



FORESTS, PARKS & RECREATION
VERMONT



AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

UNPACKING THE GRANT AGREEMENT PROCESS

Outdoor Recreation Grants

4/2/2025

WELCOME



FPR'S GRANT MAKING

- 7 State Grants Programs: 109 active grants out, totaling over \$20.1 million
- 12 Federal Grant Programs: 71 active subrecipients, totaling \$7.3 million

VOREC COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

VOREC
Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative



- Awarded over \$11 million to 84 communities across the state since 2019.
- Goals: leverage outdoor recreation to grow business, increase participation, strengthen resources, increase stewardship, promote health and wellness.



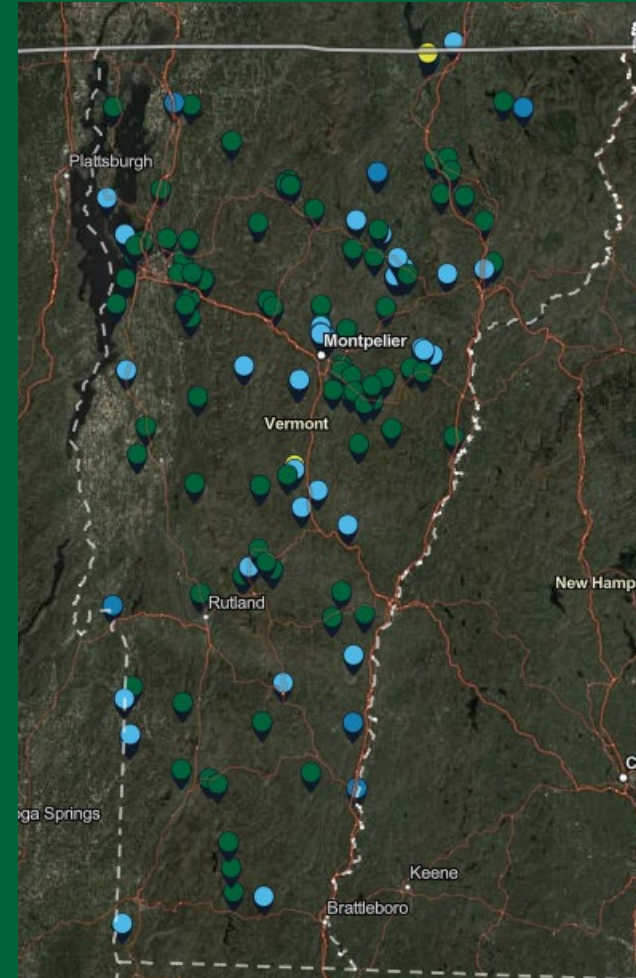
VOREC COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM FUNDED 51 PROJECTS IN 2023

Implementation

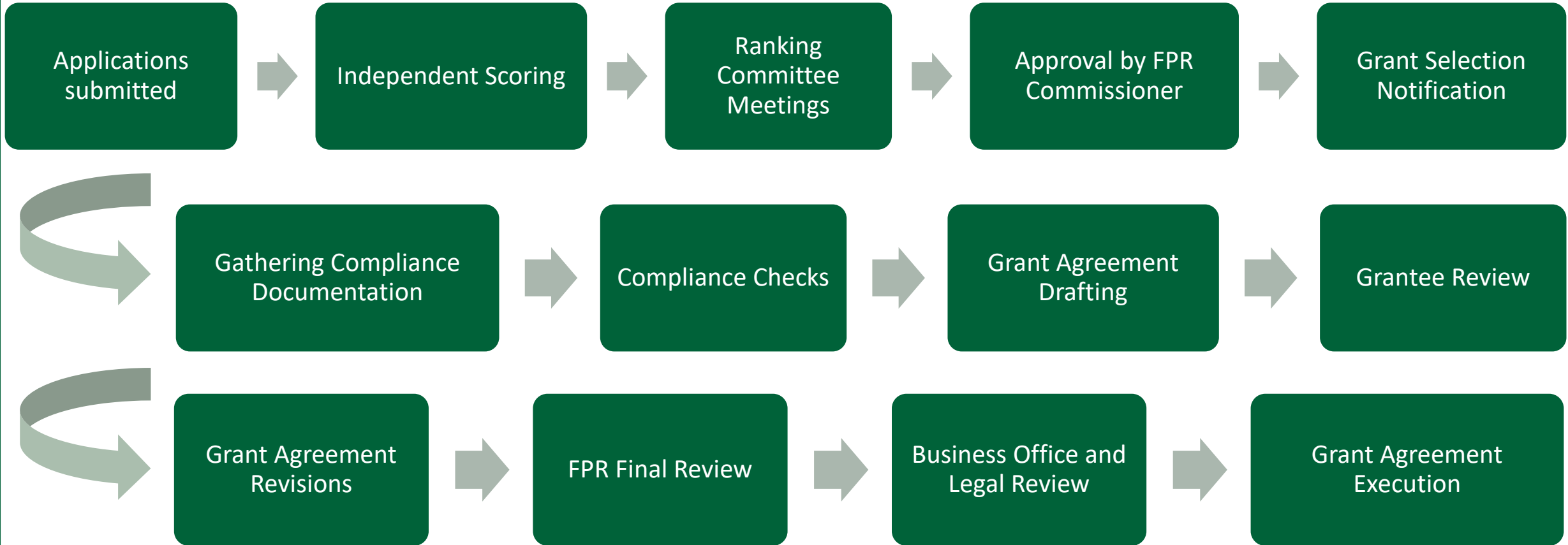
Project Development

Flood Recovery

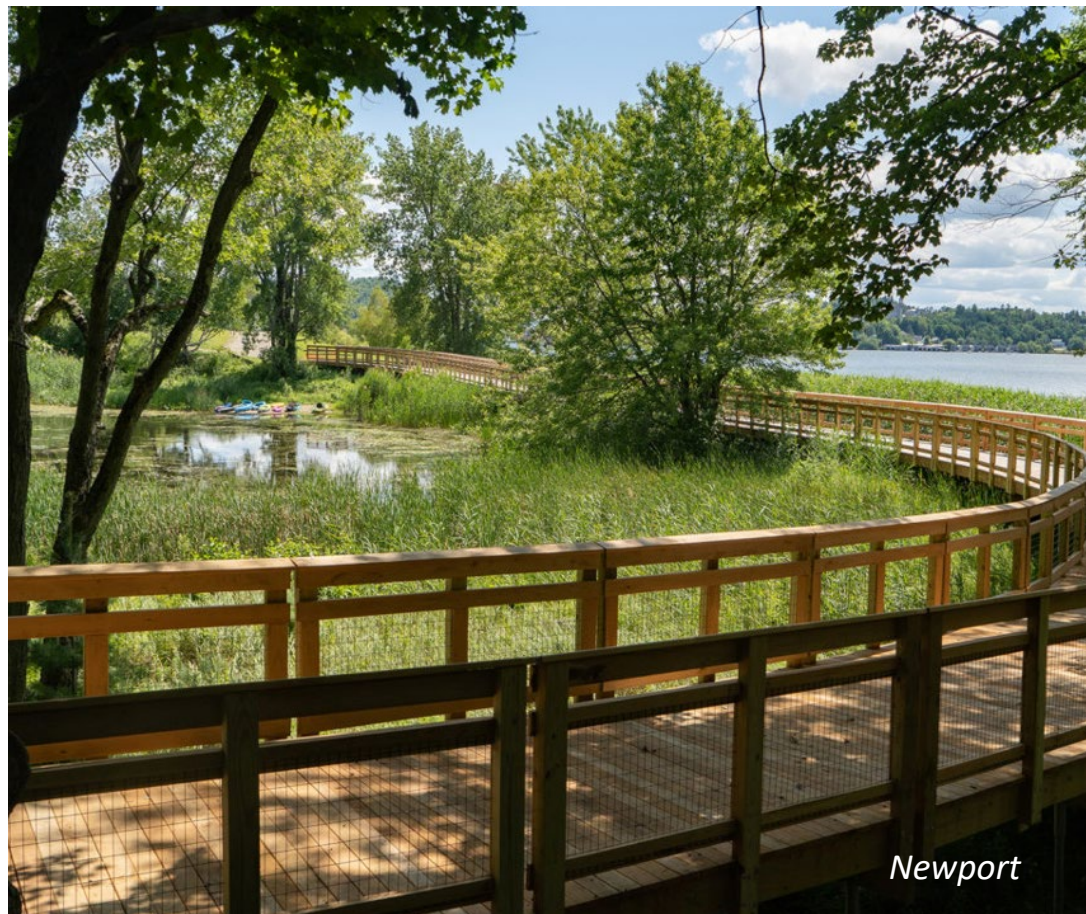
Outdoor Equity



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER AN APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED?



VOREC GRANTS PROCESS FROM SELECTION TO SIGNATURE



1. Selection notice – 1-3 days
2. Collection of further information – 1 day to 6+ weeks
 - Compliance Documentation
 - Missing Information
3. Review of Risk Assessment – 10-20 business days

VOREC GRANTS PROCESS FROM SELECTION TO SIGNATURE

4. Scope Development Back and Forth (1 day to 6+ weeks)
 - Often multiple rounds of revisions
 - Sometimes includes 1:1 phone calls and meetings
5. Selectboard or Nonprofit Board Endorsement, if needed (1-4 weeks)



VOREC GRANTS PROCESS FROM SELECTION TO SIGNATURE



6. Programs Staff Quality Review (1-3 days)
7. Legal Review, if needed (1-3 weeks)
8. Business Office Final Review and Processing (2-7 days)
9. Final Signatures (1 day to 4 weeks)

INFLUENCING FACTORS

- Applicant Capacity
- Good Projects v. Perfect Applications
- Allowing for Change
- Amount of Technical Support Needed
- Planning v. Implementation Timelines





FOLLOWING ONE GRANT

FLOOD RECOVERY PROJECT

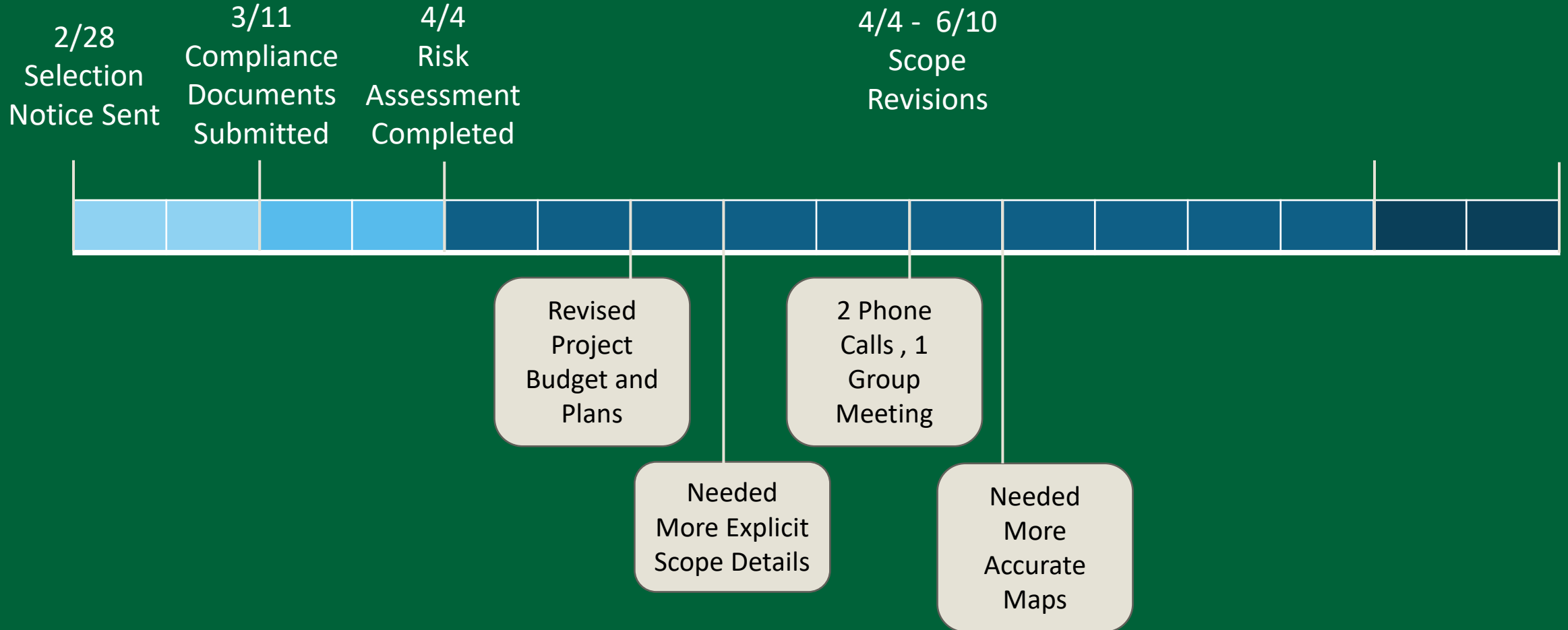


Applicant: a small, all-volunteer-led nonprofit that manages a trail network on private lands in Windsor County.

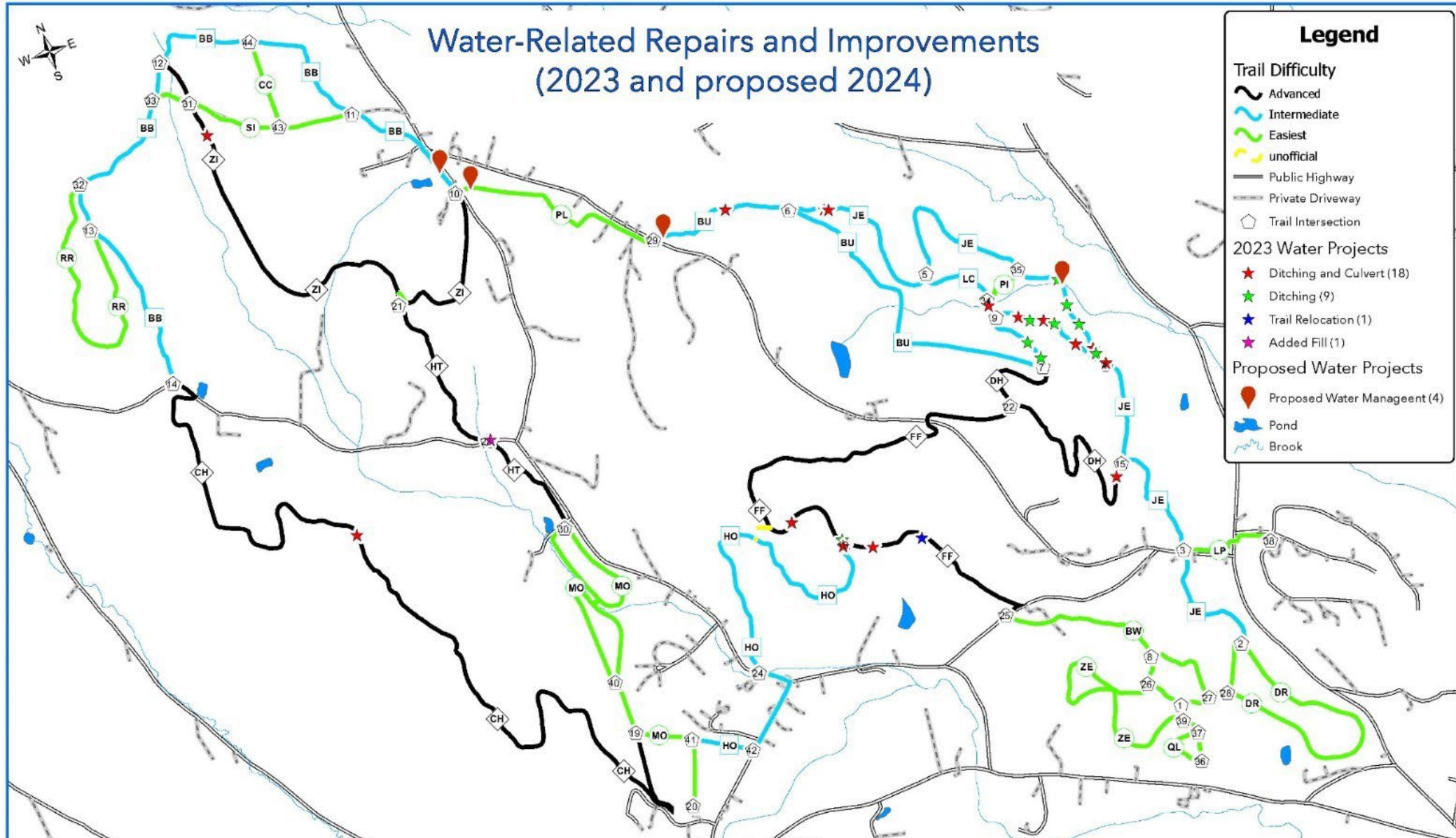
Project: upsizing culverts, regrading sections of trail, etc. Original application requested \$116K, which included an excavator purchase (\$85K).

During Selection: Recommended for partial funding, contracting out excavation work instead of purchase

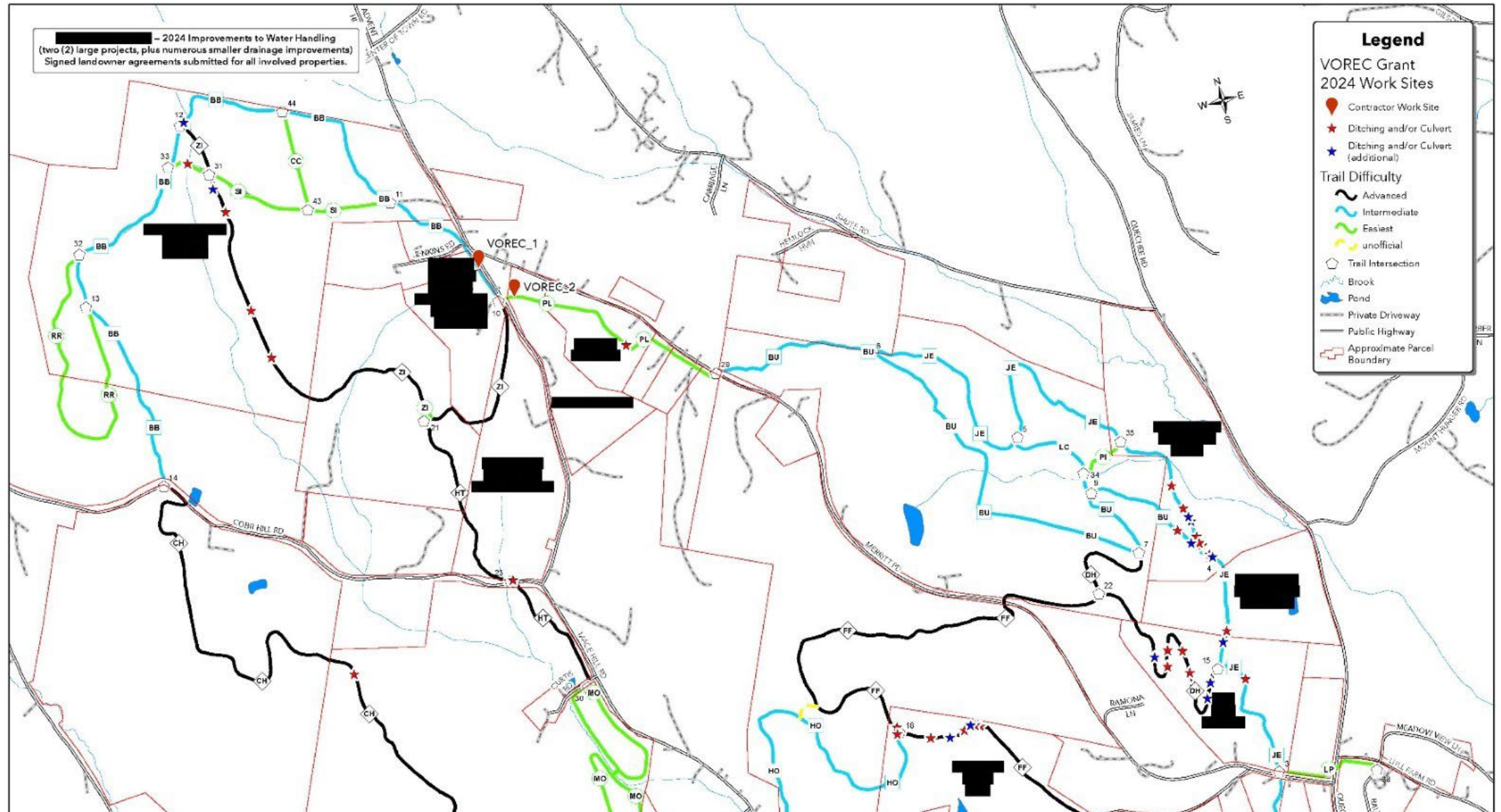
THEIR STORY



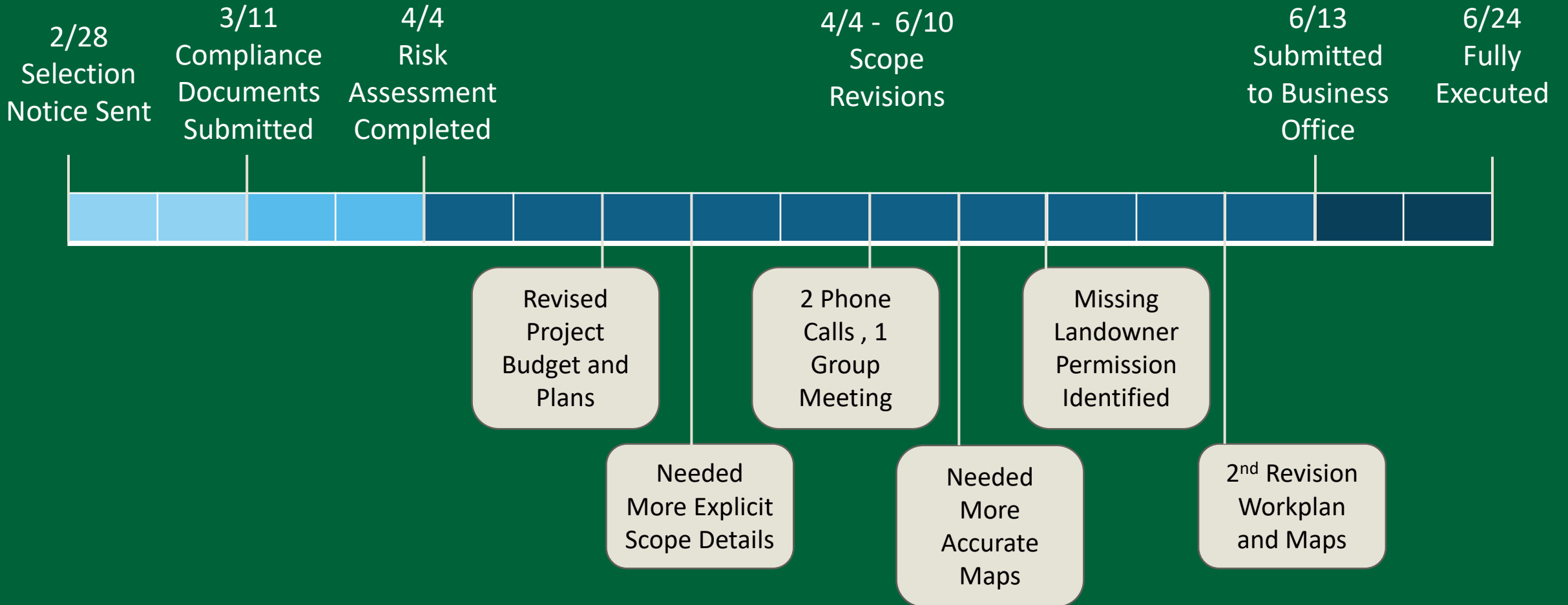
ORIGINAL MAP



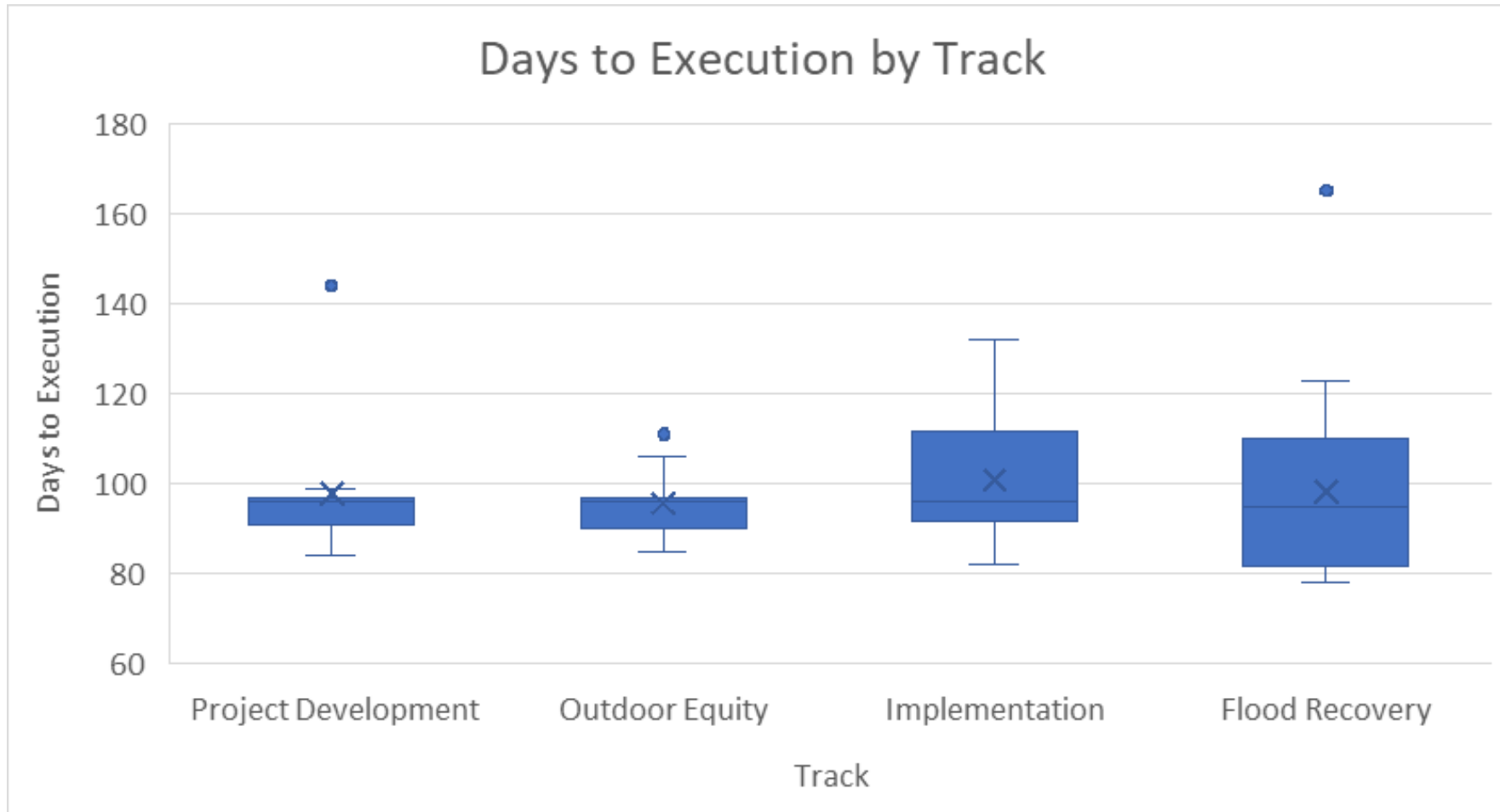
FINAL MAP



THEIR STORY: 117 DAYS



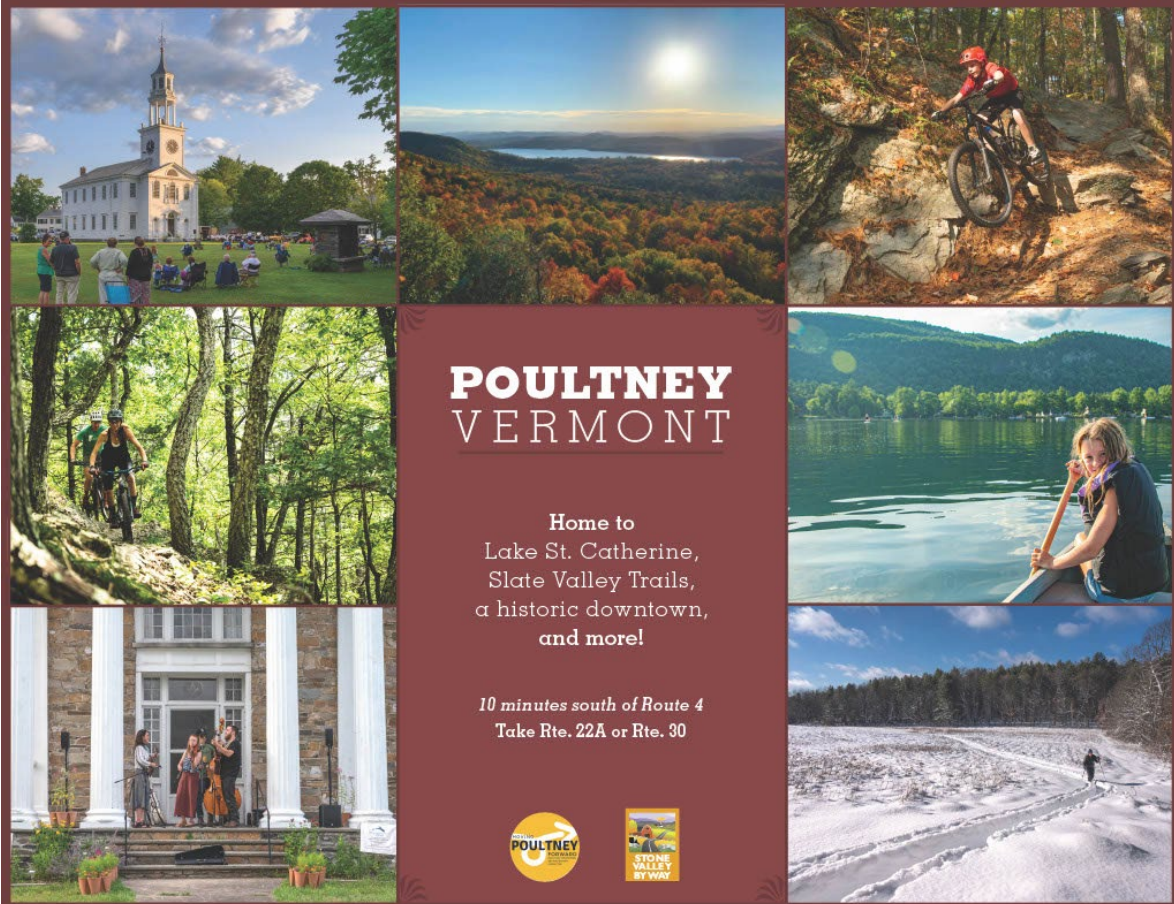
ACROSS ALL 51 VCGP GRANTS, THE AVERAGE TIME FROM NOTIFICATION TO EXECUTION WAS 98 DAYS



WITHOUT THIS EXTENDED PROCESS

FPR's Options:



- Increase number of application attachments
- Only fund “perfect” projects
- Delay notification dates and extend the process



POULTNEY
VERMONT

Home to
Lake St. Catherine,
Slate Valley Trails,
a historic downtown,
and more!

10 minutes south of Route 4
Take Rte. 22A or Rte. 30





STATE FUNDED GRANT PAYMENTS

LIFE-CYCLE OF A GRANT PAYMENT

- Steps 1 through 3 are manual and rely solely on human interaction
- Checks and balances include completeness of invoice, set-up in accounting system and active status, correct coding & funding availability
- Current (best guess) average time from Step 1 to Step 5 is 10 Days (2 after Step 3)

1 GRANTEE EMAILS
INVOICE TO DEPT



2 PROGRAM STAFF REVIEW
AND APPROVE & EMAIL
BUSINESS OFFICE



3 BUSINESS
OFFICE REVIEWS
AND SUBMITS



4 SECRETARY'S OFFICE
ENTERS INTO
SYSTEM TO BE PAID



5 CHECK CUT/ACH IF
VOUCHER PASSES CHECKS
AND BALANCES



FACTORS TO CONSIDER

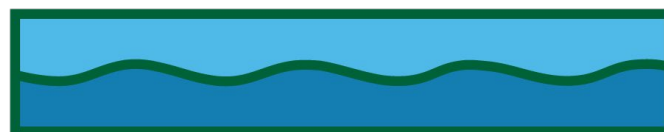
- 95% (+) of FPR grants paid within 30-day window
- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) on the horizon
- H. 233 Would add administrative burden and would require new systems
- 30-day time constraints may have opposite of intended effect





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