

# VOREC Community Grant Program Open Office Hours - Flood Recovery-20231024\_145810-Meeting Recording

October 24, 2023, 6:58PM

52m 56s

🎤 **Polfus, Claire** started transcription

👤 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** joined the meeting

👤 **Tommy O'Connor** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 0:23

Hello.



**Tommy O'Connor** 0:27

Howdy.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 0:38

We'll just wait till 3:00 to get started and then I'll go through how we'll cover your questions.



**Pyle, Lauren** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 1:13

Hey, Lorraine.



**Pyle, Lauren** 1:16

Hello.

Can you hear me alright?



**Polfus, Claire** 1:23

Yep.

Great.

Well, let's get just get started.

Other people might join, or we can just go through the questions you guys have.

I am recording and transcribing this session so we can share it on our website for other people just so you all are aware this is the open office hours for the 2023 for a community grant program we wanted to offer these office hours just to let applicants ask questions and also here answers to other questions that other applicants have.

We are having themes for the office hours at least for the 1st 30 minutes and then opening it up to any questions.

After that, if there's still questions remaining and the theme of this session is the flood recovery track.

A brief description of the flood recovery track.

Obviously, we added this track in in light of the floods over the summer in Vermont.

We worked with our partners to do some initial scoping of where and what damage occurred on recreation infrastructure and also worked with partners to kind of develop what was needed in in a grant process.

Based on all of the other grant opportunities and funding opportunities that were available.

 **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 3:00

And so that's what we tried to do.

There's some special things about this track #1 is that we are willing to reimburse for expenses starting on July 10th, 10th.

And so we will reimburse for repairs that have already been made.

And secondly, we are really looking to to fund what is like the gap funding needed.

And so we really wanna make, although this is of where a community grant we wanna make the application as smooth as possible for flood recovery.

So we have told the general interest webinar this, but I'll tell you this as well.

You know, some of the questions are based more towards the implementation grants and and outdoor equity grants then towards the flood recovery.

Please answer the questions like the project team for example.

But if the project team is the trails organizations that manages the trails like that is totally fine.

We're not gonna take points away for not being like a cross sector team that's implementing these projects.

Umm, the other thing to note is that we're very interested in hearing from you how the repair will help the situation.

We don't want to make to put more funding into infrastructure that will fail in the next flood, and so I really encourage you to take that time and in the especially, the narrative questions to say like we analyze the situation, we saw why the trail washed out in this place because there was water coming from place.

We never knew it could come from before, and so we realized we needed better infrastructure in this like confluent situation.

And we're repairing it by solving that problem rather than just going out and fixing a trail.

So it looks good now, but the next big rain storm, it won't look good because the same problem will happen.

We're not like holding you to that.

This infrastructure will survive another 8 inch range storm, but we're asking you to start thinking about how the repair will will do that and we really wanna see that.

That's really important.

Umm, if for some reason this is just like a crossing of a river in a floodplain.

If it's like a critical link between a downtown and A and A and a town forest that is still gonna be susceptible, like, tell us why it's that important to keep replacing it.

I think that's my spiel and so.

How we'll do questions is you can raise your hand and it'll put you in order.

I believe so.

If you have a question now, please click the raise your hand and then we'll go in the order.

Umm have the folks?

Great.

So, Rich, we'll start with you.

**RB** **Rich Baker (Guest)** 6:25

OK, I have a I have three different projects in mind.

We had a lot of flood damage in Marshfield, Umm.



**Polfus, Claire** 6:31

Yep.



**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 6:31

And my first question is we have a section of the Cross Vermont Trail that's on the old abandoned railway grade, uh and uh, it's a Class 4 Rd for that section.



**Polfus, Claire** 6:36

Mm-hmm.

Umm.



**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 6:45

It's also the cross front trail and then it goes over into grotten.



**Polfus, Claire** 6:45

Umm.

Yep.



**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 6:49

Uh, would the fact that it's on a Class 4 road and it's technically classified that way, would that disqualify it?

Or is it still a recreation asset because it's a cross Vermont trail?



**Polfus, Claire** 7:04

If it's designated as a trail, for example the crossword, Montreal or an ETD trail, and it's on a Class 4 Rd that is qualifies as a recreation asset, and so that is is a potential funding like we can fund for that there we do have on our application the class for Rd permission because we need to know that that permission exists on for that recreation recreational use on that route.



**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 7:34

OK, OK.

So I guess, yeah, I mean like cross front trail has a permission to be on that road.

OK.



**Polfus, Claire** 7:39

Yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 7:41

The second question related to that particular project is we're getting FEMA funding. It's approximately \$90,000 to fix the road had made to wash out.



**Polfus, Claire** 7:52

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 7:52

Uh, it's but 3 foot of it's it's down about 3 foot from where it was.



**Polfus, Claire** 7:59

Yep.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 7:59

Umm.

And we're gonna get some FEMA funding.

Can we use can we apply for a grant for the portion of FEMA?

That's not gonna be funded.



**Polfus, Claire** 8:07

Yes.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 8:08

OK.

And then the last question is related to that.

So we have, we're, we've let out a contract to fix the road, right.

You know that's actually gonna start in a few weeks or fix the trail.

Umm there is some additional work that could be done to, uh, make it more resilient in the future.



**Polfus, Claire** 8:33

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 8:33

What happened was there was another, an old abandoned Rd called Sleeper Rd that came down.

The water came down that and then went down the trail.

So if we did something to divert it, you know, with concrete blocks or whatever.

So that's so we could have request funding for the FEMA proportion and then some additional funding for future work like that we do next year, OK?



**Polfus, Claire** 8:54

Yes.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 8:55

Uh, so that answers that question.

We have a town force called Stranahan Town Forest.



**Polfus, Claire** 9:03

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 9:04

We have a trail in there.

Uh, which actually happens to be an old class for a road.

Although it's just never been declassified.

But it's, you know, definitely a trail.



**Polfus, Claire** 9:11

Yep.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 9:13

It was not very.

A portion of it was not very good.

Tend to be wet and everything before.

I don't think it's gonna be female eligible, cause FEMA typically says we'll take it back to where it was.

Well, it was already not very good.

It got worse in the flood.

So my question is, would that be considered a flood?



**Polfus, Claire** 9:30

Yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 9:36

Uh, fall into the flood damage.

Uh, category, I mean, it was not real good.

It got worse and we want to fix it.



**Polfus, Claire** 9:48

Did the flood damage it to a point that it, like it became unusable or like is not it like was not able to function as a trail anymore.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 10:05

OK.

Umm, that's kind of a that's kind of difficult to answer that well.

I guess we could apply for.

Well, let me ask you can if we apply for the implementation and just if this is not gonna probably be a huge, I mean it might be \$20,000 worth of, you know, we don't wanna do a whole project scope because it'd be it might be as much as a cost to fix it.



**Polfus, Claire** 10:19

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 10:28

You know it with the minimum.



**Polfus, Claire** 10:30

Yeah.

**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 10:31

I mean, can you if you if you get a cost estimates, can you go right to implementation request for implementation money on something like that?

 **Polfus, Claire** 10:42

Yeah.

So that's a good question.

So first, my first thing is if you if you well OK.

I have a couple things for you for the Cross Vermont Trail, I know that Greg Western is interested in applying as well.

**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 10:50

OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 10:56

So please coordinate with him.

So you guys aren't applying for the same and maybe you know that already, but OK secondly.

**RB Rich Baker (Guest)** 11:02

We already.

 **Polfus, Claire** 11:08

Also, please only do one flood recovery application, so it's fine if it's in, like if the town of Marshfield is applying for that Class 4 road and the town forest damage like even though they're on opposite sides of the town, that's totally fine.

We just wanna make the grant agreement development as efficient as possible, so we're asking each applicant to only do one application.

Thirdly.

That is like a very much a Gray area that you're describing.


If the trail head, then a bad trail, you knew it was bad and it got wiped out by the flood.


It would count like we know that there are poorly designed trails out there, mostly historic trails that got hurt like we're not gonna like judge you based on like what




people 150 years ago decided about going straight up a hill.  
Like we know that like people are working hard to repair those things all the time.  
But like my like you know, we're working with a limited amount of funding.  
We have a lot of funding, but if, like we can't fund every trail that like got flooded  
and then the flooding went away and then now it's like equivalent to what it used to  
be.  
So like, that's where like you know, it's.


 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 12:37  
OK.


 **Polfus, Claire** 12:43  
But if there's like some work that you had to do to reopen that trail, we would fund  
that.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 12:49  
Could could you, but can you go right to implementation if you have a you know, a  
simple budget sort of speak.

 **Polfus, Claire** 12:49  
So there is like a Gray area there.  
Right.  
So a simple trail repair project will not score high on implementation.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 13:03  
OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 13:03  
If you have a simple trail repair project, I direct you towards applying for an RTP  
grant which will be opening this winter and so that is just another like we don't want  
to repeat funding across our trail grant program.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 13:23  
Right. OK.



**Polfus, Claire** 13:24

So like simple trail repair and rehabilitation or like ideal projects for RTP.  
So we want to direct people there.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 13:31

OK.

Yeah, right.

I know they won't.

They RT they will not fund if it's a class for uh.

Doesn't matter if it's the middle of nowhere, we'd have to get it declassified.

I ran through the I went through this before with the railroad grade.

But that's OK, because it was also in northern forest.

Uh has some has some small grants out there that are opening up.



**Polfus, Claire** 13:54

Yeah.

For for hydrology stuff.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 13:55

That might be that might be more suitable for for Thompson Rd Trail.



**Polfus, Claire** 13:59

Yeah.

Yeah, but I just wanna add one thing to that.

I know in I you know I was part of that whole project in Marshfield.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 14:07

Right.





**Polfus, Claire** 14:08


If you're thinking of like a greater Marshfield work Grant that has like more components of the implementation, like connecting work in the down that you're doing in the downtown to your town for, it's like making an accessible trail at the library.


I know there's lots of ideas about that, and then you add repairing some trails at the town forest to that and argue that having trails at the town forest helps the economy in Marshfield as well.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 14:30  
Right.


 **Polfus, Claire** 14:41  
You can add that on but it like so it it would help and implementation track grant but it won't score high if it's the only component.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 14:42  
I said.  
OK.  
Can I ask one more question?


 **Polfus, Claire** 14:54  
Umm.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 14:55  
I know you have other people there.  
We also have a a short walking trail that goes around the schoolhouse over the town hall is and some of its now inside the middle of the river.

 **Polfus, Claire** 15:03  
Yep.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 15:09  
Uh, and obviously it was built too close to the river.

 **Polfus, Claire** 15:09  
Yeah.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** 15:12  
I mean it's we've had times where it's eroded away, but only a portion was actually

taken out.

And so FEMA may just say, well, we'll pay for that little reroute.



**Polfus, Claire** 15:18

Yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 15:22

That one little section, but not the whole trail.

But it was flood.

I mean, it was clearly flood damage.

It was.

It's, you know, went to the river.

Could we rebuild the whole trail to a more a better location?

So it's away from the river, more resilient and all that.

And apply for that as as a flood damage project.

I mean, only a portion of the of the trail went in.

It's only probably maybe a mile long, but that's a lot of use.



**Polfus, Claire** 15:47

Yeah, I think yes.

So that is like where we are kind of feeling that gap that FEMA can't fill.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 15:50

Wait.



**Polfus, Claire** 15:54

So like one of the ways we're filling that.

So like the, if you think of it as like the recreational resource is having a walking trail at your school and then saying like we think if we rebuild it, it'll just float out again.

So we wanna relocate it at another in a better location, still providing the recreational resource for the school.

So like you can't relocate it like 5 miles away, but like it's still needs to like provide that same recreational resource.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 16:22

No, no, no, no.

Mm-hmm.



**Polfus, Claire** 16:27

A relocation of more than just what went into the river is totally acceptable.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 16:32

Right, because we're not sure what FEMA will do in getting an answer from FEMA. It can on recreation stuff is rather difficult.



**Polfus, Claire** 16:38

Yes, I have heard.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 16:40

No.

Umm.

OK, so maybe if we applied for the old schoolhouse walking trail and the railroad grade, the leftover funds, and fixing the the blocking the water so it doesn't slow down and they can, those two things could be one application, two projects, one application.

OK, great.



**Polfus, Claire** 16:59

Yes. Yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 16:59

Thank you very much.



**Polfus, Claire** 17:03

Tommy.



**Tommy O'Connor** 17:06

Alright, thanks.

So we've already started running into some issues as we were doing our research.

The the biggest thing, obviously for us is we had three well technically two networks

completely get wiped.

Or to apply for some of that floating cover to help get open.

I'm because the only one that will have issue with this hardware because they're also doing all that massive construction cause the road went into the river as well, where we're running into issue.

We sat with some of our vast folks as well because we have some shared trails.

We did a big map on that is the easements, we can't get land owners to get anything over.

It's hard to get even the five years from see, and we know there's spots we were gonna help and put some bridges in on our shared trail and already we're running into just in reach out that land owners will not sign for 25 years to put in engineered bridges or anything like that.

And then with that 10 year reroute.

So we're just curious like with that part and then I guess the second kind of sub piece of that is we have done some work already that would fall under that that 10 year part.

And as we did that in August, would we have to then go back for work already done and also have similar signed agreements?



**Polfus, Claire** 18:29

Yes.

Yeah, I knew, like, like knowing how this works for for the TV.

And so we'll be able trails.

I know that my owner permissions are like the largest issue.

Umm, it's an like we talked about it and how we could potentially change that policy, but because it's you know general funding umm we can't expand public dollars on our resource that could be closed to the public in less than the amount of time that we've said.

So five years for basic maintenance, 10 years for major reroutes, 25 years for bridges.



**Tommy O'Connor** 19:11

And but the 10 year also would be no large scale reconstruction that reroutes.

But it's like with cat, that would be a full regrade of the trail and replaying gravel.

So is that all?

Also under that 10 year, that's what we thought.

The way we it read in the application.  
Uh, major infrastructure.



**Polfus, Claire** 19:30

Yes, yeah, yeah.  
Sorry, it's it's major projects.



**TO Tommy O'Connor** 19:36

Umm OK.  
Well, then I guess we'll not be going for Borek.



**Polfus, Claire** 19:52

Umm yeah.  
Sorry about that.  
Uh, Emily.



**EN Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 19:58

Hi, can you hear me?



**Polfus, Claire** 20:01

Yes.



**EN Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 20:02

Thanks.

So we are thinking about preparing our first borec grant application and we're thinking that the equity track is the one that we would focus on.

But since the soft open office hours was the first one to come up, I wanted to start asking my questions now and so my first question is, it looked like there was a desire for the other tracks to also sort of show up in the application, and I'm wondering how important that is and.

And I'm also wondering within the flood aspect of that we sustained, you know, maybe \$7000 worth of physical damages from the flooding.

And then another, I think 17,000 of lost income.

If it's important for us to include that track at all, would we include and and we've and we've received some offset from that from a couple different sources.



**Polfus, Claire** 20:51

Yes.



**Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 20:58

But of what's not yet been funded, would we include the lost income as well as the physical damages?



**Polfus, Claire** 21:01

Yeah.

So first of all.

If you're applying to a flood recovery, we'd like to keep the track like keep it like a flood recovery.

Grant Umm, I think things will go quicker that way.

Umm.



**Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 21:23

Yep.



**Polfus, Claire** 21:24

So if and lastly like it's super integrated with each other, I would apply for a flood recovery track and an outdoor equity track.

Green.



**Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 21:36

Or you could apply for both tracks separately.



**Polfus, Claire** 21:36

Umm yes, I'm for the flood.



**Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 21:40

Oh, OK.



**Polfus, Claire** 21:42

If 4 flood recovery like, well, you can't apply for a project development and an



implementation track grant.

You can't, so that doesn't work.

I mean, I guess you could, but that's not gonna.

You're not gonna get both, umm, but there is a good chance you would get a flood recovery and another track grant.

We will we we're if you're lost income was from like from programming like that you didn't weren't we can't do that.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 22:16

OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 22:16

So it's it's the infrastructure we will pay for staff time involved in planning and implementing the repairs that you've already done.

Umm, I guess that's not lost income that's just expended expenditures.

So that's like so like unfortunately, we can't do the programming part, but we can do any gap you need filled in that \$7000 that you said.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 22:45

OK.

Great.

And then so if we go with an equity track that is just its own separate thing that we could apply for and we can also apply for a flood track and we don't need to try to connect to the two.

 **Polfus, Claire** 23:01

Yeah, you don't.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 23:02

Great.

Thank you.

 **Polfus, Claire** 23:05

If, if there's any reason that you really feel like you would want them connected like we can consider that but.

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 23:13

I don't think the blood needs to be connected to it, but I in just my first read of the information it looked like there was, there was a desire for the different tracks to for your application to sort of include elements of the other tracks and I couldn't quite tell how.

 **Polfus, Claire** 23:15

OK.

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 23:32

Uh, how important that is to you.

So speaking to that, like outside of the flood context would be helpful.

 **Polfus, Claire** 23:36

Yeah.

In all honesty, what I think I know what you're referring to, and I wish I had written that sentence differently.

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 23:45

OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 23:45

Now that we've heard like more from applicants and like thought, more about how we're going to administered like we're anticipating giving a lot of grant applications and grants.

And so we're, like, figuring out how to efficiently administer them.

And so that's why we're now recommending, like flood recovery should be a separate thing and then but but if you apply for a flood recovery grant, you're not nothing will.

That won't take away from your chances, and the other grant tracks?

Umm, because like that would be really unfair.

Ohh you got damaged in a horrible catastrophic flood like you can't have this opportunity now.

That would be pretty mean I think so.

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 24:28

Right.

OK.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 24:30

What if I can happen soon?

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 24:30

And within the equity?

Go ahead.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 24:35

Alright, the Emily, if you haven't been on the online portal yet, if you go and check out the application questions, they're different for each track and so that might also help you make that concept of like what belongs and what tracks, because as you're going through the narrative questions, you're going to see stuff that more naturally aligns to one versus the other.



**Polfus, Claire** 24:48

Dear.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 24:56

So I think it'll be really clear when you start to pull that up.

No, and having that and I I'm sorry, were you at the webinar or did you get the email from us this morning?

If you were attended the webinar this morning or last week.

**EN** **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 25:10

No, I didn't know about the webinar last week.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 25:12

Yeah.

No, that's it.

If you wanna put your email in the chat I will send you.

We have a word and Microsoft Word version of the Application Preview that has all of the questions in a Word document format.

So you can drop in it.

I'll be happy to send that over to you if you just drop that in the chat.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 25:30

Great.

 **Polfus, Claire** 25:30

You don't get that up on the website as soon as we can.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 25:30

Thank you so much.

 **Polfus, Claire** 25:32

We're just delayed a bit on that. Umm.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** 25:35

OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 25:38

The other thing I did want to mention is like in terms of like the integrating the other grant tracks like for example inclusivity and like reducing barriers to getting outside is integral to all of the grant tracks, but it's like the focus of the outdoor equity grant track.

So like you are right that there are elements that are shared and in particular outdoor equity.

But in, like, really what we're asking people, if the focus is on reducing barriers and in umm increasing opportunities for people to get outside that their equity if doing that is part of like a bigger project that has lots of components and is more complex.

We're asking you to do implementation.

I'm and then again flood recovery is separate.

I'm nick.

You had a question?

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 26:37

You.

Yeah.

A couple of ones pretty quick.

What's the eligibility for projects on federal land?

We had a inquiry room in chapter.

That's where has an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers down Bedford was curious if that would be helpful.

 **Polfus, Claire** 26:50

Ohh, Army Corps. Umm.

You stumped me there, Nick.

It's you thought it was simple because I was going to say the Green Mountain National Forest went through a whole long process and like if there are gaps, let us know and we'll have to work with them to figure out like, why there was a gap with the Army Corps.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 27:05

Right.

Yep.

 **Polfus, Claire** 27:18

I I don't see why it would be an issue, but we need to ensure that the correct process is in place and so my ask for you is if you could look into.

Whether like what?

Their flood recovery process is like if they have to go through meeba, in which case it seems like it might be difficult to get that in if they haven't planned it already.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 27:43

Yeah.

Yeah.

Yeah.

No, it's early.

I know they're engineering requirements are pretty high on federal land like the

bridges that they're looking at.

So I can I can inquire the extent to which the folks down there have looked into that, but but short answer is doesn't not on its face and eligible but we need to know what the process is.

 **Joanne Yankura** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 27:54

Yeah.

Yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 28:07

Cool.

That's helpful.

The next question relates to you mentioned sort of there.

We've talked about administrative time or or sort of staff time.



**Polfus, Claire** 28:16

Yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 28:16

We have funded internally some projects, so we have some projects where it's like ohh this thing broke and we put in a new thing.

But we've also funded some chapters where they've had to increase staff time across a network due to like dispersed damage, if that makes sense.

So it's like, you know, they've been cleaning and repairing trail tread and things like that in a more extensive.



**Polfus, Claire** 28:35

Yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 28:36

So it's less like this thing's being replaced.

It's more we've had to increase our staff hours by X, by X amount.

Curious eligibility.



**Polfus, Claire** 28:45

Yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 28:46

The transfer that and then the follow up would be just how to document because obviously that's harder.

If it's not, I guess, and that's a general question for staff time cuz it makes sense if you're talking about we contracted a person to do XYZ, but if it's like oh, they put in, you know, a certain number of hours in, be it administrative or operational.



**Polfus, Claire** 28:55

Yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 29:05

Curious the recommendation how to document that.



**Polfus, Claire** 29:10

Yeah, your first question.

That that would be it would be eligible like the idea is that like they needed to repair damaged trails, to reopen them for the public.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 29:27

Yeah, simple as like the.

Yeah, good example being we had trail builder who was employed at 30 hours a week and our Woodstock chapter who they increased to 40 hours a week purely to keep up and and to respond to the damage caused through that prolonged series of storms.



**Polfus, Claire** 29:43

Yeah, that's eligible.

Umm basic documentation so and learning a lot about how?

Like what I have, I've been avoiding this question.

I don't know if you noticed.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 30:17

Yeah.

 **Polfus, Claire** 30:18

And like the 40 and that those hours were allotted to flood recovery.

Umm.

And then.

Documented like the thing with it, with the timesheet.

We also need documentation.

The person was paid so pay stub associated with that time.

That's going to be and then it would be like what we will need as well is to show as much as possible pictures of a before and after like we require for a grant any grant that we do.

But if there's no pictures of a before because they didn't have time like we understand, like we're asking you this and but like as much as possible, like a documentation that that funding went towards fixing the trail.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 31:01

Right, yeah.

 **Polfus, Claire** 31:10

So like.

You like?

There's the administrative documentation that person got paid and then some kind of documentation as much as possible to show that there was damage and then it was fixed.

Umm, we understand this is tricky because and we're saying like we we are going to reimburse but.

Like we all know, that prod goes up during a crisis and we wanna take every chance we can get to show that this money is going towards what we're seeing.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 31:41

Umm.

So.





**Polfus, Claire** 31:48

Is going towards so.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 31:49

So let's drive for fiscal evidence and visual evidence that, yeah, got it.



**Polfus, Claire** 31:54

Yeah.

I think the fiscal is the minimum like we are like, we are gonna need that and that and so.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 31:58

Yeah.



**Polfus, Claire** 32:03

That's going to be easy for people who have time sheets that they allot towards things.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 32:09

Yeah.



**Polfus, Claire** 32:09

It's gonna be easy for contractors to show, and it's going to be a lot harder for small organizations that don't have that already in their staff time.

Umm, so.

I think when you're think working with the chapters and like for all of you, when you're, if you're thinking about reimbursement like think about that now and like how you could show the time like if if someone's telling you I spent 20 hours on it like how can you show that?

In a way that like that.

Like I said, documents it and obviously like you can't document that like I spent five hours walking the trails, planning out this project like there's no picture evidence of that.

We just need to see that in a timesheet.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 33:06

That makes sense.

And then a quick follow up, I think the application presently limits number of photos to five.

So presumably if there's additional visual things that should go in the additional documentation or something.



**Polfus, Claire** 33:17

Yeah.

So the document of so the the the photos for the flood recovery like we just wanna see.

Like what kind of damage we're looking at for yours is gonna.

You obviously started working with multiple chapters and so like, you're probably gonna have more.

That's fine for the what I just said.

The photo documentation for reimbursement does not have to go in the application that just like that will be in like your invoice that you send us to get reversed.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 33:43

Got it.

I see.

OK.

That's helpful.

Last question relates to the staff at mentions in the eligible expenses and administrative support.

The indirect cost.

Is there a blanket de minimis or what's the approach to like because it's even harder if you're like, in an office somewhere, somebody spent some amount of time sort of coordinating activities, that's certainly going to be harder to track on a timesheet.

So curious what the umm approach for that should be?



**Polfus, Claire** 34:13

Yeah.

So we you don't need documentation of that, so the.

Like project management, program management should go in the budget like as like a line project management.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 34:27

Got it.

OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 34:31

This person, the at administrative costs to admin cost line should be the things that like you can't put in hours like umm.

You know, like your computer, like the your Treasurer going like or treasure going like trying to think of what it, what other things that would be.

I think I have it in here.

So like those are the things that you can't show like for hours.

Does that make like of the project management?

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 35:11

Yeah.

I just I think so.

It says like administrative costs for work done by executive directors or administrative staff on grant coordination with PR office space rent, utility bills, those things.

 **Polfus, Claire** 35:18

Yeah.

Yeah.

And so that can be 10% of the total up to 40,000 and it you don't need like time sheets or documentation or anything like that.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 35:34

Drop.

 **Polfus, Claire** 35:35

Does that?

Does that make sense?

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 35:37

Yeah, I mean, that's pretty difficult grant wise.

I mean, it's hard to.

Yeah, that's not that's that's pretty consistent.

I think with genomic approaches so that that makes sense.



**Polfus, Claire** 35:46

Yeah.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 35:48

We don't have to submit emails that show that we were or that's helpful.



**Polfus, Claire** 35:52

No, no.

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 35:56

I will put my hand down.



**Polfus, Claire** 35:58

Right.

You have another question.

**RB** **Rich Baker (Guest)** 36:01

Yeah.

Two other quick questions on the old school House walking trail, if we wanted to upgrade the trail so that it's more suitable for wheelchairs and such, you know, like either you know same hat or possibly even paving part of it, which would fall into a kind of another class, but it's a flood recovery project.

Would we go with the flood recovery project?

I mean, that's the you know, that's the first thing is that, you know, flood recovery but but it if we're gonna rebuild a trail, it makes sense that we build it so that you know it's a short trail.

It's right.

It's a town hall.

We get seniors, you know, I mean, there's a fairly flat trail anyways.

It's a big flood pine area.

But you know, I don't know if we would do just stay, you know, good quality statement will allow wheelchairs and stuff. Uh.



**Polfus, Claire** 36:57

Yeah.

If the upgrades make it more resilient, if you can argue that and you can, and we will, we can believe you.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:07

Good.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:09

Then yes, if you're just saying like this trail is going to be a completely new kind of trail.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:18

Right.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:18

Umm that is like pushing it.

I think a little too far.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:22

OK, OK.

And UM, the someone was asking the Nick was asking about uh, reimbursement of staff cost.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:33

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:33

I had mentioned that on the railroad grade.

Ah, that what FEMA is paying for.

It was the damage, but they there's a culvert.

That was probably undersized and some work that needs to be done if we use our Rd crew to do that in the springtime, we can just use their hourly rates for that type of thing.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:50

Yes.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:51

OK, OK and.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:51

Yeah, but just just know that you have to like, track.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 37:58

Ohh yeah, they're they're they've been tracking everything cause we got, you know, hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage that, you know that they are fixing.



**Polfus, Claire** 37:58

Like they'll have to track when they do that.

OK, good. Yeah.

Yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:06

They're still working 50 hours a week on roads right around here, trying to fix damage.



**Polfus, Claire** 38:09

Correct.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:11

One question is unrelated to this and I don't know if you know the answer.

The Cross Vermont Trail, when it goes into Groton State Forest, there's some major there's one particular place that's above Goslett Pond that's like slid into, you know,

the whole thing's gone.

Do you have any idea what the schedule is for that?



**Polfus, Claire** 38:28

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:29

I don't know if that be your area.



**Polfus, Claire** 38:31

I don't know what the schedule is.

I know it's on the female list though.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:35

OK, so that'll be a female related.



**Polfus, Claire** 38:38

Umm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:38

OK.

No, just curious to how this winter was gonna work, because there's a lot of.

It's a vast trail.

It's a ski trail.



**Polfus, Claire** 38:44

Oh yeah, I have.

I did talk to Lou about a relocation, a temporary relocation there that he was looking at.

I don't know if it's confirmed or not like trying to trying to not close it, but I don't know what the confirmation is from that.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 38:53

Ohh that'll be interesting, because OK.

Right, right.

OK.

That that, that's unrelated to the granules just you know.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:01

That was like a couple months ago, so yeah.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 39:04

Ohh, you know, it just relates to all the activity going on since, OK, great.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:09

Yeah, totally. Mm-hmm.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 39:10

Thank you.

This is very useful though having this special.

Tracks and having you know individuals talks like this, I think that's good way to do it.

Now I don't know if you did that in the past, but it makes, uh, yeah, I think it's great idea.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:22

Actually it is new.

Yeah. Thanks.



**Rich Baker (Guest)** 39:26

Thank you.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:27

Umm, Joanne, I know you.

I'm joined late.

Do you have any questions we can open it up to any types of questions, not just flood recovery at this point.

 **Joanne Yankura** left the meeting





**Polfus, Claire** 39:39

Ohh she left.



**PL Pyle, Lauren** 39:42

You're kidding.

OK, coming back in here.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:44

Now she's back.



**Joanne Yankura** joined the meeting



**Polfus, Claire** 39:51

Joanna, you there?



**PL Pyle, Lauren** 39:51

Well.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:52

Do you have any questions? OK.



**JY Joanne Yankura** 39:53

I know.

I apologize, I pushed the wrong button as usual.



**Polfus, Claire** 39:57

Oh, no problem.

Did you have a question or were you just listening in?



**JY Joanne Yankura** 40:00

Ohh.

I'm out in the yard, so that's why I turn my screen off.

I'm sorry.

I was just listening.



**Polfus, Claire** 40:10

OK, no.



**JY Joanne Yankura** 40:10

Ohh but I did have ohh geez how is size?

OK, that's better.

Topologize hello.



**Polfus, Claire** 40:27

No problem.



**JY Joanne Yankura** 40:29

I did have two questions and I admit that I wasn't listening to this whole entire cast, so I'm sure I might have missed an answer already, but ours is not a flood recovery project.

So is it OK to ask a different question at this point in time?



**Polfus, Claire** 40:48

Yep.



**JY Joanne Yankura** 40:50

OK.

Thank you.

So one if during I realize there are character limits on some of the under some of the categories are links to documents that might I'll be foundational to explaining the importance and history and value of a project, allowed or not.



**Polfus, Claire** 41:01

Yeah.



**JY Joanne Yankura** 41:14

So in other words, a link to reference a document.

If you, the team, cared to look at it or not.



**Polfus, Claire** 41:22

And so I don't know if links will come through on the application and especially cause we'll be exporting all of the applications into tables for review.

And so I wouldn't recommend putting links in the in the narrative sections, but if you have like like you said, like a foundational document, something that like would help us better understand, you can put that in supplemental information, which is in section.

I think it's Section 6 and just like upload it as a PDF or Word document and then in your narratives refer to it by name and we'll know it about.



**Joanne Yankura** 42:03

Perfect. Perfect.

Thank you.

That's understood.

And then secondly, we are are working with an engineering company.

So we have a design and plan, but of course it needs updating and it needs some tweaking in order to meet the requirements of the grant itself.

Just information is and the rest of our time is volunteers.

So but is that Andy cost incurred by the engineer company to prepare the grant for a submission application a lot are we are we, is it reversed reimbursable that's my question.



**Polfus, Claire** 42:42

Umm for we can't.

We can't reimburse for work done before the grant is signed, except for flood recovery.



**Joanne Yankura** 42:56

OK.




**Polfus, Claire** 42:56

So if that work needs to be done right now, we can't find it.

If like if you if it needs to be done in order to do the grant application.

**JY** **Joanne Yankura** 43:03  
OK.

 **Polfus, Claire** 43:08  
If you know exactly what needs to be done, and you're just like we need to add an ADA access point here that we missed last time that had, like, can potentially be funded.  
If it can happen after the grant agreement signed.

**JY** **Joanne Yankura** 43:30  
OK.  
Thank you those.  
That's it.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 43:32  
And doing.  
Oh, sorry, I think my my my cousin a delay on it with my connection here to add in something that came up on the webinar is folks said, you know like, well what if I have to do some significant planning work, revise our plans before we can have that implementation and the recommendation that came out of the webinar was to think about separating those components so that you have your project development phase if it is more than just like we just need this little bit of work like we have to do some substantive updating to our plans and it focused on like a proposal for now on project development because this is kind of unique opportunity to be able to get that planning money and then that could potentially open it up for future funding through you know if there suture board, community grants programs or if it's a trails program that might fit the RSVP program or any other associated funds.

 **Rich Baker (Guest)** left the meeting

**JY** **Joanne Yankura** 44:13  
Is umm.

**PL** **Pyle, Lauren** 44:23

So it just depends on like how much updating you have to do might be something to consider of like thinking about separating the implementation from the planning.

 **Joanne Yankura** 44:33

We're way.

Thank you.

We're definitely ready for implementation, but thank you.

 **Polfus, Claire** 44:37

OK.

 **Joanne Yankura** 44:37

It was, yeah.

Thank you for the answers.

They're very thorough and I appreciate the help, truly.

 **Polfus, Claire** 44:42

Yeah, of course.

Yeah.

And if you have like specific questions about your project, like feel free to email us like like for example like.

 **Joanne Yankura** 44:46

Umm.

 **Polfus, Claire** 44:51

If you're wondering if the updates you need are too much like just like say, we need to add this and this and this to the engineering plan, can that be part of you have limitation and we can get you an answer or if you know that you it's not if it's minimal, then just go ahead with your plans.

 **Joanne Yankura** 45:03

OK.

OK.

Thank you so much for those offers.  
I appreciate it.



**Polfus, Claire** 45:12

Yep.

I'm anyone else come up with more questions or any non flood recovery questions?



**Pyle, Lauren** 45:23

Where I heard that a question from Nick earlier, but I think we kept on but didn't quite fully get to is like what if in applying for the club recovery check someone has more than five images because that's what we've asked for in the narrative upload is like we have 5 pictures of flood damage and for something that potentially could be a very significant project where would have multiple touchpoints.

How do you what do we recommend for applicants when they have that five image limit that we're supplemental information comes in?



**Polfus, Claire** 45:53

Umm yeah.

Yeah, exactly.

Supplementally can go into supplemental and information.

My request would be to consolidate as much as possible, so like one way would be to create a PowerPoint and then export it into a PDF.

You just have to keep it less than 100 megabytes, so you'd have to make sure that the photos weren't too big.

Umm.

But like, we don't wanna get 100 images of blown out trails like that's not gonna actually be helpful.

It's no if there's like some way to facilitate our understanding of of the damage that is more than five images like, yes, please use supplemental information.

But we did the five images on purpose, so we don't get a skit.

I'm just a ton of flood damage photos.

It.

No, you're muted still.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 46:59

Two questions, once directly related related to that, if we're requesting if it's work that's been completed, I presume it's valuable to share before and after pictures rather than just start that makes sense to say we did the work.



**Polfus, Claire** 47:08

Yeah.

Ah yeah.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 47:10

Here's complete.

And then the second is when we're presenting A and I don't think this is unique to them, but if it's a list of projects, so they'll be, you know, for us it's different chapters, but other folks might have multiple areas in a network or things or types of projects that reimbursing, presumably the guidance is just to, I guess the first question is you can't, you might still there, I might selectively choose to fund pieces of that.

Is that correct?

That's kind of what I had heard previously.

It's not all or nothing in terms of like OK funding in our instance, it might be certain chapters work because it seems consistent.

In others it's, you know, not sort of adherent enough.

So I guess the first is like, is that correct that applications might be for, for grants might be partially funded and then the second, assuming that's the case, I presume guidance there is just to really cleanly delineate the different components of an application.

Does that make sense?

What I'm.



**Polfus, Claire** 48:09

Yeah.

So if there's like, because we're asking people to consolidate applications like we're not gonna say like you can't have any money because this particular trail isn't eligible for whatever reason like, like we were talking about with rich.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 48:13

Yeah.

Exactly.



**Polfus, Claire** 48:23

Like was it actually damaged or do you just wanna repair a bad trail?



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 48:26

Yeah.



**Polfus, Claire** 48:28

You know, like, so we're not going to say no to the whole funding.

And so yes, please in your budget.

Split out each item.

However, I don't want you to split out like \$100 for four hours here in like in this part of I don't know.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 48:52

Yeah.



**Polfus, Claire** 48:57

What?

Whatever network like \$100 for this part like this network cost \$1000 to fix.

If it's those like extra like extra 10 hours that you were talking about, you know, like the small fixes across a big area, we don't need to like, we don't want the budget to call out everyone like we would like documentation of like, all the stuff that happened, like replaced 10 culverts in this trial network or something like that.



**Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 49:06

Yeah, yeah.

Mm-hmm.



**Polfus, Claire** 49:31

Does that make sense to like?

There's like a a limit there to like a how granular you need to get ain't.



**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 49:37

Yeah.



**Polfus, Claire** 49:38

But we do need we do wanna see like by project.

Like maybe by, by club and then by project, by club, and then by trail system like depending on like what type of projects we're looking at.

**NB** Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC) 49:48

Sorry.

Yeah.

Yep, that makes sense.



**Polfus, Claire** 50:04

Any one else come up with anything?

Any other questions?

OK.

Well, that's great.

If you guys do like I said, we're available by email.

We're also hosting three more open app and office hours there.

Every other week on Tuesdays, but at different times to try and accommodate other like various schedules, the next one is the 1st 30 minutes on outdoor equity.

The one after that is on construction projects and then the last one is just open because that's the last one before like a week and 1/2 before the applications do.

So that'll be hopefully just available for people who are completing their applications and have questions and lessen the project development part and more on the application part. I do.

I didn't mention this earlier.

I think you guys are all understand this, but I just wanna be clear.

Like all flood recovery projects are construction projects. So.

It would have been nice if we could have.

How did it so, like construction was always a yes, but you have to click yes to construction and yes, to flood recovery on the application?

Umm, so I just want to note that the construction section of the application goes into

like the landowner questions that we talked about from Tommy's question.  
And Nick, like for your complicated.  
Application you're going to have like a lot of land owner permissions to what up there?  
Yeah.

 **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 51:59

I've done under this application before I I had 34 different landowner documents that we have loaded so.

 **Polfus, Claire** 52:01

Yeah.  
Yeah, maybe you just still have someone.

 **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 52:06

I spent six hours.  
Uploading documents.  
I've been there.

 **Polfus, Claire** 52:11

Yeah.  
So that's just a note and we'll maybe call that out on our FAQ that I just want people to understand like that repair is construction.  
Well, thanks everyone.  
Thanks for your time today and.  
Again, email us.  
Its [anr.fprrecreationgrants@vermont.gov](mailto:anr.fprrecreationgrants@vermont.gov) and everything's on the website as well.

 **Joanne Yankura** 52:43

Thank you.

 **Polfus, Claire** 52:45

Things are.

**JY** **Joanne Yankura** 52:47  
Take care everybody.

 **Emily Seiffert (she/her), NBNC** left the meeting

**NB** **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** 52:47  
Thank you very much.  
Really appreciate the time.

 **Nick Bennette (VMBA/VTGC)** left the meeting

 **Joanne Yankura** left the meeting

 **Polfus, Claire** stopped transcription