



TRORF
Board of Directors
128 King Farm Road
Woodstock, VT 05091

January 10, 2024

Attendance: Bill Emmons, Peter Berger, Ken Alton (remote), Nancy Jones, John Echeverria, David Brandau (remote), Nancy Malmquist (remote), Kevin Geiger, Mary Olmo, Peter Gregory.

1. Introductions and Review of Agenda:

The meeting was called to order at 2:45. No public was present.

Agenda: Approval of draft minutes for 10/25/23 (attached)
 Brief financial report
 Discussion and approval of VHCB grant for RIVER project

2. Approval of Minutes:

The draft minutes for October 25, 2023 were approved on a motion by Peter Berger, seconded by Nancy Jones.

3. Financial:

Mary Olmo presented that the Foundation had \$27,613 in its account. Of this Kevin Geiger stated that roughly \$4,000 was committed to funding an update of the Keys to the Valley website for use in helping would-be developers to work their way through the process of construction of housing, especially accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and duplexes. Bill Emmons noted that we should work on shared services, and a brief discussion of shared services ensued. Peter stated that the TRORC had transferred \$20,000 in reserves to TRORF for that purpose, which makes up the bulk of the current fund balance. Kevin noted that TRORF had not taken action to approve using the funds for that purpose, but the group felt that the TRORC transfer was specific enough that further authorization was not needed. No action was taken.

4. VHCB Action:

Kevin presented that the RIVER project mentioned at the December TRORC meeting had come to pass and that VHCB had granted TRORF \$300,000 to assist with the facilitation part of that project. RIVER is a TRORC-led state



program over several towns and RPCs that will develop flood reduction projects for application to FEMA. It has two parts – public facilitation to get to a set of projects and the engineering to ensure these have costs, scope and permitting.

The state, through VT Emergency Management is funding the bulk of it, which will be at least \$800,000 for engineering services. That will come to TRORC and we would manage the contractor(s) that cover the state.

\$300,000 has been awarded from VHCB to TRORF (due to their funding means) for pass thru to TRORC to manage the RPCs' facilitation services, pay them for these services, and pay us for facilitation for a town in our region as well. There is no match for either funding. John Echeverria wondered about what towns we might work with, and Kevin noted that in the TRORC Region, we would probably work with Chelsea or Plymouth/Bridgewater/Woodstock. However, a state appointed group will be making the town decision as we did not want to be responsible for that. Peter noted that it was possible we would be looking at even more engineering funding.

Kevin noted that VHCB had several conditions, which he passed out (see attached), but that Conditions 1 and 2 required responses. For Condition 1, we will use a state-appointed technical advisory group, and that large and small towns will be involved. For Condition 2, though we are aiming for FEMA projects, we have a path for non-FEMA projects to at least be documented and supported in a more minor way with assistance to vet them and identify funding sources. Nancy Malmquist questioned how we will track the project to stay on task, and Kevin noted that the funds will come to TRORF, and the TRORC will do progress billings with a brief work report as part of each invoice.

A motion to accept the VHCB award and conditions was made by Nancy Jones, seconded by John Echeverria, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10.

Minutes prepared by Kevin Geiger

The next TRORF meeting has yet to be scheduled.

**Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER)
Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC)
#2024-074-001**

Recommended Resolution:

To score the application “10” for need, “8” for impact, and “8” for quality, and to award \$300,000 to be used for project management, flood mapping, and non-FEMA engineering support. The primary purpose of this award is to support a public process informed by engineering expertise to create a targeted list of locally supported, doable, priority projects likely to be funded through FEMA or the State FRCF program.

This award is subject to the following special conditions:

1. Prior to closing and disbursement of VHCB funds, TRORC and VEM shall work with VHCB with to establish a clear and equitable selection process for projects to ensure statewide distribution of funding, access by towns of various sizes and capacities, and a diversity of project types and providing benefit/relief to households with limited resources or whose living conditions post flood are unsafe.
2. Prior to closing and disbursement of VHCB funds, TRORC and VEM shall work with VHCB to establish a path for funding of non-FEMA eligible projects.
3. TRORC shall work with VEM to implement the project consistent with all applicable federal, state and local statutes, codes, ordinances and regulations, including those related to historic preservation and access by persons with disabilities.
4. TRORC shall notify and consult with VHCB prior to making any significant changes to project design or scope.
5. Within 60 days after completion of the project, TRORC shall submit to VHCB a summary of project expenditures, results and additional needs.
6. The grantee for this project will be Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Foundation, a Vermont nonprofit corporation qualifying under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This project is subject to no VHCB Standard Conditions.