

WATERBURY
LONG TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY
ALL-CHAMPIONS MEETING

Minutes for August 23, 2012

Attendees: Peg O'Neil, Lisa Scagliotti, Theresa Wood, Mame McKee, Natalie Howell (LTCR steering committee), Katherine Vose, Don Schneider, Alison Friedkin, Jeanne Kirby (LTCR Steering Committee), Skip Flanders, Rebecca Ellis (LTCR Steering Committee), Luke Shullenberger

The meeting convened at the Waterbury Main Street Fire Station at 5:40 PM.

Natalie Howell and Lisa Scagliotti reported on the CDBG Meeting that was held at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development on Monday, August 19. Overall, there appears to be much less money for Waterbury projects than originally hoped. Of the \$21 million HUD grant, three counties (Washington, Windsor, Windham) will be competing for \$5.9 million. There might be a preference for "smaller" projects, less than \$100,000. There is an emphasis on repairing physical damage, so mitigation projects and economic recovery projects are at a disadvantage. The application materials also require "site control," which is problematic for three of our top projects -- housing, daycare, municipal offices and library -- that propose to redevelop property at the State Office Complex.

Lisa Scagliotti reported on the online application process. Applicants will be able to update the application as they work continue on it. If you can't answer all of the questions, you should continue to fill out the application. If you are looking for a lot of money, you should be able to answer all of the questions. There will also be quarterly reporting requirements.

There was some confusion over housing assistance that might be available through the competitive grant process, as compared to the assistance that is going to be available through home ownership centers such as CVCLT. Alison Friedkin will follow up with ACCD.

There was discussion of how to reach out to business owners who may be eligible. The town/village does not have capacity to provide assistance to business owners who want to apply for CDBG. In other counties the regional development corporations are going to bundle applications from businesses; CVEDC likely does not have capacity to provide this assistance in Washington Country. Rebecca Ellis also reported that Waterbury was notified on Tuesday 8/21 that the town did not get funding from USDA for an economic recovery officer. This is a problem.

Natalie Howell reviewed each of the projects in our “draft statement of intent” for CDBG funds. Many of the projects now look ineligible or uncompetitive. On behalf of the LTCR Steering Committee, Natalie Howell will set up a meeting with ACCD (Josh Hanford and Carl Bohlen) to review the list with of projects in the next week or two. Project champions are encouraged to call ACCD for further information on the competitiveness of their project ideas. In addition, ACCD will hold a grants training in Waterbury on Thursday, September 20 (1-4 PM) at St. Leo’s Hall. Because this will be a rolling grant process, with grants awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, champions are encouraged to submit grant applications as early as possible.

The LTCR Steering Committee will be meeting next on Wednesday, August 29 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Ellis