



FOR RELEASE: October 19, 2010
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Ohio EPA Awards \$3 Million From Community Benefit Fund To Help Impacted Communities Around Countywide Landfill

New police and fire vehicles, parks and ball fields, roads and sidewalks, and many other civic projects are on the way to southern Stark and northern Tuscarawas counties. Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski has allocated \$3 million in civil penalty money to more than 50 projects that will benefit communities once impacted by nuisance odors emanating from Countywide Landfill in East Sparta.

“It is truly satisfying to know better days are ahead for the more than two dozen municipalities and non-profit organizations receiving money,” said Korleski. “Many of these projects promise to benefit the region for generations to come.”

The money was made possible through a September 2009 legal agreement between the State of Ohio and Countywide’s owners, Republic Services of Ohio. The settlement provided a long-term plan for Countywide’s future operation and management after an underground aluminum dross reaction/fire at the landfill caused foul odors to repeatedly impact nearby communities. As part of the civil penalty paid by Republic, \$3 million was set aside for the Countywide Community Benefit Fund.

Korleski asked a project consideration and screening committee comprised of local elected officials to review all requests for funding and make recommendations based on the each project’s potential to do the greatest good for the largest number of people. Korleski approved the committee’s recommendations as submitted. Recipients include local governments, business associations, and numerous non-profits including the boy scouts, a women’s club, an historical society and the American Legion.

“We appreciate Director Korleski’s willingness to let the locals determine the needs of our respective communities,” said Bolivar mayor and screening committee member Rebecca Hubble. “The committee believes this effort will restore a much-needed faith that government can work for the people.”

“The screening committee did an excellent job reviewing and recommending projects that will improve the quality of life in the Tusky Valley,” said Korleski. “In some cases, local matching funds will extend the money even further.”

Additional information on the selected projects is available through the screening committee by contacting Mayor Hubble at 330-874-3717.

Below is a list of the recipients, projects selected and money awarded through the Countywide Community Benefit Fund. That is followed by the June 1, 2010, letter from Ohio EPA Director Chris Korleski to the project consideration and screening committee with his thoughts on allocating money from the community benefit fund.

<u>RECIPIENT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>AMOUNT FUNDED</u>
Village of Bolivar	Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail	\$320,000
	Burfield Property Waterline Project	\$100,000
Tri-Division Ambulance District	Replace Ambulance	\$100,800
East Sparta Volunteer Fire Dept.	Replace Fire Engine	\$211,500
	Purchase Off-road Rescue Vehicle	\$ 18,000
	Renovate Building	\$ 40,000
Lawrence Township Trustees	River Community Park	\$324,000
Stark County Engineer	Joint Road Repair Project	\$100,000
Pike Township Trustees	Purchase Tractor with Tiger Boom Mower	\$ 60,214
	Replace Pick-up Truck	\$ 21,118
	Construct Salt Storage Barn	\$110,000
	Restore Melscheimer Building	\$ 65,000
	Purchase Electronic Comm. Notification/Info. Sign	\$ 29,833
	Purchase D571 Digital Audio Recorder	\$ 7,103
Village of East Sparta	Replace Police Cruiser	\$ 32,000
	Replace Water Department Pick-up Truck	\$ 28,612
	Repair Pool/Upgrade Sandy Valley Community Park	\$ 65,250
Bethlehem Township Trustees	Repair Riverdale Road	\$100,000
	Towpath Trail Connector Project	\$ 70,000
Tusc. River B.V. Watershed Council	Sole Source Protection of Tusc. River B.V. Aquifer	\$130,000
American Legion Auxiliary Post 244	Repair Building	\$ 30,000
	Flag Program	\$ 5,873
Friends of Fort Laurens	Rebuild Historic Fort Laurens and Block House	\$165,000
Father & Son Hunt Club	New Range and Fencing	\$ 22,800
Pike Grange	Replace Flooring	\$ 13,000
Tusc. Co. Conv. & Visitors Bureau	Flush Toilets for Fort Laurens Park/Towpath Trail	\$ 80,000
Pike Township Historical Society	Log Cabin Project	\$ 15,400
East Sparta Women's Club	Stabilize and Restore Town Pump (Historic Landmark)	\$ 10,000
Lawrence Twp. Joint Rec. District	Replace Pump and Filter	\$ 50,000
	Replace Life Guard Chair	\$ 10,000
	Fence Around Shelter	\$ 5,000
	Security Lighting	\$ 2,000
	Purchase Commercial Freezer	\$ 3,000

Tri-County Trail Association	Purchase Mower, Weedeater and 8'x10' Shed	\$ 3,900
	Purchase 10 Picnic Tables	\$ 1,800
	Expand Campground/Improve Roadway	\$ 13,600
Tuscarawas Valley Local Schools	Renovate Primary Playground	\$ 60,000
	Security Surveillance	\$ 30,000
	Technical Upgrades	\$ 22,000
	Upgrade Gymnasium Bleachers	\$ 20,000
Magnolia Area Historical Society	Renovate Building	\$ 8,000
Zoar Fire Department	Purchase Generator	\$ 8,000
Village of Zoar	Sidewalks on Main Street	\$140,000
Community Business Association	Purchase Electronic Community Notification/Info. Sign	\$ 25,000
Sandy Valley Baseball	Purchase and Expand Farber Road Field	\$160,000
	East Sparta Little League Project	\$110,000
	Girls Softball Yearly Expenses	\$ 20,000
Zoarville Waterworks	Manage Storm Water	\$ 2,250
Waynesburg Historical Society	Purchase Historical Building	\$ 10,000
East Sparta Business & Civic Assoc.	Repair Bandstand	\$ 10,667
Boy Scout Troop 38	Camping Supplies/Equipment and AED	\$ 10,000
TOTAL:		\$3,000,000



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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June 1, 2010

Mayor Becky Hubble
Bolivar Village Hall
109 Central Ave. NE
Bolivar, OH 44612

Dear Mayor Hubble:

Thank you for accepting my invitation to serve on the Project Consideration and Screening Committee (PCSC). The PCSC will help determine the best way to allocate \$3 million in Countywide Landfill Community Benefit Fund proceeds to benefit the greatest number of people impacted by the landfill's operations. I am grateful that all the invited officials, except for a representative from the Tuscarawas County Commissioners, agreed to participate in this important undertaking.

In response to some of the comments I received, please note that I have decided against expanding the PCSC's membership beyond those who accepted my initial invitation to serve. As such, the PCSC will consist of:

- Bolivar Mayor Becky Hubble;
- Bolivar Councilman Richard Liebold;
- Lawrence Township Trustee and Chairman Mark W. Haueter;
- Stark County Commissioner Steve Meeks or Peter Ferguson (designee will depend on the PCSC's meeting schedule); and
- Pike Township Trustee Donald Charnetzky.

In recent weeks, I have reviewed all the correspondence and input that citizens and elected officials provided to Ohio EPA regarding my PCSC proposal. I carefully considered all of those comments, and I have attached all that correspondence to this letter so that the members of the PCSC can also take such comments into consideration.

From reading the various comments, several concepts became clear to me. First, no matter what final plan of fund distribution is ultimately determined, it will undoubtedly fail to please or satisfy every person in the affected area with an interest in this matter or a view as to how the money should be spent. Consequently, recognizing that there is no perfect plan that will please everyone, PCSC should not attempt to meet this impossible goal. Rather, the goal should be to

Ted Strickland, Governor
Lee Fisher, Lieutenant Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

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look at the affected area and try to address that area's needs as widely as possible, *i.e.*, to the benefit of as many citizens as is reasonably possible.

Second, while I understand the need to represent one's constituents, I am emphatically asking the PSCS members to avoid an "us versus them", "we got the votes", and/or "winner take all" approach when meeting and developing ideas as to how the money could be spent. I am hoping that all the members of the PCSC will recognize the need for a cooperative, collaborative, and collegial approach that aims to address the needs of **all** the constituents represented by the various PCSC members.

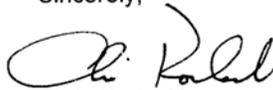
I would submit to you all that \$3 million dollars is a substantial sum of money, one that is capable of providing considerable benefits for the area as a whole, and it is my hope that you will come up with mutually acceptable consensus recommendations on how to best use the funds to create the most benefit for the *entire* impacted community, regardless of political subdivision boundaries. While I have already enumerated a short list of activities or types of activities that Ohio EPA will not consider funding, there are numerous worthy ideas that will no doubt come before you for consideration.

I again extend my thanks to those of you who have generously agreed to devote your time and efforts towards this effort. I encourage you to get started as soon as possible by setting up an initial meeting where you can begin your discussions. While I will not in any way dictate how the PCSC should operate, I will suggest that you consider holding private meetings of the group where candid discussion can take place, as well as considering methods by which citizens from the affected area can make their thoughts and ideas known to you. Ideally, I would like to have your recommendations provided to me by September 1, 2010 or sooner if possible. And, in terms of ultimate timing, it is my intent to have the funds distributed by the end of this calendar year.

I freely admit that this exercise is something of an experiment, one that Ohio EPA has never before attempted. I do not know with certainty that the PCSC project will be successful, and if it is not, I will reserve the right to develop another methodology for determining fund distribution. I strongly believe, though, that with your leadership and a collaborative approach, you will be successful at arriving at a locally-based consensus on how \$3 million can best benefit the community; the community of citizens which endured the hardships presented by past conditions at the Countywide Landfill.

In conclusion, if the PCSC would like to discuss this with me further or if you need assistance in informing citizens about any meetings you may hold, please contact Kristopher Weiss in Ohio EPA's Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160 or by e-mail at Kristopher.weiss@epa.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,



Chris Korleski
Director