



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2008

\$3 MILLION BUDGET PROPOSED BY OHIO FOR FLOOD MITIGATION

FINDLAY, OHIO — In a continuing effort to mitigate flood damage from the Blanchard River, State Representative Cliff Hite (R-Findlay) and Lynn Watchmann (R-Napoleon) announced the introduction of House Bill 562, Ohio's capital budget. Included in the bill is \$3 million identified for flood mitigation projects in Hancock, Putnam, Allen, Harding, Paulding and Wyandot counties.

Support from Senator Steve Buehrer (R-Delta) and Representatives Jeff Wagner (R-Sycamore) and Matt Huffman (R-Lima) were key to Representatives Hite's and Watchmann's success. The Bill next goes to the Ohio Legislature, which is expected to pass the Bill.

The Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership (NWOFP) is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan to address flooding in the Blanchard River watershed. The State funds could be used to purchase property that will be needed for the project.

"These State funds will help to off-set the non-federal costs of the U.S. Army Corps project," explained Anthony P. Iriti, Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership president. "By combining the interests of the City of Findlay, the Village of Ottawa and Hancock and Putnam Counties, the Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership is making a real difference in expediting these studies. The Army Corps says we're operating at warp speed!"

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, The City of Findlay and the Village of Ottawa entered into Feasibility Cost Sharing Studies agreement. By signing the document, both the City and the Village agreed to share the costs of a flood mitigation study with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which will pick up 50 percent of the cost that exceeds \$100,000 for each study. Total cost of each study, which is expected to take two to three years to complete, is approximately \$800,000. The City's and the Village's shares, \$350,000 each, will be paid in cash or in-kind-work. The Findlay and Ottawa studies will be completed concurrently.

About the NWOFPMP

The non-profit Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership uses 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 coordinates public sector activities to secure necessary funding to implement those projects. Private and public entities, corporations, individuals, and specific interest groups fund the effort. Local business and community support has 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., Whirlpool Corp and Verhoff Machine and Welding. The Partnership is governed by a Board of Directors.

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