



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2008

NORTHWEST OHIO FLOOD MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP, INC.

HOLDS OPEN FORUMS

FINDLAY, OHIO — The Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership, Inc. recently was established to expedite the design and development of a long-range flood mitigation plan that would help to alleviate flooding throughout the Blanchard River Watershed.

In an effort to introduce the partnership and explain its purpose and the timetable for accomplishing the feasibility study, all Hancock and Putnam County residents are invited to attend one of the following meetings:

Hancock County
April 2, 2008
7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00)
The Winebrenner Theological Seminary
Convocation Center

Putnam County
April 3, 2008
7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00)
Ottawa-Glandorf High School
Auditorium

At the meeting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local officials will be sharing information about the process for design and development of a flood mitigation plan.

The new, non-profit organization is governed by a Board of Directors with a goal to facilitate the development of a feasibility study for the project, working together with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It will use the leadership and resources provided by the private sector to expedite the processes required for developing plans and specifications for area flood mitigation projects. The group also will coordinate public sector activities to secure necessary funding to implement those projects.

Additional assistance and expertise will be provided by consultants, local government, the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, state and federal legislators and other interested stakeholders. Recognizing the importance of an area-wide plan, the City of Findlay, the Village of Ottawa and Hancock County officials recently signed resolutions endorsing the partnership's efforts. The group expects an agreement soon with Putnam county officials.

Anthony P. Iriti heads the partnership. "I have been responding to the devastating impact of area flooding for more than a year and recognize that a solution will take time," said Iriti. "I look forward to bringing the right resources together to develop a major flood remediation project. The formation of the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership once again demonstrates that this region is pulling together and taking the initiative to address this serious issue."

Funding for the effort comes from private and public entities, corporations, individuals, and specific interest groups. Local business and community support has already been pledged as part of a three-year commitment by Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, Marathon Oil Corp., Blanchard Valley Health System, Fifth Third Bank, P&G Pet Care (maker of Iams and Eukanuba), National Lime and Stone Company, Pro-Tec Coating Company, The Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, W.C. Wood Corporation, Inc., and Whirlpool Corp.

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