

## **February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Town Administrator Update:**

### **Grants**

Last week the MVP planning team met with Malcolm Harper, Padmini Das and Judith Rondeay of Mass DEP to review possibilities for their 604b & 319 grants. Topics discussed included floodplain lowering, such as the prior 319 project at South River meadow, and other ways to reduce sediment and increase habitat within the South River, such as 'chop and drop' where trees are felled from the riverbank into the upland tributaries. DEP's priority is to maximize reduction of targeted non-point pollutants in the river, and a key one in the South River is e-coli. The 604b grant is more for design and permitting, and the 319 more for construction grants. The culvert on Main Poland and town owned property just upstream from the covered bridge were also discussed. The team will continue to discuss which areas to propose for the 319 grant, but it was agreed that the Pine Hill/Upper Baptist Hill area hydraulic engineering could come under a 604b grant.

Phil, Ron and I met with Xavier from the NRCS EWP grant program to discuss potential EWP grant help on Shelburne Falls Road, both at the two areas surrounding the culverts as well as the embankment. The upshot was that the town would only receive \$112/ton of gravel/stone material, and that material is not helpful around the culverts as it makes it harder to clean them out. The town would be responsible for all permits for any embankment if it's done by EWP, and it could take a month to complete, whereas if the Highway Department does the work it would take much less time and not require the same permits.

I had two trainings with EOTSS for their 2024 cyber awareness grant cycle. The first was an orientation about how the program works this year, since they have switched platforms and now use KnowBe4. The second was a KnowBe4 training on how their portal works. I gather I will soon be sent the login credentials and will then be able to get employees who use the conwayma.gov domain into the year long assessment and training.

### **Departments**

#### **Information Technology**

The IRP team finished going through the draft incident response plan and will continue work this week. Once it is complete we will bring it to the Selectboard for comments and identification of a couple of key positions.

#### **Human Resources**

Through the FRCOG I now have access to human resources hotline run by the Employment Association of New England, as well as their very large library of resources.

#### **Transfer Station**

No updates