

## Montgomery Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation Study Kickoff Meeting Notes

Monday, March 18th at 5pm  
Public Safety Building - Conference Room  
86 Mountain Rd. / VT-242  
Montgomery Center, VT 05471

Notes by FCNRCD Staff and SLR

### Lauren Weston – FCNRCD - Project Introduction and Background

- Project initially looked at parcel below the water treatment plant and has grown to encompass larger scale flooding study following discussions with the Conservation Commission. #251 Fuller Bridge Road.
- Flood Resilience Fund grant from FEMA through State
- Goal is to understand how flood, sediments, and water move through portions of Montgomery, focused on the study area which includes the confluence of multiple streams/streams and the village center.
- Potential outcomes: Infrastructure improvements, restoration projects, buyout

### Jessica Louisos – SLR – Project Overview

- SLR has done this work with other communities including Brattleboro, East Middlebury, Wolcott
- Aerial survey begins in April – Detailed LiDAR
  - This data may be used for other projects, those relating to forest roads
- Understanding Flood issues & Patterns
  - Surveys, Hydraulic models
  - Community meeting to review existing conditions modeling and collected data and gather ideas for possible projects
- Identify Potential Mitigation Projects:
  - Visit sites, gather ideas from community
- Test Identified Alternatives
  - Model possible projects in hydraulic model
  - Consider constraints and project goals
  - Community meeting to review tested alternatives and select projects for concept design
- Concept Design – December 2024
  - Develop the top 5 projects to start the design process

### Case Studies:

- Northfield on Dog River: Berm removal and floodplain restoration, home buyouts
- Jeffersonville Greenway Trail Bridge Replacement: Removed constriction caused by bridge, opened floodplain under bridge, larger bridge installed

- Brattleboro: Melrose Terrace overflow culvert at bridge: Removed 11 buildings, relocated road, sewer main and utilities, lowered and restored floodplain.

#### Project Approach:

- Where have community members seen flooding problems? This information will be used to test the hydraulic model.
- SLR will survey all bridges in the study area
- Aerial drone survey for LiDAR after snowmelt, before leaf out
- This LiDAR will be more detailed than current data
  - Community members ask to also use LiDAR for forest roads and the Town Forest
- Project area – bridges noted in green on map
- Includes confluences where there are usually flood issues
- Is anyone keeping track of the river stage?
  - No gauging because project time is limited
- FEMA data was last updated in 1997. FEMA is beginning to update with the state. FEMA working with communities in 2024 and 2025 to work on updates, with goal of new maps released in 2026. Current maps are from 1997. Some more recent model data may be available sooner than 2026.
- USGS Gauge? No gauge on Trout River <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=vt>
  - Potential gauge on Wade Brook? Not on USGS website. Not sure who is maintaining that gauge – researchers?

#### Community Feedback

- Mark Brouillette– bottom of West Hill, just redid bridges and now gravel reaches the bottom of the bridge
  - Has been cleaned out a couple times
  - Deck of bridge has not been raised when VTrans did their work
  - Some concern about bridges being structurally fine vs structurally fine but not suited for the location
  - East side homes damaged
- Gravel also building up at next bridge downstream at bottom of Black Falls Brook
- Especially bad with ice jamming
- Chas Salmon’s property had solar panels and is eroding at the corner
- There were buyouts on community garden side of river, but 3 houses on other side were maintained.
  - The properties were damaged, driveway was undermined
- State did emergency repair with riprap at Fuller Bridge
- Black Falls Brook bridge – stone seems larger in this area
  - Need to get water to move toward field instead of road
  - Taking out sediment is expensive for the community garden

- Black Falls Brook does not have access to the floodplain until it gets near the Trout River, right next to the Historical Society
- On the upstream end of Black Falls Brook, a trailer was moved off the road and almost ended up in the river.
- Previous incident with trailer slab becoming undermined, trailer needed to be moved
- Concern about protecting historical buildings, town fields, and rocks/boulders moving
- Banks are eroding, trees are falling into brook
- Brook moves fast and cannot turn, so it goes over the highway
- The intersection by Pond Stock Bridge Road used to be a pond
  - Black Falls Brook used to move through the pond.
- Down from Longley Bridge project on Abe's land, unnamed trib, channel is getting plugged
  - Confluence with Trout River was reinforced with riprap
  - Bank failure, not good for landowner
- Vincent's Bridge
  - During high water events, the river goes to north side of bridge, carves a channel, and cuts off a property from 118 and emergency services
  - Beavers also plugged the culvert in this area
  - Check if bridge is correct size
- Main St in Montgomery Center – on bend to Rec Center
  - Entire back street is not in good shape
  - The very last house was flooded, they need flood insurance but others on the street don't
  - Charlie – river is moving southwest in this area, pushing away from infrastructure
    - This is where the river can breathe after Montgomery Center, potential pinch point
- Flood of 97 in the Gibou – flood went 25 ft into meadows and left boulders
- Can people share photos of flooding?
  - Select Board has road photos from FEMA work from Halloween 2019
  - Historical Society has '97 flooding photos
- Culverts on Black Falls Road – 3 culvert designs completed, funded by VTFWD and clean water funding
  - Currently have funding to replace 1 culvert
  - Looking for funding to replace others
- Hurtubise farms most ag land in the middle of the project area though others own the land
- Mark Brouillette farms the lower area
- Staci Pomeroy– How do folks feel about community buyouts? Filling up basements? House raising? Maybe in the area where the trailer was moved?
  - Maybe discuss this at next meeting when flood maps are available
  - Rissa Stein can do outreach to include folks at risk
  - Will share more info about next meeting via email and website, consider personal invites

- Homes in the village (Deuso Road) want to maintain housing rather than move, especially in state-designated village areas
- Rissa Stein – There is some equipment and fuel pumps that caused pollution in previous flood, this needs to be mitigated as there was lots of toxic pollution in the '97 flood
- Town is moving forward with municipal wastewater system in Montgomery Center
- Other headwater areas are eroding and sending sediment to project area
- The property upstream of Abe's property is eroding badly
  - There is a big box culvert in this area.

### **Attendees**

- Dorothy Kinney-Landis – Franklin County NRCD
- Mel Auffredou – Franklin County NRCD
- Lauren Weston – Franklin County NRCD
- Roy Schiff - SLR
- Jessica Louisos – SLR
- Carissa Stein
- Staci Pomeroy
- Charlie Hancock
- Bethany Remmers
- Remi Gratton
- Mark Brouillette
- Pat & Carol Farmer
- Joan Hildreth
- Bill Hildreth
- Lynn Locher
- Peter Locher