Request for Proposals

Engineering Services for Floodplain Restoration Design
South Peacham Brook at Governor Mattocks Rd in Peacham, VT

Issued: April 13, 2026

Due: May 15, 2026

Caledonia County
Natural Resources Conservation District

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT
802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledoniacountynrcd.org

Caledonia County
Natural Resources Conservation District

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT | 802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledonianrcd.org

RFP and Selection Schedule:

Monday, April 13, 2026	RFP released
Monday, April 20, 2026	Questions due
Monday, April 27, 2026	Questions answered
Friday, May 15, 2026	Proposals due
Friday, May 22, 2026	Consultant selected

Contact for Proposals:
Karina Morales
Conservation Specialist
Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District (CCNRCD)
Karina@caledoniacountynrcd.org
802-239-4159

Purpose: Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District is seeking proposals from qualified engineering firms with experience in stream restoration, floodplain reconnection, and flood mitigation, to provide design services for a floodplain restoration project on South Peacham Brook, adjacent to Governor Mattocks Road in the Town of Peacham, Vermont. The purpose of the project is to restore natural floodplain function and connectivity, increase floodwater storage capacity, increase vertical and horizontal channel-bed stability/reduce bank erosion, and lessen flood risk to downstream communities and surrounding infrastructure.

Project Background: Governor Mattocks Rd is a 0.7 mile Class 3 town road located in Peacham. It connects Peacham Groton Rd at South Peacham Village with County Rd. South Peacham Brook runs alongside the road, and prior to the July 2024 flooding, the brook crossed from the north to the south side of the road about 0.4 miles from South Peacham Village. The road was almost entirely washed out in the July 2024 flood event, and the South Peacham Brook changed locations in several places. The road was repaired from Peacham Groton Rd west to just beyond 97 Governor Mattocks Rd to allow access to a private residence that was undamaged in the flood event. The rest of the road area remains closed and impassable by vehicle. The other two private residences on this road (86 and 52 Governor Mattocks Rd) are located northeast of 97 Governor Mattocks Rd, between the road and South Peacham Brook. These residences were significantly damaged in the July 2024 flood event and are in the FEMA buyout process. Since there are no additional residences along the road needing access from the County Rd entrance of Governor Mattocks Rd, and Maple Tree Lane parallels Governor Mattocks Rd about 0.3 miles to the north, connecting Peacham-Groton Rd and County Rd, the town is proposing to decommission the road above 97 Governor Mattocks Rd.

Caledonia County
Natural Resources Conservation District

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT | 802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledonianrcd.org

Project Context:
The purpose of this project is to restore stream and floodplain functionality following the decommissioning of Governor Mattocks Rd. The decommissioning of the road is a parallel process that will likely be happening during the same time as the design process. As such, the engineer will be expected to coordinate with the town as necessary in that process.

Restoration efforts should restore the stream to the least erosive condition, increase flood storage/flood resiliency, improve riparian habitat, and enhance water quality by filtering nutrient and sediment pollution. Alternatives that balance the reduction of flood risk, stream stability, and ecological function/natural processes are preferred. Caledonia County NRCD seeks proposals to complete an alternatives analysis to determine potential restoration and resiliency strategies, complete a 30% and 60% design on selected alternative; and subsequent 100% design.

Project Elements to be explored for design:

- Channel/floodplain modification practices to restore natural floodplain functionality and connection.
- Removal of stream corridor/floodplain encroachment and culverts
- Former roadbed sediment removal/management
- Surface treatment and/or process-based restoration for trapping organic matter and supporting plant growth and floodplain/riparian vegetation restoration

Figure 1. Washed out road and eroding stream bank with exposed bedrock and downed trees. Looking upstream on South Peacham Brook.

Site Description:
Approximately 5 acres of floodplain surrounding ~0.50 linear stream miles adjacent to Governor Mattocks Rd in Peacham. The site features areas where the stream is reclaiming the road, as well as active flood chutes. There are areas of active incision and downcutting, as well as areas of streambank erosion. There are several culverts that were damaged and/or exposed during flooding and are anticipated to be removed from the floodplain as part of implementation.

Caledonia County
Natural Resources Conservation District

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT | 802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledonianrcd.org

Location: Governor Mattocks Rd. Peacham, VT
(From approx. 44.31340, -72.16943 to 44.31469, -72.17739)
Drainage Area: 3.93 mi^2
Basin: Waits, Ompompanosuc, Stevens, Wells
Watershed: Waits River
Sub-watershed: Connecticut River - Ammonoosuc River to Waits River
Stream: South Peacham Brook
Reach ID: T2.05
Reach Location: From just West of South Peacham village, upstream to bridge at Green Bay Road
Average Bankfull Width: 42.6'

Figure 2. Large culvert exposed from road washing out in July 2024 flooding.

Scope of Work: The work will be conducted in two phases: 1) Preliminary Design (30% and 60%) and 2) Final Design. The project is expected to proceed to Final Design, assuming there is a feasible and acceptable Preliminary Design, with check-in meetings at 30% and 60% design. A suggested timeline is provided below, and the Consultant will meet with the Project Team as needed during both phases, to discuss topics and necessary adjustments to scope of work, methods, deliverables, and project timeline. A site visit with the project team will be necessary early in the design process. In addition to Caledonia County NRCD, the Project Team may include representatives from the DEC Rivers Program, DEC Wetlands Program, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Town of Peacham.

Task	Schedule
Initial Project Site Visit	June 2026
Data Collection	June- September 2026
Hydraulics Analysis	July- October 2026
30% Design	August- September 2026
60% Design	September- October 2026
Second Site Visit (if needed, following 60% design)	September- October 2026
Public Outreach	October-November 2026
Final Design, Report, Bid Documents, and Cost Opinions	November- December 2026
Permitting	December 2026-February 2026

Caledonia County
Natural Resources Conservation District

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT | 802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledonianrcd.org

Permits required for this design may include:

Vermont Flood Hazard Area Permit, Vermont Stream Alteration Permit, Vermont Wetlands Permit, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit, Vermont Historic Preservation review, and other applicable local, state, or federal permits.

Phase 1: Preliminary Design

The goal of this phase is to collect the field data, analyze the data through appropriate models and produce 30% design(s) and subsequent 60% design(s) for the selected alternative(s). The consultant will collaborate throughout this step with the Project Team as needed to ensure an acceptable final product. Tasks for the preliminary design are:

Site Visit: The engineering consultant will participate in an initial site visit with the project team to discuss data collection needs and adjust timelines as needed.

Data Collection: The consultant will review existing relevant information, including channel morphology, characterization of bed substrate, channel type, and condition. The consultant will conduct site investigation and survey as necessary. If necessary, the consultant will delineate wetlands adjacent to the channel throughout the project area. Topographic surveys will be performed to record existing site conditions, including channel cross sections upstream and downstream of the reach segment, channel profile, channel slope and elevation, infrastructure that may be affected by restoration practices, soil condition, type, and contamination analysis, as applicable, and other site features relevant to the design. Topographical survey limits shall extend a sufficient distance to define existing features related to the project site and provide sufficient information to complete a hydraulic analysis. The engineering consultant should survey for the presence of utilities and structure foundations, as well as confirm property line and rights-of-way, as needed. The consultant should identify in-stream work potential and considerations. CCNRCD will facilitate landowner communication as needed.

Hydrology and Hydraulics Modeling: The consultant will develop a hydrology and hydraulics model for this site to assist in determining alternative restoration projects that would provide the greatest flood resiliency benefits for the community. Modeling should provide for a range of flood discharges that may be seen on a regular basis as well as an extreme event, such as that seen in 2024 (2-yr to 500-yr flood modeling). Modeling should involve risk assessment for various flood scenarios under the proposed alternative(s).

Design: Based on the data that was collected during the field investigations, the consultant will develop a design for simulating the natural stream channel geometry and stream floodplain access through the project area. The design will provide the existing and anticipated longitudinal profile and cross sections, streambed composition, grade control locations, and anticipated access points for implementation. The information will be detailed on the preliminary plans and included in the technical specifications. If there is more than one alternative, they will be reviewed with the Project

481 Summer Street, Suite 202 St. Johnsbury, VT | 802-239-4159 | www.caledoniacountynrcd.org | karina@caledonianrcd.org

Team to select a preferred alternative(s). The design should minimize project footprint and impact, thereby minimizing the requirement of easements on adjacent private properties. The consultant should provide implementation estimates.

Public Outreach: Based on 60% design, the engineer may be asked to participate in public outreach, including a public meeting led by CCNRCD, if deemed necessary by the Town of Peacham, to build public awareness and share project details with stakeholders.

Deliverables: Conceptual site plans, hydraulic analysis, and preliminary cost estimates. The preliminary plans shall include but are not limited to a title sheet, site plan sheet, details sheet (including longitudinal profile), required permit advice, recommended additional survey(s) or geotechnical work (including cost estimates) and cost opinions for construction and bid and construction oversight.

Phase 2: Final Design

The project will only proceed to the Final Design phase if the Preliminary Design is acceptable to the Project Team. The design analysis will be completed and all comments from the Preliminary Design will be addressed. The Final Design phase will include the following tasks and deliverables:

Final design: Construction-ready drawings of the chosen preliminary design.

Construction scope of work and cost estimate: A construction bid package, including quantities and construction notes that could be presented to potential contractors, and a cost estimate for the construction portion of the project.

Review of permits: In coordination with CCNRCD, the engineering consultant will assist with the development and submission of all permits and regulatory applications for the selected design. Historical preservation review will be coordinated by CCNRCD.

Final Review and Approval: The consultant will present the Final Design to the Project Team for final approval.

Deliverables: The engineering consultant will create a Final Design Report to include: a summary of existing site conditions; updated 100% Final Design sheets showing typical cross-section(s) and longitudinal profile; and feasibility summary, including stakeholder and regulator feedback and site-specific constraints. In coordination with CCNRCD, the engineering consultant will create an access license or easement plan and an operation and maintenance plan, as applicable. The consultant will also complete an initial engineer's opinion of probable cost for construction, construction oversight, and long-term maintenance and operation. The final plans shall include but are not limited to a title sheet, site plan sheet, details sheet, and

dewatering plan (if applicable), cost estimate(s), bid documents, and drafts for all required permits.

The Caledonia County NRCD can coordinate communications with the Town of Peacham to review options and discuss logistics as necessary. CCNRCD can also assist with coordinating site visits as necessary with the Project Team or other local, state or technical staff.

Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated experience in:

- Stream and floodplain restoration and reconnection
- Hydraulic and hydrologic modeling
- Fluvial geomorphology and channel stability analysis
- Process-based flood mitigation strategies
- Floodplain and river corridor permitting in Vermont
- Wetlands permitting in Vermont
- Riparian habitat restoration
- Design and implementation of stream restoration or flood mitigation projects
- Experience presenting technical information to municipal boards and the public

Questions: Questions may be submitted to Karina Morales, Karina@caledoniacountynrcd.org before 5:00 pm on Monday, April 20, 2026. A comprehensive answer sheet will be distributed to all interested parties by Monday, April 27, 2026, or sooner.

This solicitation in no way obligates CCNRCD to award a contract. A contract will only be awarded as deemed in the best interest of CCNRCD.

Proposal Format: The narrative response, cost proposal and proposed timeline should be laid out to correspond to each of the major tasks under the Preliminary and Final Design phases. Proposals should include:

- Cover letter, statement of qualification, and summary of consultant's experience with floodplain restoration and flood resiliency projects
- Previous floodplain restoration project and design examples if applicable
- Staffing summary plus one-page biographies for each member of the consultant's team, including any sub-contractors
- Three professional references

Proposals shall be submitted as a single PDF to Karina@caledoniacountynrcd.org by 5:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2026.