



Town of Deerfield

Deerfield Municipal Offices
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Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Group Minutes

January 12, 2026

Present: Carolyn Shores Ness, Pete Law, Tim Hilchey, Denise Mason, MA Swedlund, Alex Galloway, Greg Snedeker

Call to Order at 4:00 pm

The meeting covered several key topics including an upcoming GZA Bloody Brook/Sugarloaf Watershed public information session on January 27th, review of previous meeting minutes, and discussions about various grants and projects. The team addressed energy conservation initiatives, MVP grant environmental justice scoring criteria and mapping, and updates on the NRCS PL566 opportunities, while also reviewing the status of a culvert assessment project. The conversation ended with plans for future meetings and the ECO OneStop Grant application submission, including scheduling a review session/meeting for committee input on February 12th at 4 pm.

Meeting Minutes (vote)

The **12/10/2025 Meeting Minutes** were reviewed and accepted without additions or corrections. Pete made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/10/2025, Tim seconded, unanimously approved.

Battery Storage Grant Feedback

The Energy Conservation Committee grant for battery storage was discussed, with concerns raised about high costs and the lack of solar integration. The group agreed to reconsider the idea once a designated shelter location is selected, as there are specific criteria for shelter facilities. They also discussed the potential use of backup generators, with suggestions to contact DPW.

Environmental Justice Grant Criteria Discussion

The team discussed the MVP 2.0 grant and FY25 Action Grant, with a focus on environmental justice mapping. Alex noted that while environmental justice mapping is new criteria within the grant application, it is not known yet how much of the criteria will count in the grant scoring. More will be known once the grant application is open. Greg stated he will verify if a portal account is already set up for the grant application process.

PL566 Funding and Timeline

There was a discussion on the status of NRCS PL566 Small Watershed Program and associated opportunities, with updates on the funding by Carolyn. The program remains open (through September 30th) with funding based on availability. The Federal Government has reduced the available funds from over \$900,000,000 to around \$43,000,000 and there are plans to continue



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working with the Franklin Conservation District's administration to "check the boxes" for the next phase. The timeline remains 3-5 years, though there is uncertainty about future of federal funding through USDA.

Culvert Assessment Project Updates

Members discussed updates to a culvert assessment project. They mentioned that since 2021, there have been significant developments, including new data and an engineering plan for culvert replacement and storage. This current project appears to be similar to and/or an update of the culvert assessment study conducted by the FRCOG in 2022.

Next Meeting

The group scheduled a tentative meeting for February 12th at 4 PM to preview the ECO OneStop grant application with the goal of receiving the group's feedback before finalizing and submitting it. They noted that while there's no posted grant deadline yet, they want to ensure the group has enough time to review the content before submission.

Next steps

- Reach out to Rosalie Starvish at GZA by tomorrow to check what aspects are needed for the January 27th public information session and confirm if the presentation is ready to proceed.
- Ask Rosalie if there will be any revisions to the final report and share relevant information with the group so members can prepare questions.
- Ensure DPW Superintendent Morse and Police Chief Paciorek will be present at the January 27th meeting to ask questions.
- Post the February 12th MVP meeting at 4 o'clock to review the grant application.

Adjournment (4:19 pm)

Tim made a motion to adjourn, Denise seconded, unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Snedeker