

1. Project Description, Rationale, and Climate Data

The Town of Conway is looking to advance environmental modeling, data collection, and permitting work for priority flood resilience and river restoration projects. As a continuation of the previous Community Resilience Building workshops and prior MVP action grants, priority areas and vulnerable assets were identified. This project will address sites of highest priority, including flooding concerns of the South River and Pumpkin Hollow Brook through the center of Conway; the Main Poland Road Culvert; and bank stabilization with riparian buffer enhancements along Shelburne Falls Rd. This project reflects the priorities identified in the 2018 Conway and Ashfield Regional MVP Resiliency Plan, Conway's 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan, and community member concerns. The project aims to address flooding and fluvial erosion hazards of prime farmland, priority habitats for rare & endangered species, water quality of rivers in the South River watershed, and the public safety of vulnerabilities associated with access to water for firefighting.

In 2020, the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project conducted hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the South River watershed to evaluate priorities for design. The model was constructed with readily available data, assumptions regarding topography, structure size, elevation, and river bathymetry (ie; measurement of depth below the water surface). The hydrologic model focused on the quantity and quality of water while the hydraulic model focused on the fluid mechanics and dynamics of the movement of water through the sites. Significant sections of Pumpkin Hollow Brook through Conway center could not be included in the model because of site access constraints, resulting in a lack of information on an area of the town that is well known to flood in storm events. The tasks in this project will refine and expand the models to identify the sources of flooding, identify potential mitigation projects along the river, and evaluate the potential benefits of such projects.

The hydraulic model developed for the South River and Pumpkin Hollow Brook through the center of Conway will be refined and expanded, to replace assumed data with actual surveyed data and to provide details for the Pumpkin Hollow Brook tributary, including the upstream dam and culvert crossings. The model will then be used to identify the sources of flooding; to identify potential flood mitigation projects along the South River, Pumpkin Hollow Brook, or within the upstream watershed that could reduce flooding or improve resiliency in the center of Conway; and to evaluate the benefits of potential projects. It will be determined if any updates are needed to accommodate the latest data available from the RMA2 Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, such as Total Precipitation Depth and Peak Intensity Design Criteria and/or Riverine Design Criteria. Following the input of information, assets, ecosystem benefits, and climate exposure, the overall project outputs were high for extreme precipitation associated with riverine flooding and urban flooding.

Project Summary

Estimated Construction Cost: \$339600.00

End of Life Year: 2074

Project within mapped Environmental Justice neighborhood: No

Ecosystem Benefits	Scores
Project Score	High
Exposure	Scores
Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge	Not Exposed
Extreme Precipitation - Urban Flooding	High Exposure
Extreme Precipitation - Riverine Flooding	High Exposure
Extreme Heat	Moderate



RMA2 Project Summary

Up to five (5) potential resilience projects that could reduce flooding or improve resiliency in the center of Conway will be identified. Resilience projects may include berm removal, increased watershed storage, culvert/bridge replacements, or other engineered or nature-based approaches. The potential resilience projects, or combinations of projects (up to 10 scenarios total), will be analyzed using the hydraulic model to evaluate the benefits to the center of Conway. The projects will be prioritized based on the results of the hydraulic modeling, potential climate resiliency, habitat restoration/protection, and flood resiliency benefits, potential for protection of downstream infrastructure, and social considerations (i.e., land ownership). One (1) to two (2) projects, depending on the scale and scope of each project, will be selected to advance to conceptual design; setting the town of Conway up to pursue funds to submit permit applications and implement projects to benefit the Center of Conway.



South River Bridge, Conway Center. Emergency Rip-Rap Repairs, 2011

The project will also include the preparation of permit application drafts for two sites with already developed conceptual designs; a Main Poland Road culvert replacement and Bank Stabilization with Buffer Enhancements at Shelburne Falls Road.

The preliminary design for the replacement of where Main Poland Road crosses Johnny Bean Brook meets the criteria of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards, based on a calculation of 1.2 times the bankfull width of the river. The design considered projected precipitation values based on regional climate model forecasts developed by the University of Massachusetts – Amherst and Massachusetts Dept. of Transportation. Final design calculations for hydraulic considerations, including scour analysis, will be informed by the most up-to-date climate science and data available, including the RMA2 Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool. The consultant on this project will prepare the application materials as well as organize and attend pre-permitting meetings with the Conway Conservation Commission.



Main Poland Road culvert at Johnny Bean Brook

A similar process will be followed to draft the environmental permitting materials needed for the previously designed plans for bank stabilization and riparian buffer enhancement at Shelburne Falls Road.



Left; Erosion at a Shelburne Falls Road embankment along the South River

Right; Erosion of a farm field at Shelburne Falls Road along the South River

At the completion of this project phase, Conway will be set up to work toward securing funding for the construction and next steps for design implementation. The river science-based approach to assessing and mitigating flood hazards helps to reduce conflicts between the river and the built environment while protecting and restoring the river ecosystem. The prioritized resilience projects will utilize nature-based solutions and science-based management practices to provide many benefits including the reduction of flood and erosion hazards, threats to infrastructure, houses, and land in addition to improving aquatic and riparian habitat.

2. Timeline, Scope, and Budget

Please see Attachment B for detailed project budget and timeline and Attachment C for further required information.

Task 1: Project Kick-Off, Management, and Reporting

Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant

Sub-task 1.2/1.3 Monthly progress reports FY23 (template provided)

Sub-task 1.4 Project Case Study (required at end of project; template provided)

Task 1 Deliverables:

- Meeting notes, sign-in sheet
- Monthly progress reports
- Final case study report, PowerPoint presentation, project photos

Task 2: Public Involvement and Community Engagement:

To continue engaging Conway residents and stakeholders in a dialogue about climate change, rivers, and watersheds, this task will build on the work completed as part of the FY20 MVP MTWP project with the goal of continuing to engage private landowners in the South River watershed and as well as town officials, residents, and other watershed stakeholders. Conway residents and members of the Friends of the South River have a successful record of engaging their neighbors and building support for this work. Annual Town Meeting has previously funded the floodplain reconnection and bank stabilization project at the South River Meadow and provided matching funds for the FY20 MVP MTWP project. It is critical that this active engagement continue to ensure ongoing community support for climate resiliency work.

Sub-task 2.1/2.8: FRCOG will continue working with the Conway Planning Board on adapting the Model River Corridor Protection Overlay District Bylaw to Conway's needs. FRCOG will assist the Planning Board with a Public Hearing on the draft bylaw and ready the bylaw for a Town Meeting vote.

Sub-task 2.2: A Resilient Rivers Community Open House will be held to introduce this phase of the South River flood resilience work and engage residents and stakeholders in a discussion about:

- a. climate change, flooding, and fluvial erosion hazards
- b. rivers and river corridors
- c. nature-based solutions for stormwater management and river restoration
- d. river corridor management options.

Key community stakeholders and those who have attended previous project meetings will be identified and invited to attend.

Sub-task 2.3: FRCOG will work with the Friends of the South River and continue the one-on-one outreach to private landowners in the watershed. It will be important for these people to share their stories (if they are willing), including what they have learned about climate change impacts on rivers and watershed resources and their support of projects and management strategies for the river, river corridor and watershed lands. FRCOG can share the information at the second Community Open House.

Sub-task 2.4/2.11: A project Story Map that includes an interactive watershed tour was created for the FY20 MVP MTWP project. The Story Map is an interactive project resource, and it will be periodically

updated, will provide stakeholders with information, and provide the Town with stakeholder feedback. FRCOG will update the virtual watershed tour from the FY 20 MTWP project to include information about the priority projects, permitting and next steps for construction. Stakeholders will be able to provide feedback to the Town via on-line surveys that will be updated on a regular schedule as the project progresses.

Sub-task 2.5/2.9: FRCOG will prepare an electronic project “Backpack Mailer” to students and families to inform them of the project and the Community Open Houses and Story Map.

Sub-task 2.6/2.12: FRCOG will prepare a series of six (6) articles for the quarterly Conway Currents Town Newsletter that will provide project information as well as advertise the Story Map and the Community Open House events.

Sub-task 2.7: FRCOG will work with the Conway Open Space Committee and Friends of the South River to design, fabricate and install four (4) interpretive signs at the 11-acre South River Meadow site. This town-owned property is used for passive recreation and is a perfect location for interpretive signage that includes information about climate change, NBS, flood resiliency and pollinators. Conway will install a weather-resistant community bulletin board at the town transfer station, to be used to share project information with residents. The four interpretive signs and the community bulletin board will serve as educational reinforcement for previous work, and as education for future endeavors including those part of this project.

Sub-task 2.10: FRCOG will work with the Town of Conway to schedule a second Resilient Rivers Community Open House at the end of the project to present the findings and engage residents and stakeholders in a discussion about how they can support the construction of the flood resiliency projects and how the watershed approach to climate resiliency could be applied to other areas in Town. Landowners and local officials from the Town of Ashfield will be invited to this event.

Sub-task 2.13: FRCOG will host a workshop and bus tour for local officials in Conway and Ashfield to showcase the work of this project and provide information on climate change impacts on rivers and watersheds and river corridor management techniques and restoration projects.

Task 2 Deliverables:

- Draft Bylaw for Planning Board Public Hearing
- Final Bylaw for Town Meeting vote
- Up to (8) meetings with the Conway Planning Board
- Two (2) Community Open House events
- Six (6) updates to the South River Watershed Story Map, including on-line surveys and updates to the virtual watershed tour
- Up to six (6) meetings/site visits with landowners
- Two (2) electronic project “Backpack Mailers”
- Six (6) Town newsletter articles
- Four (4) interpretive signs
- One (1) Weather-resistant community bulletin board
- Workshop and bus tour

Task 3: Complete Procurement process to Hire Consultant Team

The consultant team hired will assist the Town of Conway in completing the scope of work for this project. They will have a contract with the town and work with other stakeholders and partner organizations.

Task 3 Deliverables:

- RFP for consultant services; completed procurement process
- Contract between the consultant and the Town of Conway

Task 4: Conway Center Flood Modeling & Resilience Analysis

The FY20 MVP Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project included a task to perform hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the South River watershed to evaluate the priority projects selected for design. Concerns about extreme flooding from the South River in the center of Conway were expressed by project stakeholders and the project team elected to pursue an additional broad-level hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of this area. As this area was not prioritized for a design project and thus would not be surveyed in detail, the model was constructed using readily available data and assumptions regarding topography, structure sizes and elevations, and river bathymetry. Details of the Pumpkin Hollow Brook tributary were neglected in the model, such as a dam and culvert crossings located upstream on Pumpkin Hollow Brook. The results of this broad-level model indicate that the center of Conway is vulnerable to extreme flooding, which has been confirmed by the observed flooding which occurred in this area during Tropical Storm Irene. The flooding sources include both the South River and Pumpkin Hollow Brook. The modeled depth of flooding at the confluence of the South River with Pumpkin Hollow Brook shows significant overtopping of Main Street during the 10-year and 100-year floods, which corresponds to what the Town has experienced during past storm events.

This task will refine and expand the hydraulic model developed for the South River and Pumpkin Hollow Brook in the center of Conway, to replace the assumed data with actual surveyed data, and to provide details for the Pumpkin Hollow Brook tributary, including the upstream dam and culvert crossings. The model will then be used to identify the sources of flooding; to identify potential flood mitigation projects along the South River, Pumpkin Hollow Brook, or within the upstream watershed that could reduce flooding or improve resiliency in the center of Conway; and to evaluate the benefits of potential projects.

The Conway Center Flood Modeling & Resilience Analysis task will include the following:

Sub-task 4.1: A review of the hydrologic model previously prepared as part of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project and determine if any updates are needed to accommodate the latest data available from the RMAAT Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, such as Total Precipitation Depth and Peak Intensity Design Criteria and/or Riverine Design Criteria. Finalize peak flow rates to be used in the hydraulic model.

Sub-task 4.2: Collection of data for use in developing the hydraulic model of Pumpkin Hollow Brook and South River. Structures to be analyzed include crossings at Main Street, Academy Hill Road, Maple Street, and Old Cricket Hill Road, and the town “Swimming Pool” Dam. Bathymetry for South River and Pumpkin Hollow Brook will also be required.

Sub-task 4.3: Updates to the existing USACE HEC-RAS two-dimensional hydraulic model to include the additional data collected and apply the model to analyze existing conditions under the peak flow rates selected.

Sub-task 4.4/4.6: A technical memorandum to present the hydrologic and hydraulic modeling development and results will be prepared

Sub-task 4.5: Up to five (5) potential resilience projects that could reduce flooding or improve resiliency in the center of Conway will be identified. Resilience projects may include berm removal, increased watershed storage, culvert/bridge replacements, or other engineered or nature-based approaches. Using the hydraulic model, analyze the potential resilience projects, or combinations of projects (up to 10 scenarios total) to evaluate the benefits to the center of Conway.

Task 4 Deliverable:

- Updated hydrologic model
- Field and Survey data
- Updated hydraulic model
- Technical memorandum

Task 5: Environmental Permitting Main Poland Road Culvert Replacement

For tasks 5.1 through 5.4, the consultant team will prepare draft applications including narratives, forms, and associated technical documentation for the required environmental permits, anticipated to include a Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent (NOI), coordination with MA NHESP, and USACE Section 404. Consultant will coordinate and attend one (1) pre-permitting meeting with the Conway Conservation Commission. Prepare for, provide public presentation, and field walks associated with the permitting efforts (up to two meetings).

The consultant will prepare technical documentation and submittals for MGL Chapter 85 Section 35 Review Process for the proposed replacement structure. Submittals may include a hydraulic report and scour analysis, geotechnical report, and other required design calculations. Coordinate submission to MassDOT and address subsequent review comments, assuming up to two (2) rounds of review comments.

Final applications will be prepared based on review comments from regulatory agencies obtained during pre-permitting meetings. Assumed under this task are up to three (3) sets of revisions to the design drawings to accommodate changes as a result of comments by permit reviewing agencies. The final NOI submittal will include notice to abutters and publication in the local newspaper in accordance with local procedures and State regulations.

Task 5 Deliverables:

- Draft and Final Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Draft and Final MA NHESP Species Request Letter
- Draft and Final USACE Section 404 Self-Verification Notification Form
- Draft and Final Hydraulic Report and Scour Analysis
- Draft and Final Geotechnical Report
- One (1) pre-permitting meeting; public presentation and field walks (up to 2 meetings)

Task 6: Environmental Permitting Bank & Buffer at Shelburne Falls Road

For tasks 6.1 through 6.3, the consultant will prepare draft applications including narratives, forms, and associated technical documentation for the required environmental permits, anticipated to include a

Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent (NOI) with Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, coordination with MA NHESP, 401 Water Quality Certification, and USACE Section 404 Pre-Construction Notification. The designs for the bank stabilization and buffer enhancement have been previously completed with prior grant funds.

The consultant will coordinate and attend one (1) pre-permitting meeting with each applicable reviewing agency, including Conway Conservation Commission, MADEP, and USACE (up to three meetings). Prepare for, provide public presentation, and field walks associated with the permitting efforts (up to two meetings).

The consultant will prepare final applications based on review comments from regulatory agencies obtained during pre-permitting meetings. Assumed under task 6.3, are up to three (3) sets of revisions to the design drawings to accommodate changes as a result of comments by permit reviewing agencies. The final NOI submittal will include notice to abutters and publication in the local newspaper in accordance with local procedures and State regulations.

Task 6 Deliverables:

- Draft and Final Wetlands Protection Act Notice of Intent
- Draft and Final Wildlife Habitat Evaluation
- MA NHESP MESA Review Checklist
- Draft and Final Mass DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Draft and Final USACE Section 404 Pre-Construction Notification
- One (1) pre-permitting meeting; public presentation and field walks (up to 2 meetings)

Task 7: Resilience Projects at Shelburne Falls Road

The hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the South River watershed developed as part of the FY20 MVP Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project will be used to explore potential resilience projects in the reach of the South River along Shelburne Falls Road upstream (and south of) the bank stabilization and riparian buffer enhancement project location which will be undergoing permitting as part of Task 6. The potential resilience project will be developed as an alternative to the Oxbow Reconnection which was explored and designed as part of the FY20 MVP Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project. Alternatives which provide benefits similar to the Oxbow Reconnection, but which may present fewer potential environmental impacts during construction will be analyzed with the hydraulic model.

Up to three (3) stakeholder meetings will be held to brainstorm potential projects for analysis, to review results of the hydraulic model after those projects are analyzed, and to prioritize the selection of one alternative for conceptual design. Up to ten (10) proposed conditions scenarios or model runs may be included in this analysis. Conceptual design plans for one (1) proposed project scenario selected by the stakeholder team will be developed.

Task 7 Deliverables:

- Meeting summaries for stakeholder meetings (up to three summaries)
- Memorandum summarizing hydraulic model results
- Conceptual design plans

Task 8: Prioritization and Conceptual Design of Resiliency Projects

In task 8, the five (5) potential resilience projects for Conway Center developed in 4.5 will be prioritized based on the results of the hydraulic modeling, potential climate resiliency, habitat restoration/protection, and flood resiliency benefits, potential for protection of downstream infrastructure, and social considerations (i.e., land ownership). One (1) to two (2) projects, depending on the scale and scope of each project, will be selected to advance to conceptual design.

Conceptual design for each project will be prepared based on available information, including an existing conditions base plan to be developed using 1-2 ft contours from publicly available LiDAR data sources and utilities from record drawings to be provided by the Town. The conceptual design plans will provide the proposed layout for the resilience project and an engineer's opinion of probable project cost. GZA's cost estimate will be based on our generalized knowledge of similar project costs in the New England area gained through our involvement in numerous projects in recent years; MassDOT weighted unit prices, and "Site Work & Landscape Cost Data," by R.S. Means.

Task 8 Deliverables:

- Conceptual Design Drawings
- Engineer's Opinion of Probable Project Costs

3. Nature-Based Solutions and Environmental Co-Benefits

Nature-based solutions are at the forefront of each component of this project. The prioritization of Conway Center conceptual designs will consider multiple options for resilience against flood and fluvial erosion. Nature-based solutions are likely to be the most effective, sustainable, and community-supported approach for achieving the town's resilience goals. The refined and expanded model resulting from this project will aid in identifying the sources of flooding, identify nature-based project potentials across the watershed, and evaluate the potential environmental co-benefits of such projects.

Using nature-based solutions will not only protect the developed areas of Conway, but also the surrounding ecosystems. The preliminary designs for the Main Poland Road culvert across Johnny Bean Brook and the bank stabilization with buffer enhancements both serve to promote biodiversity through habitat enhancement, increase water quality, and mitigate impacts of climate change. The permit application process component of this project will advance these projects toward the next step, implementation.

Co-Benefit		Description of how the project will produce this environmental co-benefit
Promotes Biodiversity (habitat restoration, creation, or enhancement)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhancing the buffer zone and bank stabilization along Shelburne Falls Rd will promote biodiversity of flora, improving habitat for fauna in turn. Replacing the culvert for Johnny Bean Brook improves aquatic conditions such as flow and connectivity; promoting biodiversity.
Restores/remediates Project Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stabilizing the riverbank restores the project site to stable conditions while reducing sediment build up.
Promotes Environmentally Sustainable Development / Reduces Development in Climate Vulnerable Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Conway Center projects will prioritize sustainability and environmentally conscious projects in the developed center of town.
Improved Water Quality and/or Increased Groundwater Recharge	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	By opening and enhancing the river system, the water will be protected and decrease fine sediment inputs caused by erosive forces.
Improved Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Climate Mitigation (carbon sequestration, site-scale improvements for cooling, reduced energy use)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Projects to be developed will encourage climate mitigation and carbon sequestering elements of resilience.
Other Environmental Co-Benefit:	<input type="checkbox"/>	

4. Environmental Justice and Public/Regional Benefits

The Town of Conway does not have a mapped EJ population, but it does have a portion of its population at higher climate vulnerability, but not meeting the specific EH thresholds and criteria. These climate vulnerable populations will be involved in the project process.

With a 2020 ACS population estimate of 1,854 and a median age of 52, Conway has an older population than the county (47) and the state (39.6). These increases may be partially driven by the again of the baby boomer generation (born 1946 to 1964). ACS data indicates that the per capita income of Conway is \$56,648 and 1.7% of the town's residents live below the poverty line. 76% of Conway residents require vehicle transportation to work, many relying on at-risk areas of Conway to travel out of the town and to work.

The project will provide broad and multiple community benefits and co-benefits to the Town of Conway, especially at the watershed scale. The South River watershed takes up approximately 60% of Conway's total land area, including productive farmland important to the local and regional food systems and economies. The watershed also contains Shelburne Falls Road which is a major transportation and evacuation route.

This reach of this project will extend far beyond the town boundaries of Conway. The deliverables and process will serve as an example for efficient climate change planning and identifying flood and fluvial erosion projects at the watershed scale. Looking at the large-scale causes and impacts of climate change improves the efficacy of resilience projects. At an environmental level, the downstream communities along the Deerfield River will benefit in addition to the overall quality of Deerfield River's water supply and ecosystems. Due to the far reach of the project, landowners, and local officials from the neighboring Town of Ashfield will be invited to the Resilient Rivers Community Open House at the end of the project. Findings will be presented, and residents and stakeholders will be engaged in a discussion about how they can support the construction of the flood resiliency projects and how the watershed approach to climate resiliency could be applied to other areas in Town.



The 16,830-acre South River sub-watershed is located at the very southern border of the Deerfield watershed, and falls within the town of Conway as well as neighboring Ashfield, Deerfield, and Shelburne.

5. Public Involvement and Community Engagement

To continue engaging Conway residents and stakeholders in a dialogue about climate change, rivers, and watersheds; this project will build on the work completed as part of the FY20 MVP MTWP project with the goal of continuing to engage private landowners in the South River watershed and as well as town officials, residents, and other watershed stakeholders. Conway residents and members of the Friends of the South River have a successful record of engaging their neighbors and building support for this work. Annual Town Meeting has previously funded the floodplain reconnection and bank stabilization project at the South River Meadow and provided matching funds for the FY20 MVP MTWP project. It is critical that this active engagement continue to ensure ongoing community support for climate resiliency work.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) will continue working with the Conway Planning Board on adapting the Model River Corridor Protection Overlay District Bylaw to Conway's needs. FRCOG will assist the Planning Board with a Public Hearing on the draft bylaw and ready the bylaw for a Town Meeting vote.

Two Resilient Rivers Community Open Houses will be coordinated to first introduce the next phase of the South River flood resiliency work and engage residents and stakeholders in a discussion about climate change, flooding, and fluvial erosion hazards; rivers and river corridors; nature-based solutions for stormwater management and river restoration; and river corridor management options. The second Open House will take place at the end of the project to present the findings and engage residents and stakeholders in a discussion about how they can support the construction of the flood resiliency projects and how the watershed approach to climate resiliency could be applied to other areas in Town. Landowners and local officials from the Town of Ashfield will be invited to this event. Key community stakeholders and those who have attended previous project meetings will be identified and invited to attend. A project fact sheet and invitation to the Community Open House will be mailed to all residents in addition to a "Backpack Mailer" for students and families.

Working with FRCOG and The Friends of the South River, one-on-one outreach to private landowners in the watershed will allow people to share their stories (if they are willing), including what they have learned about climate change impacts on rivers and watershed resources and their support of projects and management strategies for the river, river corridor and watershed lands.

FRCOG will host a workshop and bus tour for local officials in Conway and Ashfield to showcase the work of this project and provide information on climate change impacts on rivers and watersheds and river corridor management techniques and restoration projects.

A project Story Map that includes an interactive watershed tour was created for the FY20 MVP MTWP project. The Story Map is an interactive project resource, and it will be periodically updated to provide stakeholders with information and provide the Town with stakeholder feedback. FRCOG will update the virtual watershed tour from the FY 20 MTWP project to include information about the priority projects, permitting and next steps for construction. Stakeholders will be able to provide feedback to the Town via on-line surveys that will be updated on a regular schedule as the project progresses.

A series of six (6) articles will be written for the quarterly Conway Currents Town Newsletter, providing project information as well as advertising the Story Map and the Community Open House events. The Conway Open Space Committee and Friends of the South River will assist in the design, fabrication, and installation of four (4) interpretive signs at the 11-acre South River Meadow site. An additional weather-

proof community bulletin board will be located at the Conway transfer station to provide project updates and other related information.

Community feedback will be broadly incorporated into the project to inform the planning and design phase. The feedback will be incorporated into the deliverables and outputs, such as the South River Watershed story map and reflection at the open house events. The mechanisms by which results will be shared include the circulated town newsletter, the town website, and FRCOG website for regional sharing.

Town of Conway Public Involvement and Community Engagement Plan Table Summary			
	Print	Digital	In-Person
Principal Strategies	<p>Direct mailings to all residences and businesses within the South River watershed to introduce the project and set the stage for the in-person Community Open House meetings/site visits. The mailing can include a link to the Story Map and other project contact information.</p> <p>Five (5) large, weather protected informational displays</p> <p>Bylaw for Planning Board Public Hearing</p>	<p>Updates to the South River Watershed Story Map (FY20 MTWP MVP Grant), including on-line surveys and updates to the virtual watershed tour</p> <p>Project information and articles and links will be included in the Conway Currents Town Newsletter, which is uploaded to the town website.</p>	<p>Two (2) community open house events</p> <p>One-on-one landowner meetings, including farmers and site visits conducted in the South River watershed</p> <p>Workshop and bus tour for local officials</p> <p>Up to (8) meetings with the Conway Planning Board</p>
Assisting Strategies		Electronic "Backpack Mailer" to students and families to inform them of the Community Open House events and Story Map.	
Equitable Engagement Modifiers			Partners FRCOG and Friends of the South River will assist in outreach as Liaisons

6. Project Transferability, Measurement of Success, and Maintenance

Many small, rural towns in the Berkshires and across Massachusetts face climate change challenges similar to those in Conway. The region's river systems are unstable and vulnerable to flooding and fluvial erosion. Historic and current land uses in the watershed are vulnerable to more frequent and intense storms predicted for future years. This project builds on the last decade of tools accessible to other communities to assess their vulnerability and to identify projects to improve river and watershed resilience in the face of climate change. With the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) as a partner, Conway's project will be readily available to share information and lessons learned. The project Story map will be a straightforward and engaging mechanism for information sharing. The lessons learned – both successes and missteps – will be a useful road map and example for other communities to learn from and follow.

The greatest measure of success at the completion of this Type 2 project will be the ability for Conway to move seamlessly to construction and implementation upon securing further grant funding. Metrics for success will focus on the number of permits secured for each construction component of the project; outreach efforts and techniques employed; volume of people reached using these methods; number of people in attendance at the events; and the number of people who provide feedback on the projects. These metrics will be tracked through the Story Map and email distribution lists as well as attendance sheets for the in-person events.

The project deliverables will be packaged to apply for construction funding from MVP Action Grants; MassDEP's s319 Grant Program and/or FEMA's new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. With additional funding and the assistance of the Friends of the South River and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Conway also hopes to continue engaging residents in discussions surrounding the importance of watershed-scale planning, rivers and Nature-Based solutions, and climate resiliency.

7. Need for Financial Assistance

For FY22 the Town of Conway's projected expenses were \$7.5M and total revenue was \$7.7M, leaving \$282,870 in excess levy capacity. FY22 free cash was estimated to be \$330,000. It is expected to be similar for FY23, with the town of Conway facing tough decisions about necessary capital and maintenance costs and searching for what grant funding might be available and how grant match can be met. Like many small towns, Conway's budget is tight, and it can take only one infrastructure emergency, natural disaster, or unforeseen problem for any available money to quickly disappear.

Conway seeks out grant funding for projects and the Town also uses the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds each year on projects considered priorities by the Town Meeting. CPA funds helped build the South River Meadow project and the Warrant for 2022 Town Meeting includes a request of CPA funds as match for this grant application. This MVP grant opportunity strongly aligns with the climate resilience challenges facing Conway in a way other grants fell short. The gap of knowledge surrounding the flood and fluvial erosion challenges facing Conway is a priority for the town and its residents. As such Conway seeks this MVP funding to implement this robust project to investigate the science and conditions needed to increase resilience in the face of climate change.

8. Project Feasibility, Support, and Management

The Conway Town Administrator has the primary responsibility for grant management but relies on other town staff for assistance when needed. All staff involved with fiscal matters regularly coordinate and communicate with each other on municipal expenses and revenue issues. When appropriate, special revenue accounts are created for grant-funded projects to track revenue and expenditures. The town regularly assess whether contracts, reimbursements, and the general management of these accounts is current and up to date. In a small town, this regular communication and involvement of several town staff is helpful for grant management.

The Town of Conway will rely upon the currently established close working relationship with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' Planning staff to assist with grant administration and reporting. Like many towns in Franklin County, when Conway does need help, it relies upon the technical expertise and management skills of FRCOG staff to assist us with the technical and administrative components of our grants. The FRCOG has been a leader in the Commonwealth on river resiliency work and Conway is pleased to continue working with them on this project.