



Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

May 8, 2006

Ref: 81003.06

Massachusetts SubCouncil
Housatonic River NRD Fund
c/o Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086-1737

Re: Threshold Criteria Evaluation Comments

Dear Ms. Young and Ms. Varela:

We were impressed by the proposals presented at the public meeting in Lenox on April 27th. Now, as you move toward the next step of the review process, one of VHB's concerns for the Beaded Necklace Housatonic River Greenway Master Plan proposal is in regard to how proposal reviewers may analyze the budget descriptions of our project partners' labor.


As you know, VHB has teamed with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and the Berkshire Bike Path Council (BBPC) based on our common goals and collective experience needed for the greenway master planning process. The Housatonic River NRD Fund RFR requires a description of the project team's budget. Part E, Section 2b of the RFR asks respondents to indicate what Other Contributions are expected to be integral to the budget, including a quantification of in-kind contributions. In our proposal, we described the BRPC and BBPC's project roles in depth but it may not be clear to reviewers that the BBPC is an organization with considerable depth and breadth because we did not break down anticipated tasks for the group. We left BBPC's work open-ended, without specific time allocations, so that their commitment to the project can reflect the volunteer-oriented

nature of the organization. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that the BBPC is a committed project team member, with dozens of active participants whose in-kind contributions (hundreds of hours of donated labor) will be fundamental to the community outreach components of this project. BBPC members are already working on bikeway projects across the county and their involvement and experience will be extremely valuable to the initiation and ongoing progress of our team's efforts.

Over the course of the Evaluation Criteria review, should you or the public have related questions or other comments about our proposal that we have not anticipated in our initial response, it is our sincere hope that you take the opportunity to interact with us. We feel confident that our team for the Beaded Necklace Greenway is composed of dynamic and talented people with a great proposal to bring the Housatonic watershed back to life. I look forward to reading about restoration news as it continues to be posted on the grant website, and delving into each proposal more at the next meeting. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

Very truly yours,

VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC.



Leo Pierre Roy, LEED A.P.
Managing Director, Environmental and Energy Services

