



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



Meeting Date	08/03/2022	Department	Planning/Economic Dev
Agenda Item	4.i) Consideration of Participating in the Community Resilience Partnership Grant Program		
Est. Cost	n/a		

Background Information

The Community Resilience Partnership is a grant program through the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. Through grants and direct support to municipal and tribal governments and unorganized territories, the Community Resilience Partnership assists communities to reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts and more.

With this program we will be eligible to apply for a \$50,000 grant or if we partner with another community we could apply for up to \$125,000.

There is process to enroll in the program and the first step is to submit a Letter of Support from the City to KVCOG. The deadline to submit a Letter of Support is August 16, 2022.

Please see the attached Proposed Services from KVCOG regarding this program.

Requested Action	
City Manager and/or Finance Review	
Council Vote/ Action Taken	
Departmental Follow-Up	

City Clerk Use Only	1 st Reading _____	Advertised _____	EFFECTIVE DATE _____
	2 nd Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____

File 3 KVCOG - Proposed Services

The Climate Resilience Pilot project called “Shore Up to Score Up” is a series of community-based facilitated discussions designed to create a coastal resilience program model within the southern Kennebec County region consisting of Hallowell and Chelsea, two communities sharing a specific segment of the Kennebec River. This cohort of municipalities will convene to evaluate the planning process to anticipate weather-related flooding, and to inform a multi-jurisdictional, replicable model for long-term resilience planning overall. These delegates will evaluate capacity and alternative approaches to funding barriers and other disincentives to participation in the Community Rating System (CRS), by using the Maine Coastal Program’s *Maine Flood Resilience Checklist*.

The service provider KVCOG will provide education, planning tools, and organizational capacity. The team’s capacity will be augmented by the environmental firm Kleinfelder with experience in team facilitation, education, peer mapping, and vulnerability assessments. The teams will explore and design cooperative, shovel-ready solutions, and develop funding proposals for implementation projects that have an environmental and economic resiliency component.

The Summary of Findings will report and make recommendations for actionable strategies to increase participation in broader flood resilience activities. Where this activity has seen little participation in these in the past, this project will provide critical insight into the region’s vulnerability and climate impact. Completion of this comprehensive process will improve their ability to save money on flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Community Rating System (CRS). Future exercises for this project will include a subsequent feasibility study of the CRS process as applied to region-based flood insurance policies, the formation of resilience cooperatives, or other projects that could achieve success with a collaborative approach. This will inform the development of key climate-related focus areas for community development, economic resilience, and goals which our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

1. KVCOG will recruit and assist three communities to form a regional cooperative using selection criteria which focuses on geographical risk, CRS participation, and social vulnerability, as well as municipal planning capacity and/or experience with resilience planning. Additionally, each town official will identify key stakeholders and representatives that hold significant interest in the town’s historic preservation, cultural resources, governance, and planning capabilities. These delegates form a strategic team as part of this cooperative to focus on prioritizing and recommending risk reduction strategies and comprehensive regional responses to flood management thereby increasing their ability to adapt to climate change.

2. These teams will meet periodically to engage in community-based, facilitated discussions with KVCOG and partners to identify coastal hazards in their community. It is expected that most of these sessions will be held using KVCOG's updated technology infrastructure with additional resources to anticipate challenges to remote work. A Flood Resilience Checklist will be used to evaluate coastal and stormwater flooding risk, which will trigger action to reduce damage to life and private property, protect vital resources and avert economic disruption.
3. The cooperative will create a both adaptive and steady-state responses to address tidal surge and stormwater flooding. This team will collectively apply assess the value of participation in the Community Rating System to address their region's vulnerabilities, address key areas needing improvement and participate in KVCOG's current strategy to integrate iterations of resilience into updated municipal comprehensive plans. KVCOG, with the assistance of this municipal planning cooperative will report effective strategies to replicate collaborative work with other tidal communities along the northern portion of the Kennebec River.

These services will support outcomes designed to stage local efforts to address critical long-term issues:

- Municipal Delegates will form a cooperative relationship and make collective recommendations for future partnerships. KVCOG will develop a standard collaborative process to plan future work with multi-jurisdictional teams focused on community resilience and competency more broadly.
- The workshop series and vulnerability assessment will increase the likelihood of local government engaging in hazard mitigation and resilience actions; proposals developed for community-led initiatives toward potential crises will be funded by a variety of resources.
- Teams will explore opportunities to participate in the Community Rating System with a climate resilience or coastal flooding mitigation plan.
- Summary of Findings is a data-driven source to inform regional or state policy and provide a valuable tool in the CEDS planning process.