

## MEMORANDUM

To: HUUSD Board

From: Ray Daigle, Director of Facilities, WWSU  
Duane Pierson, Principal, Moretown Elementary School

Date: June 22, 2017

Re: Moretown School Stormwater - ACTION REQUIRED

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For many years Moretown Elementary school has dealt with periodic flooding and persistent problems with the parking lot, roadways, and sidewalks. The parking lot and sidewalks experienced seasonal heaving and subsequently deterioration due to poor substrate design and construction. At one point the brick pavers were removed from the sidewalk to mitigate any trip hazards. Within a couple of years the asphalt on the turn by the main entrance was removed to allow the standing water an opportunity to flow to the catch basins. The gravel roadway continued to deteriorate and needed constant attention from the school and town road crew. In 2015 the school hired Otter Creek Engineering to look at the area to determine a solution for repair. The comment from the engineer during the site visit is that in his 25 years of doing this work, he has never seen sidewalk curbs heave as much as these. They provided a repair estimate for approximately \$160,000 to address the concerns. However, they did say that cost estimate is preliminary and that we would need a more detailed investigation including core samples to determine the quality of the substrate. He also added that it is likely to cost significantly more than this first estimate once the investigations are complete. It was clearly not in the budget at that time and the project was shelved pending funding.

At this same time the Town of Moretown had a committee working on a design and location for a replacement Town Clerk's office. When the town chose to build in the present location we knew they would be replacing a portion of the parking lot and approached the town requesting the whole lot be addressed. The request was denied due to the funds they were using were to be used solely for the Town Clerk's office project. At that time the town only owned 50% of the lot. Since then the school signed the parking lot over to the town.

In addition to the parking lot/sidewalk issues, flooding and threats of flooding on a regular basis have also plagued the school. In 2011 Tropical Storm Irene flooded the school. This storm was an anomaly, however, since that year we have seen ever-increasing incidents of high water events. In February of 2016, a winter thaw and rain event overwhelmed the storm drain at the rear of the school and the water entered the school causing significant damage to the walls in several classrooms. It was after this storm that the school reinvigorated the discussions with the town about what could be done to address the capabilities of the infrastructure to handle the stormwater.

Starting in the fall of 2016 the Moretown School board and the Town of Moretown put together a committee to create a MOU between them to clearly define the operational and financial responsibilities for maintaining the parking lot and adjacent grounds.

In the spring of this year, during a rain and thaw event, we watched as water came within 3” of the door openings. The conversations with the town continued and the Town applied for and received a grant to have the engineering completed to address the stormwater concerns and to correct the parking lot and sidewalk heaving problems.

Green Mountain Engineering was chosen and has created a plan to correct these failed systems. The anticipated cost for this project is approximately \$715,504. The Town of Moretown is applying for a grant from VT DEC to fund this project. This particular grant has no matching fund requirements and no cap at this time. Representatives from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission are working with the town in writing this grant application. It has been recommended that grant applications are looked more favorably on when they offer a financial match. It was suggested that 20% would be appropriate. The Select Board decided to submit this application with a commitment of 12.5% or \$89,438. The town is asking the school district to make a commitment for 50% of this match equaling \$44,719.

It is our recommendation that we provide the Town of Moretown a letter of support stating that we support this grant application and that we are committed to being partners with the Town in maintaining the stormwater infrastructure and surrounding grounds. Without this grant the School would be 100% responsible for the stormwater work at the rear of the school and we would need to share in the cost of addressing the parking lot and sidewalk issues. In addition we will budget \$44,719 in the 2018/2019 Unified Union budget for this project.

Please see the attached draft for consideration

**Action Item: We are seeking board approval to support the commitment of \$44,719 in next years budget, contingent upon the Town of Moretown receiving the VT DEC grant monies funding the stormwater mitigation project. And approving the attached letter of support.**

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Clean Water Initiative Program  
Watershed Management Division  
1 National Life Drive, Main 2  
Montpelier VT 05620-3522

June 28, 2017

Re: Moretown's Application to Ecosystem Restoration grant for the Moretown School Campus/  
Town Clerk's office Stormwater Management project.

Dear Grant Committee:

The Harwood Unified Union School District (HUUSD) Facilities Committee in its capacity in overseeing the facilities for the Moretown Elementary School, wholeheartedly supports efforts of the Moretown School and the Town of Moretown to "slow, spread, and sink" stormwater runoff from the school/town campus. This committee recognizes that nonpoint source pollution, such as runoff and erosion which deposit nutrient and sediment pollution into our local rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands, is a leading cause of water quality problems locally, regionally, and nationally as well as a contributor to the Mad River Valley's vulnerability to flooding.

The committee understands that the runoff from this campus is directly transported to the Mad River. The committee is not only interested in taking actionable steps to reduce input to the river but we're also excited that such action can be combined with and build on the school's educational mission.

Over the last year, I have participated in the stakeholder group for Ecosystem Restoration grant funded stormwater master planning project at the Moretown School/Clerk's Office. With the assistance of the Clean Water Initiative grant program and working side-by-side with the Town, we hope to address nonpoint /point source pollution using the recommended practices that are an outcome of this campus-wide stormwater master plan.

We understand that, while this grant is for implementation on both school and town owned property, it requires serious commitment from the both owners to achieve successful implementation and long-term maintenance. The Committee reaffirms that it is fully supportive of these efforts and has budgeted \$44,719 in matching funds if we should receive this grant award. In addition the board is committed to continuing our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Town of Moretown in addressing the ongoing maintenance and responsible management of the stormwater mitigation infrastructure and adjacent grounds.

Sincerely,

Ray Daigle,  
Director of Facilities and Operations  
Harwood Unified Union School District  
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Waitsfield, VT. 05673