

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 26, 2021

Mifflin County Commissioners on behalf of Brown Township Supervisors
20 North Wayne Street
Lewistown, PA 17044
717-242-0887

On or about May 7, 2021 the Mifflin County Commissioners will submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as Honey Brook Flood Mitigation Project.

In the Honey Brook area of Reedsville, PA, between Honey Creek and Willow Lane, the elevation of the earthen berm is higher than the road. It is believed that the earthen berm was placed there in the past as a means of preventing Honey Creek from flooding the homes on Willow Lane, Cross Street, Fultz Road and East Logan Street Extended, which are all within the Honey Brook area of Reedsville. The berm is not a certified levee. In recent years, floodwaters have been observed to flow through the berm, causing flooding of the homes. This is likely due to water flowing through the permeable soils and also through animal burrows. An additional problem is that stormwater that flows through piping from existing inlets discharges into the stream and during a high water event, the stream flow causes the piping to become blocked with water and causes back-up through the piping and inlets. The township does have steel plates that they can manually install over the end of piping or inlets to help alleviate this problem; however, if water rises too quickly or the plates are not installed properly the water can still infiltrate the area.

Brown Township has applied for and received a flood mitigation grant to begin to address some of the problems listed above. This will include engineering, local, state and if needed federal permit approval and actual mitigation consisting of the following: a geophysical survey and test borings into the earthen berm to determine subsurface conditions. New pre-cast concrete stormwater inlets will replace existing inlets. Existing piping will be replaced with properly sized (determined by engineer) smooth lined corrugated HDPE piping. This new piping and inlet system will have new duckbill style check valves installed, which will alleviate the township employees from manually installing the steel pipe coverings prior to a potential high water event. Depending on the findings from the geophysical survey and test borings, future improvements may be proposed. Upon completion of the upgrades roadways that were disturbed will be reconstructed as needed. This new work will not encroach, add to or impede the flow of water for existing downstream residents. Therefore the downstream residents will not be affected differently than they currently are during a flooding event. This project will enable residents within the Honey Brook area to be less affected by future high water events.

The estimated cost of the project is \$174,457.00. The project is located in the Honey Brook area of Reedsville, PA.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at the Mifflin County Planning and Development Department in the Mifflin County Courthouse at 20 North Wayne Street, Lewistown, PA 17044 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M to 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mifflin County Planning and Development Office. All comments received by May 6, 2021 will be considered by the Mifflin County Commissioners prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Mifflin County Commissioners certify to DCED that Mark A. Sunderland in his capacity as Chairman consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. DCED's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Mifflin County Commissioners to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

DCED will accept objections to its release of fund and the Mifflin County Commissioner's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Mifflin County Commissioners; (b) the Mifflin County Commissioners have omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DCED; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development at: chrhowe@pa.gov. Potential objectors should contact DCED to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Mark A. Sunderland, Chairman
Mifflin County Commissioners

