special Services	\$15,000	
STEP III CONSTRUCTION SERVICES SUBTOTAL	\$108,000	\$0
OTHER COSTS		
Legal & Fiscal	\$10,000	
Easements	\$5,000	
Short Term Interest	\$19,600	\$9,200
OTHER SUBTOTAL	\$34,600	\$9,200
ESTIMATED TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$743,700	\$273,700
USE	\$750,000	\$280,000

Notes:

1. Construction cost based on ENR 14000 (March 2024)
2. Based on executed agreement
3. Based on State curve

Town of Bethel
Sand Hill Roadway & Stormwater Improvements
Estimated Construction Costs
September 22, 2023

Description of Item	Total Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Cost	Storm Drain Only	Roadway Reconstruction	Add Alt #1	Add Alt #2
						Lower Sand Hill Road	Additional Subbase	Roadway Refurbishment Upper Sand Hill Road
A - Stormwater Piping								
A- 1	12" C-HDPE Storm Drain	100	L.F.	\$ 80	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000		
A- 2	15" C-HDPE Storm Drain	1,065	L.F.	\$ 100	\$ 106,500	\$ 106,500		
B - Waterline Appurtenances								
B- 1	Removal of Existing Catch Basin or Manhole	2	EA.	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		
B- 2	New 48" Drainage Manhole	2	EA.	\$ 8,500	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000		
B- 3	New 24" x 24" Catch Basin	12	EA.	\$ 7,600	\$ 91,200	\$ 91,200		
B- 4	Adj. Elevation of Manhole or Catch Basin Frame and Grate or Cover	5	EA.	\$ 1,200	\$ 6,000		\$ 6,000	
B- 5	Cut & Cap Existing Storm Drain Piping	2	EA.	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		
B- 6	Connection to Ex. Storm Drain Piping - Smaller than 12" Dia.	4	EA.	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000		
B- 7	Connection to Ex. Storm Drain Piping - 12" Dia. or Larger	1	EA.	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000		
C - Earthwork								
C- 1	Rock Excavation	25	C.Y.	\$ 200	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000		
C- 2	Boulder Excavation	25	C.Y.	\$ 40	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		
C- 3	Misc. Extra. Below Grade Excavation	50	C.Y.	\$ 30	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500		
C- 4	Exc. & Replac. Unsuitable	100	C.Y.	\$ 45	\$ 4,500		\$ 4,500	
D - Roadwork and Appurtenances								
D- 1	Permanent Bit. Roadway and Subbase Reconstruction	3,325	S.Y.	\$ 50	\$ 166,250		\$ 166,250	
D- 2	Additional Subbase	3,325	S.Y.	\$ 25	\$ 83,125		\$ 83,125	
D- 3	Permanent Bit. Roadway Rehabilitation	2,330	S.Y.	\$ 50	\$ 116,500			\$ 116,500
D- 4	Permanent Bit. Pavement Repair - Roads, Driveways, Sidewalk	10	S.Y.	\$ 100	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		
D- 5	Gravel Road and Drive Repair	25	L.F.	\$ 45	\$ 1,125		\$ 1,125	
D- 6	Concrete Sidewalk Repair	50	L.F.	\$ 55	\$ 2,750	\$ 2,750		
D- 7	Concrete Curb Repair	50	L.F.	\$ 45	\$ 2,250	\$ 2,250		
E - Incidental Work								
E- 1	Class B Concrete	5	C.Y.	\$ 300	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500		
E- 2	Calcium Chloride	10	TON	\$ 250	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	
E- 3	Rigid Trench Insulation	50	L.F.	\$ 10	\$ 500	\$ 500		
E- 4	Silt Fence	300	L.F.	\$ 3	\$ 900	\$ 900		
E- 5	Inlet Protection	15	EA.	\$ 150	\$ 2,250		\$ 2,250	
E- 6	Uniformed Traffic Control	0	HRS.	\$ 80	\$ -			
F - Lump Sum								
F- 1	Prep of Site and Misc Work (10%)	1	L.S.	\$ 63,235	\$ 63,235	\$ 24,910	\$ 18,363	\$ 8,313
F- 2	Bonds (2%)	1	L.S.	\$ 12,487	\$ 11,622	\$ 3,190	\$ 4,040	\$ 1,829
				TOTALS	\$ 707,207	\$ 277,200	\$ 206,027	\$ 93,266
				USE	\$ 710,000	\$ 280,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 95,000

Notes:

1. ENR 14000 (March 2024)



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P.O. BOX 451

WILLIAMSTOWN, VT 05679

PH (802) 433-6283
FAX (802) 433-5890

Bethel Water Mains Contract #2 Construction 2023 Schedule

10/9-10/20/23 Highland ave service connections, Road base and prep for paving.

10/23-11/10/23 Graham Street Main, Testing, water Services and prep for paving.

11/13-12/22 Krystal Drive Water Main Installation along with Booster pump building foundation and site work.

2024 we will have approximately 2 months in the spring as soon as weather allows finishing the remaining Krystal Drive services and connections, Railroad Crossing, Sand Hill portion of the project and remaining pump and wellhouse work.

• SITE DEVELOPMENT CONTRACTORS •

ROAD BUILDING • FOUNDATIONS • MUNICIPAL WATER & SEWER
SEPTIC SYSTEMS • PONDS • DRAINAGE • BOX CULVERTS

Town of Bethel
Selectboard Meeting
Monday, October 9, 2023
6:00 pm at Bethel Town Hall & via Zoom

ZOOM LINK Meeting ID: 815 1082 1557 Passcode: 496424 Call #1-646-558-8656

Present: Lindley Brainard, Dave Eddy, Denise Guilmette, Chris Jarvis, Gene Kraus, Therese Kirby and Julie Kraus.

Visitors: Anthony & Lisa Delgato, Danielle Mowry, Geoff Gilman, Christy Fry, Johannis & Julie Hinman, Carolyn & Fran Kelly, Sandy Levesque, Spencer Lewis, Owen Daniel-McCarter, Adam Mitchell, Stephen Morris, Mary Pavone, Elijah Reed, JoAnn & Fen Sartorius, Chris Stanghellini, Paul Vallee, Brian Wright, Lylee Rauch-Kacenski, Bonnie Solley, Doug Marshall, Yaro Stanchak, Laudell Slack

6:01 pm: Chris Jarvis called the meeting to order. Denise moved, Gene seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. So voted.

6:03 pm: Sandy Levesque re: Gilead Road issues

Sandy and many neighbors presented a packet of photos showing the condition of Gilead Road taken by Lisa and Anthony Delgato. Her concerns are #1, potholes, #2 overall unacceptable road condition, and #3 the process to get the road problems fixed. She feels the road is in such dangerous condition that pedestrians are in danger as well as cars traveling Gilead Road. She stated the road was repaved once in the last 50 years and asked for a comparison of Gilead to other roads needing repair.

Therese and Chris stated the problem is the road base on Gilead was not prepared properly to become a paved road many years ago and this has created the current condition of the road. An overlay has been done in the past, but since the road doesn't have the proper base and the road has continued to fail, an overlay will not hold up. As a Class 3 road it is not eligible for grants as other roads like Christian Hill are. Over a long period of time, no plan was created to evaluate all roads for repair/maintenance over the long term. That was the same for the water/sewer system, so while we have been concentrating on water issues and other long-term issues, we are trying to catch up on road issues. Other challenges have been the floods in Bethel. We had a major flood event in 2019, then again in 2023, so our focus becomes that of an immediate nature and figuring out how to shoulder our 12.5% financial burden. A timeline to fully upgrade the paved portion of Gilead Road is not possible today. We know the cost to be over \$500,000, and that we are not eligible for a paving grant on this Class 3 road. Discussion followed suggesting turning the road back into a gravel road as one possibility among others. Therese will check into the option of making this a Class 2 road, but feels it can't be done until it is properly repaired. She also stated a focus this winter will be to create a capital road plan for paved and gravel roads.

Public Comment

Brian Wright asked why the work upper Gilead Road has stopped. Therese said because of a water leak on St. Hyacinth. The crew will be back to continue the work on upper Gilead as soon as possible.

Gene recognized today as Indigenous People Day and acknowledged the town of Bethel is

situated on Abenaki land. He would like the EIC to consider reaching out to the local Abenaki Missisquoi tribe. Christy Fry will take the issue to the Equity and Inclusion Committee (EIC).

Update on July Flood Event:

Work being done at an “okay” pace. There is still much work to be completed and with winter approaching some work will be tricky.

Reschedule December 25, 2023 Selectboard Meeting to December 18, 2023

Consensus was to move the December 25 scheduled Selectboard meeting to December 18th.

Minutes and Communications:

1. Town Manager’s Report

Damages from the July flood are estimated to be \$1,328,152. The Town’s financial share of that are estimated to be \$166,019 but these are not final numbers. ERAF monies are already in the current fiscal year budget and will be used to pay off the Town’s ERAF share of the \$1.1 million-dollar Pinello Bridge project from the April 2019 flood event. We have budgeted \$48,097. That means it will take 4 fiscal year budgets to pay off the July 7-10th ERAF. \$21,000 equals 1 cent on the tax rate.

Someone ran into the Town Hall sign but did not stop. Lindley will be looking at the sign to let us know about repairs and/or replacement.

Rita Seto at Two Rivers is working on a stormwater grant for us which would be used to for stormwater projects at Falcon Dive, the municipal parking lot and installing a sediment separator near the Church Street Bridge. These are projects brought to a 30% design by D&K and part of our effort to get infrastructure projects done on Main Street before the State comes through to pave in 2026.

On October 10 Therese and Richard will have their first Phase II meeting. Mike Mainer and Therese will meet on Wednesday regarding the Sand Hill work. Camp brook on Friday to open bids

2. Selectboard Minutes from 9/25/2023

Denise moved, Gene seconded to approve the 9/25/2023 Selectboard minutes as presented. So voted.

3. Other Communications

4. Any Other Business Necessary to Come Before the Board

7:35 pm: Denise moved, Dave seconded, to adjourn the Selectboard meeting. So voted.

The next Selectboard meeting will be on Monday, October 23, at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Submitted by Julie Kraus

BETHEL RECREATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

- A. The meeting was called to order at the Town Office at 7:02 pm.
- B. In attendance were Lindsey Schell, Kyle Cartwright, Rebbie Carlton, and Ele Griffin.
- C. VOREC Trail Bids: The committee discussed 3 bids for trails that Chris Fors had sent us. Caleb had let Ele know earlier in the day his input. Shane had sent an e-mail with his perspective. Earlier in the morning, Ele had been at a workshop with Mark Heckman. She got his perspective. After a good discussion the committee felt that the bid from Thomas Lepasquer is the way to go.
- D. Halloween Event: Rebbie reported that the event will be held Tuesday the 31st. It will not be held this year at the Recreation Center. The group discussed places such as Peavine Park, the Town Hall, and the Band Shell/Common. No place was decided yet.
- E. Skate Park: Kyle reported on how well the work on the skate park is going. Pouring for the bank ramp and the bowl was done today.
- F. Forward Festival: Melissa sent the committee a wrap-up report. There were 26 people that participated in the race. The activity trailer was set up at the center and was a great addition to the event. The top 6 racers were awarded prizes from various local businesses. They were a t-shirt and seed packets from Bethel Mills, hats and cards from Babies, \$30 gift from Village Pizza, \$40 gift card from Dandelion Acres, and wine and treats. The race raised \$460 and the forward Festival committee sponsored the race with a \$200 donation. The committee had supplies left over from the summer Friday Fun night. At the band shell the recreation committee table sold chips and drinks. The committee was then able to donate the hot dogs and buns to the Bethel Food Shelf.
- G. Other Business: The committee will have the ice rink on their November agenda. Ele will talk to Chuck Washburn before then.
- H. Past minutes: Approval of the September meeting minutes was postponed until November.
- I. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 1st at 7 pm.

Minutes submitted respectfully,
Ele Griffin

Town of Bethel, Vermont
Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, 10/10/23, 6:30 PM
Town Offices

Meeting brought to order at 6:30pm.

Present: Ferron Griffin, Danny Dover, Mary Floyd, Emily Miller, Mark Heckman, Lisa Campbell, Chris Fors

1. Minutes: Minutes from the September meeting were approved.
2. Pollinator Patch
 - a. Gary will rototill this week.
 - b. A WRVMS pollinator club at school will be involved.
 - c. Mark will plant it with winter rye.
3. VOREC and Staircase update
 - a. Chris gave a VOREC update.
 - i. Proposals for the trailwork will be decided on by Friday.
 - ii. Plan for branding and wayfinding is in the works.
 - iii. Next big RFP is for the trail around the ball field.
 - iv. Events trailer overview.
 - b. Staircase and pathway are done!
 - i. Press release and acknowledgments coming soon.
4. Forward Fest Recap
 - a. Mats
 - i. Lots of positive feedback about the mats used to improve accessibility.
 - ii. The Forward Fest is interested in possibly purchasing additional mats for the trailer.
 - b. Seed packets
 - i. Pollinator packets and vegetable seeds were very popular.
5. Any other business
 - a. AJ Follensbee has the following meetings come up:
 - i. Sayward Forest on Thursday, 5:15pm.
 - ii. Coverts-sponsored event for folks interested in learning about and working forest lands, Cockadoodle on 10/26/23, 6-7:30pm.
 - iii. West Hartford, 10/28/23.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday, 11/14/23, 6:30pm at the Town office.

Therese Kirby

From: Murray-Clasen, Madeline <Madeline.Murray@greenmountainpower.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 10:53 AM
To: Therese Kirby
Cc: Smith, Tiana
Subject: Update on Bethel Zero Outages
Attachments: 23_GMP_ZeroOutages_Onesheet_1009_211 (002).pdf

Hi Therese,

I hope you are doing well. I want to provide you with an update on the Bethel Zero Outages federal grant application that we submitted back in April. The Department of Energy originally estimated they would announce awards in the summer, but they have not made any announcements yet, so we are still waiting on a decision.

In the meantime, we are starting to advance the broader Zero Outages Initiative, which we will help us get this work started in Bethel if we do not receive the federal funding. We filed the Zero Outages Initiative with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) earlier this week - the press release is below and a one-page summary with visuals is attached as well. If anyone is interested in reading more, [the full Zero Outages filing with the PUC](#) is available on our website.

While we wait for regulatory approval from the PUC, we are also going to start conducting studies for undergrounding in Zones 2 and 3 on the Bethel BE-G28 circuit so we can get started with work soon after we receive approval. There is no action needed from you or the Town now, but I want to keep you updated on the latest developments.

If you have any questions, please be in touch!

Maddy

NEWS

Media Contact:
Kristin Carlson, (802) 229-8200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10, 2023

Green Mountain Power Launches First in Nation 2030 Zero Outages Initiative

- *The Zero Outages Initiative will deliver an energy system by 2030 where customers stay powered up across the state while reducing costs*
- *Urgent need following devastating year of severe climate change-driven storms*
- *Initiative rapidly accelerates proven energy storage programs, proactive line undergrounding, and system storm-hardening*

COLCHESTER, Vt. – Green Mountain Power (GMP) today launched its Zero Outages Initiative, the first utility in the country to commit to a comprehensive, data-driven plan that creates layers of resiliency across Vermont by building on GMP's successful and proactive undergrounding and storm-hardening of lines, as well as deployment of energy storage through batteries and microgrids. Combined, this work will keep customers and communities connected while lowering costs for all. The phased initiative rapidly accelerates this resiliency

work through 2030, tackling the hardest hit areas in rural central and southern Vermont first, following a devastating year for the state that saw an unprecedented string of damaging storms due to climate change.

“We all see the severe impacts from storms, we know the impact outages have on your lives, and the status quo is no longer enough,” said Mari McClure, GMP president and CEO. “We are motivated to do all we can to combat climate change and create a Vermont that is sustainable and affordable, but we must move faster. Together with our customers, regulators, our communities, and that Vermont spirit that manages to innovate despite all odds, we have all we need to revolutionize the energy system and ensure a stronger, more affordable Vermont.”

Here's how it works: the Zero Outages Initiative leverages circuit-level resiliency data, combined with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) community vulnerability data, topography, and other metrics to determine the right resiliency approaches for each of GMP's 300 circuits. This ensures that all customers experience zero outages, whether in a remote area, or in a densely developed downtown.

The Zero Outages filing with regulators addresses the first phase of the initiative and calls for an investment of up to \$280 million over the next two years, with \$250 million of that for undergrounding and storm hardening lines, and \$30 million for energy storage. The second phase of the initiative will involve another filing with regulators and will seek approval to accelerate and expand beyond 2026, while outages and associated repair costs start to drop off.

For context, major storm costs are escalating and not sustainable. In the past twelve months alone, major storms required more than \$45 million in repairs. Since 2014, major storms caused \$115 million in damage across GMP's service area, with 60% of that in the last five years, 40% of that in just the last two years, and the \$45 million in 2023 was the most yet. That is money spent to repair the existing system and get customers reconnected after storm damage, and it does not prevent future outages.

“Projects to reinforce the grid and integrate energy storage are more important than ever. We know that we will continue to see an increase in extreme weather events, and research shows that every dollar invested in disaster preparedness and mitigation ultimately saves several times more in avoided response and recovery costs, while also preventing health and safety impacts,” said Jeff Schlegelmilch, Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University's Climate School. “Building resilience into the grid is essential to sustaining this lifeline, which facilitates broader well-being.”

During the unprecedented storms over the last several years, some Vermonters have already experienced the benefits of the type of work planned under the Zero Outages Initiative. GMP has already installed 50 miles of underground lines in rural residential areas and those customers did not experience damage to those lines during these major storms. In addition, where spacer cable has been installed, trees from outside the rights-of-way fell on the lines, but did not cause an outage.

The three worst storms in GMP history, in terms of outages, happened in just the last twelve months, with highly skilled lineworkers like Mike Tyler based out of Rutland working around the clock to repair storm damaged equipment and get customers reconnected.

“This will be a game changer. For customers, the lights stay on for them, and then for us in the field, it increases safety. Every line worker I know has had a close call, and being up on a pole when there is a big gust of wind isn't a great feeling. Our exposure to the most severe elements will be reduced with Zero Outages, and our neighbors stay powered up,” said Mike Tyler.

Energy storage and microgrids are also key to this multi-year initiative, which also anticipates incorporating emerging technologies like vehicle to home, as another method of achieving storm resiliency for customers. The Zero Outages Initiative would provide residential batteries to customers in remote locations, delivering resiliency where it is needed most first, with a goal to have all customers have energy storage. GMP's industry-leading experience over the last couple of years, partnering with customers on innovative approaches shows that they cost-effectively keep customers powered up even when storm damage happens. Examples include GMP's home battery programs, community microgrid and Resiliency Zones, and a resilient all-electric neighborhood which is under construction now.

GMP customer Kathy Grise of Colchester says having batteries through GMP has made a difference for her and her family during storms and any outage.

"It is seamless and provides such peace of mind. We stay safe and connected, plus I've been able to continue working from home, which is so important."

Vermont regulators recently agreed to GMP's request to lift the enrollment cap on its home battery programs, so all customers who'd like to get cost-effective home batteries can now sign up. There are currently 5,000 batteries in customers' homes, part of GMP's larger stored energy network which also includes utility scale batteries, controllable devices like EV chargers, and school bus batteries through V2G.

This filing kicks off a public review process through the Vermont Public Utility Commission. If approved, the first projects could get underway in the spring/summer of 2024.

About Green Mountain Power

Green Mountain Power serves more than 270,000 residential and business customers in Vermont with electricity that's 100% carbon free and 78% renewable on an annual basis, and GMP is partnering with customers to improve lives and transform communities. GMP is providing solutions to cut carbon and is delivering electricity that is clean, affordable, and always on. GMP is the first utility in the world to get a B Corp certification, meeting rigorous social, environmental, accountability and transparency standards and committing to use business as a force for good. In 2022, GMP was named to TIME's list of the 100 Most Influential Companies. Fast Company named GMP one of the top five Most Innovative Companies in North America in 2022. GMP also earned a spot on Fast Company's Most Innovative Companies in the World list in the energy sector four years in a row, and in 2023 and 2021 the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA) honored GMP as a nationwide leader in energy transformation.



GMP Zero Outages is an initiative to create layers of resiliency across Vermont so customers stay powered up. It uses the latest technologies and builds on GMP's successful, proactive, and accelerated undergrounding and storm-hardening of lines, as well as GMP's deployment of energy storage and microgrids to keep customers and communities connected while lowering costs for all GMP customers.

- GMP customers will stay powered up, no matter the weather
- Rapidly accelerates targeted, data-driven resiliency work through 2030 especially in southern and central Vermont
- First utility in the country to outline zero outage initiative
- Urgent need as Vermont sees increasing severe weather due to climate change
- Multi-layered plan builds on GMP's successful energy storage programs, and proactive line undergrounding and storm hardening
- Strategic investment for customers makes economic sense
- Creates equity for all customers no matter their location or income

How it Works

Undergrounding

- Cable-in-conduit
- More efficient to install than traditional undergrounding
- Typically in residential areas
- Prevents outages from falling trees

Overhead storm hardening

- Line design, equipment & construction techniques
 - Spacer cable, tree wire
- Prevents against tree damage

Energy Storage

- Microgrids and Resiliency Zones
- Utility scale batteries
- Home batteries
- Customers stay connected if system is damaged
- Unique energy sharing lowers costs for all customers



Key numbers

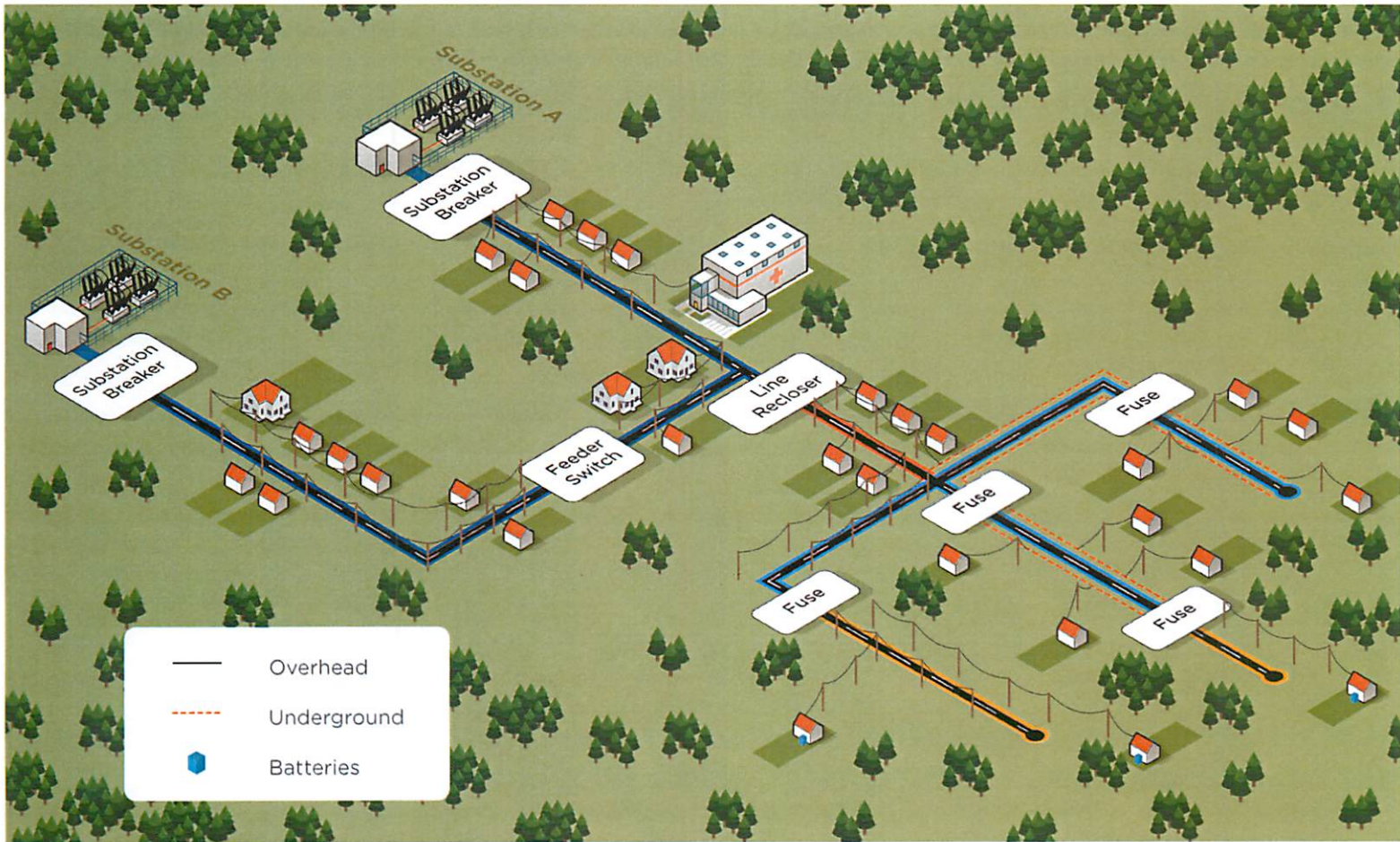
- Context: Rising storm repair costs from climate change are unsustainable for customers
 - Major storm costs past 12 months (beyond standard budget): \$45 million
 - Major storm costs since 2014: \$115 million
 - 60% of that in last 5 years
 - 40% of that in last 2 years
 - 2023 highest yet
 - Just repairing system to get customers reconnected
 - Not preventing future outages
- Initial added investment over two years: up to \$280 million
 - Up to \$250 million for undergrounding and storm hardening
 - Up to \$30 million for energy storage
 - Outlook to 2030: investment ramps up, while outages and storm costs start to drop

Timing

This proposal will go through months of regulatory review. If approved, the first phase of the initiative could launch spring/summer 2024.

Note: GMP has undergrounding, storm-hardening, and energy storage program expansion already underway through its current programs and proactive climate plan. This initiative dramatically expands and accelerates resiliency work through 2030.

A community power circuit after Zero Outages work could look like this, with lines in some rural residential areas underground using cable in conduit, feeder lines above ground along main roads built with storm-hardening construction, and homes in some areas with batteries for seamless backup power.



● **Zone 1**

Usually densely developed areas such as downtown/village center. Storm hardening line rebuilds/construction to be used. Often has an alternate feed to another substation.

● **Zone 2**

Can be a commercial or residential area, or a combination. Has no alternative feeder line. Storm hardening, line rebuilds, and underground construction to be used.

● **Zone 3**

Mainly residential areas. Undergrounding lines where possible, overhead storm hardening in all other places.

● **Zone 4**

These customers will receive home batteries for seamless backup power first, with goal that eventually all GMP customers have home batteries.

WRV IREC Discussion

October 11, 2023 (Virtual Meeting)

[Link to Agenda & Slides](#)

Attendees:

Nicole Cyr - Bethel
Helen Flannery- W. Brookfield
Jerry Ward – E. Randolph
Harry Falconer - TRORC
Ann Kuendig - Pittsfield
John Pimental - E. Randolph
Scott Putney – Bethel
Curtis Koren – Brookfield
Gene Kraus – Bethel
Erica Hiller – Vital Communities

Intros: Everyone expressed excitement about continuing this conversation and getting a person on board

Meeting Goal: Identify tangible projects for WRV IREC to work on and determine “host” org.

Note - deeper discussion on cost structure would be in next meeting.

Review of July 2023 list of ideas: winner, organize a structure to hire a coordinator, but also volunteer coordination & outreach; showcase weatherization; improve transportation options in region; develop communication, education, awareness campaigns were the next 4 in top 5.

White Board Brainstorm (see Jamboard):

Jerry – town composition (selectboard, town mgr, energy committee) whatever entity to help prioritize the work they want to do, prioritize early steps

Scott – we may be putting cart before the horse. How many towns have committed?

Gene – the person would need to first meet with participating town steering committee to do the work of identifying projects/plan out next course of action

Ann – Pittsfield is in the process of energy audits (w/MERP funding – 2nd stage of assessment) and would look to this person to help find grant money to act upon findings

John – question about this list – purpose of list for this group to take on or potential tasks

Nicole – purpose of the list is to come up with some clarity around what we think we need as a regional group. As an example, maybe we see a need for data collection to track our GHG emissions and to be able to work toward state’s climate goals

Curtis – Brookfield is a small town so it would really depend on how much it would cost

Gene – Are we clear who the target audience is for the Energy Coordinator – is the municipalities or is it general public

Jerry – as a practical matter, the audience has to be the Selectboards because they have to pay the bill and they are the proxy for the citizens. If we get too focused on making it programs for the whole town, won’t work

Helen – agree w/Jerry – tension between working with town selectboards and municipal projects vs more grassroots, broader public engagement w/volunteer coord type position. Thought that at last meeting we landed on focusing on municipal projects.

Nicole – need to focus on deliverable – do we need a presentation for Selectboards?

Scott – Feeling like exercise of trying to identify concrete projects is premature. First step is to get all the Selectboards/towns on the same page as to what we are trying to do. Everything is going to come down to money. Need to really figure out who is in and who is out. Then get a coordinator. Then as a group figure out cost effective ways to help all of the towns to save money by for example using solar energy, energy efficiency, etc. We are not going to solve climate change.

Gene – Emphasizing that this is premature and that we need to figure out who is in and who is out.

Ann – Maybe we take baby steps and put together an Intermunicipal Agreement laying out the principles and the goals of a Steering Committee to present to Selectboards. Contract to get them committed at least philosophically. Particularly with towns that have the \$4k MERP funding for planning/consultation. Financing would be later.

Curtis – Not sure I could take something to selectboard without knowing how much something would cost.

*See [Whiteboard/Jamboard](#) for list, with grouping and prioritizing

Discussion on position host:

Nicole - question to Harry about whether the many things that have been discussed seem like it would be a full-time position.

Harry – Need to ease all of this out a little with Selectboards. Recommend having a well defined scope of work and at least a range, if not exact figure, bottom and top end.

Helen – could we use the job description that we have drafted in order to do that? Could we share it with others for feedback?

Curtis – I am on Selectboard. I will need to know how much we are talking about and what it is for.

Harry – two different types of jobs emerging and different ways that you would want to structure that depending on which one decided upon, but either way could definitely become a full-time job.

Gene – Curious to know what was lacking in the job description in order to bring to Selectboard. The job description does set out the nature of the work of this particular individual. Also along the lines of what Ann was saying earlier – this is something that we could potentially do if all of our towns banded together – grant writing primarily. Use the description to get towns to appoint a person to a Steering Committee for a trial year. Could MERP money be used for that?

Harry - MERP mini-grants would be eligible funding to go towards this.

TRORC Presentation on Different Types of Positions:

Energy Coordinator for Municipal projects vs more of a Community Organizer position – this came out of what Harry was hearing from the last conversation/meeting.

Financial structures from TRORC. TRORC is generally very expensive as a host – usually 85% of salary & benefits to cover indirect costs (rent, utilities, etc). This week, in internal TRORC discussion, explored possibility of hosting the position but not in-house/physically at TRORC and in that case could be just 10% (*de minimus*) indirect charge.

Harry does not feel that TRORC would be well suited to host the Community Organizer position.

If going with the IREC/EC position, better to limit the number of towns to something more like 6-8 towns as too much to divide up their time among so many different entities.

Financial Structures from TRORC (from the slide deck):

Option 1 – Community Organizer (not TRORC)

- 8 - 14 towns
- \$25 - \$35/hr + benefits (highly variable cost depending on offerings and what employee chooses to enroll in)

- For a full time, this translates to roughly \$60k - \$100k/yr
- \$4,300 - \$12,500/yr per town, depending on number of towns, exact wages and benefits enrolled in

Option 2 – Existing IREC Model (TRORC)

- 6 - 8 towns
- \$44 - \$60/hr ~~\$80—\$100/hr~~, which includes:
- Salary (\$55k - \$65k/yr)
- Benefits (variable cost)
- De minimis indirect charge of 10% (TRORC operating costs) ~~Indirect @ 85% of salary and benefits~~
- Translates to roughly \$86k - \$117k/yr (full-time)
- \$10,750 - \$19,500/yr if split evenly among towns
- Towns can contribute more or less in exchange for more or fewer hours

Gene – For the *de minimus* option, does TRORC handle the bookkeeping and the town offer physical space and equipment?

Harry – to be *de minimus*, would just need to not be at the TRORC office, up to towns if they want to offer office space or if position would be remote. TRORC would only host the position if it were full-time, couldn't do it if part time.

Nicole – In Harry's June memo said part time was an option.

Harry – Not sure about that, would need to look at that again. Maybe that would have been without benefits. A town can always pay TRORC on contract to do specific projects and that would just be a piece of an existing employees time. But serving something like 8 towns would be a full-time position in and of itself.

Scott – I think we should stick with having it hosted at TRORC. \$20K per town for 6-8 towns seems reasonable, even cheap. Particularly for what the towns could get from it, including potential savings. Would feel comfortable going to the Selectboard with that ask. If some of that spending comes back in grants or in longer term savings, we're ahead of the game.

Nicole – Does everyone feel like they have enough information to proceed with further discussion.

Curtis – Would like the link to the job description as well as a copy of the slide deck from this meeting.

Nicole – temp check on who is ready to continue with conversation on where this position could be housed. Half folks feel ready.

Gene – important that the position not be based on # of hours. Something that includes small towns and large towns as well as regional stuff. A funding system on an hourly basis is a non-starter. Maybe based on Grand List instead.

Nicole – We can and will need to come back to that cost structuring.

Discussion & Poll Voting on Position Host:

Nicole - Moving onto poll voting as temp check on where a position could be housed. Vital Communities was included on the list, but unfortunately not in a position to do that now.

Erica – Vital Communities Admin/Finance team very constrained. Unfortunately, Vital Communities is not even in a position to take on fiscal sponsorships, much less hosting a new position. That will definitely remain the case for the next year.

Poll Results:

TRORC = 6 (question as to whether this would have been de minimus)
Freelance Consultant = 2
Rest got 0

Gene – I voted freelance consultant because was thinking about physical location aspect. Would be happy to go with TRORC.

Jerry – there isn't a single town that wants to host this position as an employer, so it seems we don't have a choice. There might be a town that could provide in-kind office space.

John- agree with Jerry. No town will want to take on administrative cost of taking on another employee.

Ann – I was in support of freelance consultant because I know if I take it to the Board that we want to pay for a position of someone making more than the town clerk or others in the town, can't rationalize it. Couldn't go to the town with \$20K ask. Potential with consultant to have the cost be less.

Scott – If we divide the cost between multiple towns, you wouldn't necessarily be paying more than what other town employees make.

Nicole – Call for vote/show of hands for going with TRORC as host: Gene, John, Scott, Helen, Nicole, Jerry, Curtis (7)

Ann – not in, it's really going to depend on what the bottom line would be

Gene – I want to make it possible for Pittsfield to participate. That's why I did not want it to be on a per hour basis, but a different formula that could allow smaller towns to join in.

Nicole – Agree with that.

Next Steps/Meeting – Cost Structures & What's Needed to Approach Selectboards:

Nicole - Next steps to more concretely discuss cost structures – have a whole meeting just to discuss that issue. We are already seeing where there is interest by who is showing up to these earlier conversations.

Scott – Rather than have these towns that are not showing up, best to physically contact these other towns to get a sense of where they are at. Should do that before having the next meeting. Find out where there is interest

Nicole - Others interested but not here now: Jeff from Rochester, Cathy from Royalton, etc.

Scott – By my count, there are maybe 10 towns really interested.

Nicole – If a town doesn't have capacity to show up, likely won't have capacity to utilize a coordinator

Harry – Should go with a specific scope of work and cost proposal in hand before approaching

Selectboards. Not sure there is time to realistically do that before 2024 budgets are voted on. Timeline for this seems very tight.

Ann – Pittsfield just starting deliberations in early November and a vote later in January.

Curtis – Agree with Harry that need scope of work and financials in order to bring it to Selectboard. We are also in a big time crunch now.

Next Meeting: Week of Oct 23rd to focus on Cost Structuring. Will send out a Doodle Poll for meeting dates, along with slides and notes.

WRV IREC Discussion

10/11/2023

Agenda

4:00 pm Welcome, Introductions and Overview of Process so Far

4:05 pm Overview of goal and what we will do together tonight, group guidelines

4:10 pm ACTION ITEM Identify some specific projects, tangible items, that this person would work on. (Brainstorm, prioritize, ID goals/deliverables, hours/project)

4:50 pm ACTION ITEM Decide if or how to use TRORC or another town as the 'base' for the coordinator. (Vote, discuss/champion ideas, consensus or 2nd vote)

5:25 pm Next Steps

5:30 pm Adjourn

Goal

1. Identify projects for WRV IREC to work on
2. Determine the “host” organization for the position

Next meeting - week of 10/23?

1. Determine how to divide cost between participating towns

Guiding Principles

- Take space, give space (let others speak before you speak again, if you normally hold back, speak up)
- Be respectful

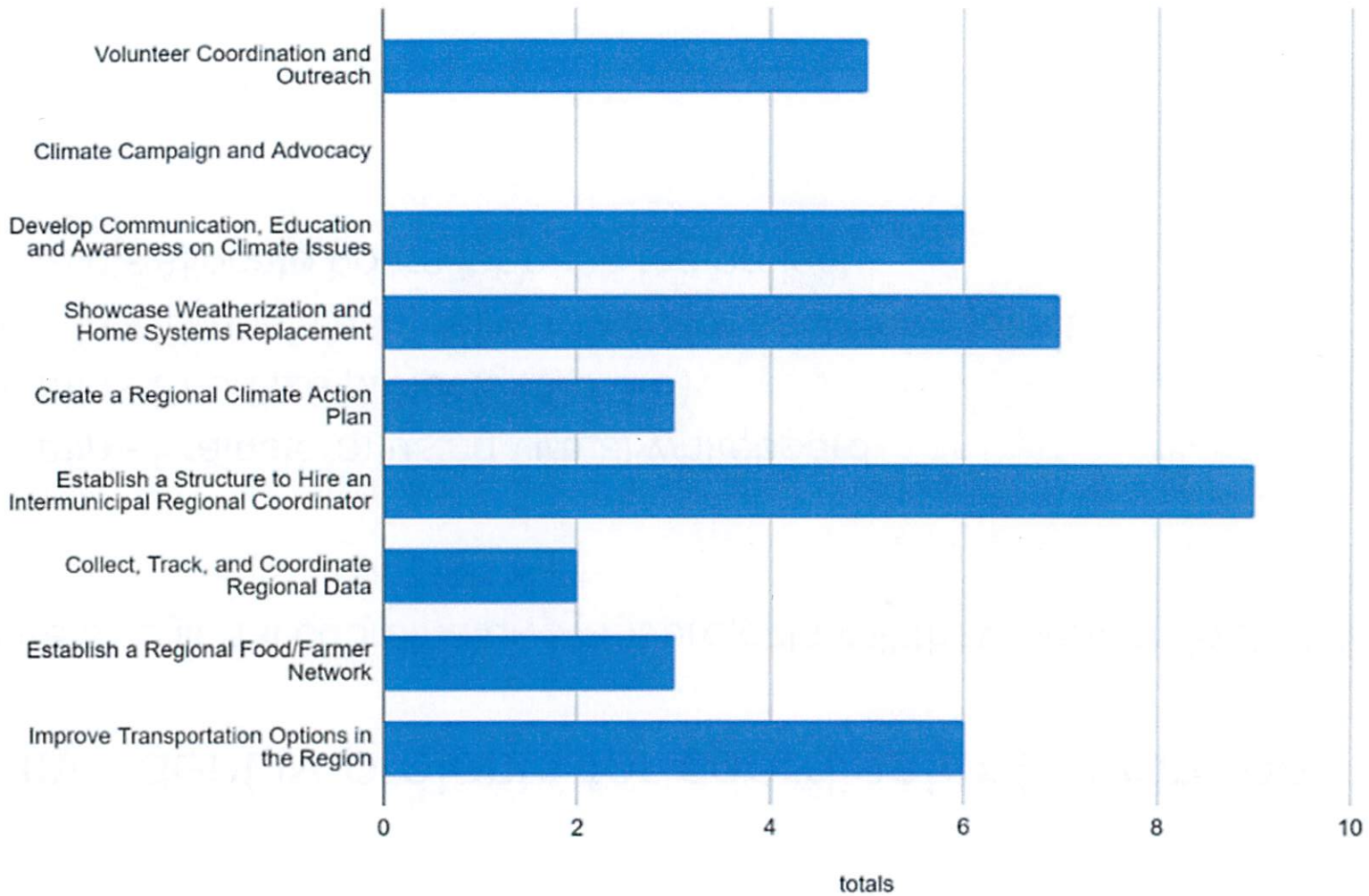
Bike Rack for ideas that are off topic or out of our control

Activity: Identify projects for coordinator to work on

If we hire a regional coordinator, what projects will they work on in 2024?

- 10 min - Brainstorm using virtual whiteboard
- 10 min - Prioritize projects (top 3-5)
- 10 min - ID goals and deliverables for each top project
- 10 min - Allocate hours for each top project

WRV Climate/Energy Prioritization Survey -July 2023



Top 5 Ideas from
2nd Round of
Voting (7/25/23)

Establish a Structure to Hire an Intermunicipal Regional Coordinator

● 32 | 👤 8 | 🏆 Winner | 💬 1 | Info

Volunteer Coordination and Outreach

● 7 | 👤 3 | 💬 1 | Info

Showcase Weatherization and Home Systems Replacement

● 6 | 👤 2 | 💬 1 | Info

Improve Transportation Options in the Region

● 3 | 👤 3 | 💬 1 | Info

Develop Communication, Education and Awareness on Climate Issues

● 2 | 👤 2 | 💬 1 | Info

Activity: Identify projects for coordinator to work on

If we hire a regional coordinator, what projects will they work on in 2024?

- BRAINSTORM using virtual whiteboard (10 min)
- <https://jamboard.google.com/d/1il8XMtKhKNBDz-OhR1WwpkJT4wVuia304jVHK474Bc4/viewer>

**#1
Idea**

Meet with the steering committee to plan out next course of action

Jerry: help towns prioritize projects (because a lot depends on the towns' capacities).

Identify potential wind or solar municipal projects. Identify grant opportunities and other funding vehicles to assist in reducing its cost.

Ann: speak with coordinator on way to move forward based on what the energy audit reports show (including getting grant money)

Gene: same for Bethel

Helen: Data collection (about emissions etc.) (this will be needed for applying for grants.)

Put together an intermunicipal agreement with goals of a regional steering committee.

**#2
idea**

Help towns find grant money for these projects

Identify towns that have already applied for the \$4K MERP mini-grants

John; Outreach to local schools and town organizations to identify "champions" and build a local team to help with growth in EC capabilities.

Top projects for coordinator to work on (results from live "sticky notes" brainstorm + prioritization)

Activity: Identify host organization for coordinator

If we hire a regional coordinator, which organization will provide human resources management (salary, benefits, guidance)?

- 5 min - review TRORC comparison chart
- 10 min - Initial vote (TRORC, municipality, other)
- 15 min - Discuss results, champion ideas
- 5 min - consensus/final vote

Option 1: Community Organizer (not TRORC)

Scope of Work

- Conduct public education and outreach activities about energy/climate issues, incentives, and programs
 - Homeowners/landlords
 - Businesses
 - Government bodies
 - Community/advocacy groups
 - Utilities and Efficiency VT
- Coordinate volunteer efforts across region
 - Organize public information campaigns (events, mailers, door-knocking, tabling, etc.)
 - Direct volunteers to grant/financing programs that can help meet local needs
 - Create community-oriented resources for climate and energy resilience (website and other written materials for volunteers to use region-wide)

Option 2: Existing IREC Model (TRORC)

Scope of Work

- Track energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions of municipal assets
- Develop municipal/community energy projects
- Write grant applications in pursuit of energy, energy efficiency, and/or climate resiliency projects
- Conduct public outreach about energy/climate issues, programs, and incentives

Option 1: Community Organizer (not TRORC)

Financial Structure

- 8 - 14 towns
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- Towns can contribute more or less in exchange for more or fewer hours

Option 1: Community Organizer (not TRORC)

Pitch to Selectboards/Town Meeting

Many residents of the WRV have expressed interest in climate and energy resilience—particularly after the July 2023 floods. Funding this position will help connect locals to existing programs, incentives, and opportunities to make themselves and their communities more resilient. Furthermore, it will demonstrate to residents that their town takes these issues seriously and will take action to reduce the burden of high energy costs and mitigate their vulnerability to future extreme weather events. This program will not generate a direct return on investment in terms of saving town governments money via public sector energy projects, but will instead demonstrate its value in providing a vital service to residents and other local and regional stakeholders.

Option 2: Existing IREC Model (TRORC)

Pitch to Selectboards/Town Meeting

This position will generate demonstrable return on investment in the public sector by winning the town grants, increasing the energy efficiency of public buildings, and catalyzing energy projects that help meet local needs and priorities (for example, a community solar array project). Each town receives a fixed number of the IREC's hours per year, proportional to their funding contribution. The IREC's specific tasks are defined by the IREC Steering Committee, which is comprised of one representative from each participating town. The representatives are assigned by their respective selectboards and direct the IREC's time on the selectboard's behalf. The IREC will also issue monthly and annual reports to detail time spent and measure progress made toward each assigned task.

Activity: Identify host organization for coordinator

If we hire a regional coordinator, which organization will provide human resources management (salary, benefits, guidance)?

- Use online poll to VOTE
- LINK
- <https://pollunit.com/polls/ibmzujqmdunay9pogc5oaw>

Results from live poll

Local municipal office	✓ 0	+	Info	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	⋮	
Two-Rivers Planning Commission (TRORC)	✓ 6	🏆 Best	+	Info	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	⋮
Vital Communities	✓ 0	+	Info	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	⋮	
Freelance consultant	✓ 2	+	Info	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	⋮	
Other	✓ 0	+	Info	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	⋮	

Next steps

- ACTION ITEM: Figure out how much this will cost and how the money would be distributed - How would each town's contribution be worked out?
- Meet again week of 10/23? (Nicole will create Doodle poll)