

Budget Adjustment Memo

Date: 13 July 2026

Project: Lower Fairgrounds Floodplain Restoration Final Design – 14578

Budget adjustment request: The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission is requesting a budget increase of \$36,500.80 for a total project cost of \$55,000.00.

Justification: The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission completed a Project Development effort for the Lower Fairgrounds Floodplain Restoration Project in the Town of Waitsfield in spring 2026, during which the project was identified as a priority for advancement. As Preliminary Design discussions began, it became apparent that preliminary site design is more complex than originally anticipated, especially when considering multiple stakeholder visions for the future of the site. Rather than deferring key design decisions to the Final Design phase, CVRPC and the consultant determined that developing and evaluating three preliminary restoration alternatives during Preliminary Design would provide a clearer basis for stakeholder engagement and decision-making while reducing uncertainty about the project's viability.

The expanded scope will include hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, an assessment of natural resource constraints and permitability, preliminary feasibility and cost evaluations, estimated long-term operations and maintenance costs, and phosphorus reduction estimates for each alternative. This information will allow project partners to identify a preferred alternative, determine whether the anticipated water quality benefits justify advancing the project and make informed decisions before committing to the substantially higher costs associated with archaeological permitting, Final Design and Implementation. While the expanded analysis increases the Preliminary Design budget, it is intended to improve confidence in project outcomes, support municipal and regulatory decision-making, and ensure that future investments are directed toward a project with demonstrated environmental benefits and a feasible path to implementation. Based on preliminary screening, the project has the potential to achieve approximately 50 kg of phosphorus reduction annually; however, confirming that estimate through additional analysis seems prudent at this phase of the project.

Recommendation: prioritize this funding request.

Budget Details:

	Original Budget Request	Revised Budget Request
Engineer	\$15,000.00	\$49,230.00
CVRPC	\$3,559.20	\$5,770.00
Total	\$18,559.20	\$55,000.00

Note: CWSP Staff revised the Cost-Effectiveness Score (Table 1-1) and Total Project Score (Table 1-4) tables to reflect changes in the project proposal. The revised tables are included below. The Project Risk and Co-Benefits scores remain unchanged from the original CWSP staff review. Highlighted values in the tables below have been updated from the original budget request.

Table 1-1: Cost-Effectiveness Score

Criteria	Value
Funding Request	\$55,000
Future Funding Request	\$1,250,000
Total Cost	\$1,305,000
Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr)	50.7
Design Life	10
Cost Effectiveness (\$ / kg)	37,530
Cost-Effectiveness Score	5
Cost Effectiveness Formula (\$ / kg / yr) = ((15 years / project design life) * (Total Cost)) / (Phosphorous Reduction (kg / yr))	

Maximum Implementation-phase Cost-Effectiveness Score = 75 points
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Table 1-4: Total Project Score

Criteria	Score
Cost-Effectiveness Score	5
Project Risk Score	7.5
Design Life Score	0
Co-benefits Score	1.6624
Total Project Score	14.16