REGIONAL PRIORITY PROJECT PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

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PROJECT NAME:

Middlebury Wastwater Treatment Facility Upgrade

TYPE OF PROJECT:

- [x] Infrastructure:
  - [ ] Water
  - [x] Wastewater
  - [ ] Broadband
  - [ ] Transportation
  - [ ] Public Facility
  - [ ] Other
- [ ] General Development:
  - [ ] Industrial
  - [ ] Commercial
  - [ ] Residential
  - [ ] Mixed
- [ ] Site/Facility Development for Specific Business
- [ ] Workforce Development
- [ ] Business Development
- [ ] Other:

PROJECT SPONSOR:

Organization Name	Town of Middlebury
Organization Mailing Address	77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Organization Email	kramsay@townofmiddlebury.org
Organization Phone	(802) 458-8001

Contact info for the person submitting project information:

Name	Emmalee Cherington
Title	DPW- Director of Planning
Mailing Address	77 Main Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
Email	echerington@townofmiddlebury.org
Phone	(802) 458-8013

PROJECT PRINCIPAL(S) (if different than above):

Person 1:

Name	
Title	
Organization	
Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	

Person 2:

Name	
Title	
Organization	
Mailing Address	
Email	
Phone	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - Provide a brief (2-3 sentence) description of the project. (500 character limit):

Engineer and construct a wastewater treatment facility to bring the existing plant into compliance wit

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION (5000 Characters):

The Middlebury Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) was built in 1999 as a new facility on Industrial Park Road. WWTFs are required by their NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination Survey) Permit to conduct an evaluation of the condition of the facility every twenty years. The study that was completed for the town includes a 20-year facility evaluation in addition to planning needed for the next 20 years. The study culminated in a preliminary engineering report (PER) determined that although the capacity of the plant is adequate for the next twenty-year permit cycle, some equipment requires replacement due to age, wear, corrosion, and obsolescence.

The current treatment process at the WWTF utilizes sequential batch reactors (SBRs), ultra-violet (UV) disinfection and high-temperature lime stabilization for biosolids. The PER recommended that the facility add primary treatment, convert the SBRs to a four-stage anoxic/oxic biological process, replace the UV disinfection with chlorine disinfection and replace the lime pasteurization process for biosolids with an anaerobic digestion facility.

A preliminary engineering review is being conducted to consider the recommendations made in the PER and explore design alternatives. As the largest energy consumer in the Town, the proposed facility will upgrade the treatment process to be more energy efficient. The current operation of solids management for the treatment facility involves the land application of septage. As regulations develop regarding PFAS, land application may be of limited allowance. Alternatives for PFAS destruction will be considered as will a sludge dryer (to greatly reduce the volume of sludge). The measures could also potentially open the treatment plant to act as a regional facility for other municipalities to bring their sludge to. This would help improve sludge handling for the region and potentially reduce the PFAS (forever chemicals) from being released into the environment.

In addition to the Wastewater treatment facility, the engineer is going to review the Main Pump Station which was inundated with flood water in the August 2023 storm event, causing extensive financial and environmental damages.

PROJECT LOCATION (3000 characters):

Provide the physical location of the project and/or the area to be served by the project

The proposed project will be located on the site of the existing wastewater treatment facility, located at 243 Industrial Avenue, Middlebury, VT. The Main Pump Station is located on Lucius Shaw Lane.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND BENEFITS (3000 Characters):

Describe the purpose and benefits to the region of the project. Describe if/how the project builds capacity within the region for improved economic development or community development, builds capacity in the region for improved economic and community development, and/or advances the goals and objectives of the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and/or regional plans, and addresses the most pressing needs of the region.

The Middlebury Wastewater Treatment Facility provides health, sanitation and security to the Town of Middlebury and surrounding area. The primary function of the facility is to provide health sanitation of the wastewater generated by the community. This function protects community health and the environment and allows residents and businesses to operate in a secure way without endangering the environment or human safety. The proposed project will upgrade the existing facility and provide for sustained and continuing operation into the future.

The WWTF was upgraded in 1999. Many of its components, especially mechanical, have reached or exceeded their useful life. The purpose of the proposed project is to update antiquated equipment and increase efficiency within the facility. Most of the process upgrades involve the replacement of worn or obsolete equipment. The largest process cost component of the project will be the upgrade of the biosolids processing facility. The existing lime treatment process needs imminent replacement because its components are severely corroded.

The current sludge dewatering process is designed to allow for Class A Biosolid land application. There is growing concern that state regulations may change to ban all products that contain wastewater biosolids due to the potential for PFAS contamination. If such legislation is passed, it would be in the Town's best interest to limit the amount of biosolid produced, to minimize the cost of disposal. The proposed project would help to achieve this goal, saving the community from related cost increases.

PROJECT TIMELINE, MILESTONES, AND STATUS (3000 Characters):

Describe the project timeline, the current status, and impediments to proceeding. Include factors such as site control, engineering and design, financing/funding identification and commitment, and permitting. Clearly identify where the project is within the project timeline and what work remains.

- 2019- The Town hired the engineering firm, Tata & Howard to complete a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that outlined the current condition of the plant and considered the next 20-year lifespan. The PER reviewed alternatives and presented recommendations for consideration. The next phase in development is Final Design.
- 2022- The Town issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to select an Engineering firm to conduct a Peer Review of the PER and complete a PER Addendum based on the alternatives chosen. Initially, Hoyle Tanner was chosen to take the lead on the project but due to staffing changes, that has since changed to Wright-Pierce.
- 2023- The Town submitted this project to the state Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) priority list for design and construction.
- 2024- Final Design- The Engineer will begin on final design after the Peer Review and PER Amendment are approved by the state. The design phase of the project will likely require 12-18 months given the complexity and permitting requirements. The Town will also work with the lead engineer to apply for additional funding through
- Dependent on funding, the construction will follow as soon as design is complete.

PROJECT PRINCIPAL EXPERIENCE/PARTNERSHIPS (3000 Characters):

Describe project principals' experience managing federal or state grants, and/or successfully developed similar business models, their ability to complete the project, and describe any partnerships that will help ensure success.

The WWTF project will be managed by the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director of Planning. The Director is responsible for managing all Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for the town including water, wastewater, stormwater, and highway improvements. The work is generally funded through a variety of revenue sources in addition to the annual CIP budget. For example, funding sources have included: Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan funds (CWSRF/DWSRF), Vermont Agency of Transportation Environmental Mitigation Grants, Clean Water Block grants, Transportation Alternatives grants, Northern Borders Regional Commission grants. The Director works closely with the Project Engineer to oversee the proposed construction.

Additionally, the DPW Director of Planning will work closely with the Engineering team and the wastewater department to be sure the design and construction is built per plan.

PROJECT SUPPORT AND REGIONAL NEED (4000 Characters):

Describe how the project is consistent with identified local and regional goals, advances regional needs identified in the region's CEDS and/or regional plans or is supported by reports or public forums. Describe the community support for the project and any community engagement that has occurred. Include reference and link to region's CEDS, the municipal and/or regional plan, and reports, or forums identified. Also describe how the project leverages regional human, social, financial, cultural, and/or physical capital, and supports, compliments, or enhances existing efforts.

The WWTF being utilized for the Town sewer system is outdated and not as energy efficient as the treatment facility proposed. To allow growth in both the residential and commercial sectors of Town, it is imperative that the wastewater treatment facility receive updates. There are no alternative wastewater systems for the stakeholders involved.

PROJECT COST, IDENTIFIED AND COMMITED FUNDS/FINANCING, AND FUNDING GAP:

Provide the total project cost and complete the simple sources and uses chart.

Total Project Cost: $ 26,000,000

Sources: Source	Amount	Uses: Use	Amount
		PER Addendum	$ 279,000
		Funding Assistance	$ 20,000
		Final Design (10% Construction	$ 2,300,000
		Construction	$ 23,000,000
Total Sources:	$ 0	**Total Uses:**	$ 25,599,000

Funding Gap: **$ 25,599,000**

Note: Uses must exceed sources or there is no funding gap

Budget Narrative (3000 Characters):

Describe the amount of funds/financing that have been identified and include a clear status of the funds (Received, committed, applied for, identified, etc.) including the dates of receipt, commitment, application, expected distribution, etc. Clearly identify any funding gap. Also, identify the type of resource (cash, grant, loan, sponsor in-kind, third party in-kind, etc.) and describe which resources can serve as a match, noting that, for example, some grant sources do not allow matching federal funding with other federal funds. Clearly identify any funding gap and identify the state or federal resources that you expect might help fill the gap.

There is currently a $26,000,000 funding gap for this project.
The project is pursuing funding through the state CWSRF. The Town submitted for the CWSRF priority list in January 2023 and will again in 2024.
The Preliminary Engineering Report and contracting a design Engineer for Final Design will increase the Town's scoring in the award process.
Additionally, if support is demonstrated through the Regional Priority list, it will also increase the Town's award chances.
The town will also pursue funding through USDA- Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (WEP).

JOB CREATION (4000 Characters):

Provide an estimate of the number of permanent and temporary jobs to be retained and/or created by the project, including the period of time over which new jobs will be created.

The proposed project relates to engineering and construction, thus the only jobs that will directly created will be the positions associated with the implementation of the design. However, it is imperative that the Town of Middlebury address the current housing shortage to better serve the workforce. Developers must be guaranteed water and sewer to be willing to invest in the creation of affordable housing. Therefore, the wastewater treatment facility upgrade is crucial for the vitality of the hiring and retention marketplace for Middlebury and Addison County employers

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