



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Matt Monahan**  
([Matt.Monahan@stormrecovery.ny.gov](mailto:Matt.Monahan@stormrecovery.ny.gov))

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES  
START OF \$1.1 MILLION RESILIENCY PROJECT  
TO IMPROVE STORM WATER DRAINAGE IN THE  
BROOME COUNTY VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY**

*Building Back Better after Severe Erosion from Tropical Storm Lee  
Weakened 3,500-Foot System between Reynolds Road and Anna Maria Drive  
To Reduce Damage Risk to about 30 Homes*

**Village of Johnson City, NY (August 25, 2016)** – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the groundbreaking for the upgrade and strengthening of the 3,500 foot drainage system that was compromised by the onslaught of flooding and water runoff from Tropical Storm Lee in 2011.

The steeply-sloped drainage swale that runs between the parallel streets of Reynolds Road and Anna Maria Drive in the Village of Johnson City began to erode back yard properties starting in 2000 which rapidly accelerated with the storm of 2011, placing the foundations of about 30 homes at risk. The effect of the storm water also unearthed a sanitary storm waste pipe. Had that pipe been compromised, untreated household waste water would have flowed into Choconut Creek or infiltrated the county's Finch Storm Water Retention Facility No. 1, which is located in the Finch Hollow Nature Preserve.

Construction is expected to be completed in four months.

“While we cannot tame the forces of nature and control severe weather events which have been occurring with increasing frequency, we are building back in a stronger, smarter way, so the community along Reynolds Road and Anna Maria Drive does not have to hold its breath every time storms are forecast,” said **GOSR Executive Director Lisa Bova-Hiatt**. “This essential drainage swale project is a direct result of the local participation process Governor Cuomo envisioned when we established the Community Reconstruction program to set resiliency priorities at the grass roots level. Local, civic-minded residents are the people who best know the

needs of their community. I am grateful to the local committee for their hard work and dedication to make this project a reality.”

This project will involve grading and excavating the channel bottom and side slopes for hydraulic capacity enhancements; removing debris and/or vegetation that impedes water flow; stabilizing the slopes and top bank by using fill, seed, fertilizer, and vegetative mulch, and replacing culverts with larger culverts capable of higher capacity.

Construction work will affect an area approximately 10 feet wide for a length of 3,500 feet. Less than one acre of land will be disturbed.

Rehabilitation of the stream will stop the loss of soil to erosion, thus safeguarding property of abutting homeowners and will reduce downstream sediment loads to the Finch Storm Water Retention Facility #1.

This project was reviewed and approved by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Village of Johnson City **Mayor Greg Deemie** said: “If not for the support of the Governor’s office and this funding this project would be on indefinite hold or not happening at all.”

### NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Announced by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in April 2013, the NYRCR Program seeks to empower storm-impacted communities throughout the State, helping them to build back better and stronger than before. Altogether, more than 650 New Yorkers served on 66 NYRCR Committees, which have collectively proposed approximately 700 locally-oriented projects. Throughout the eight-month planning process, the program has held more than 650 Planning Committee meetings and more than 250 large scale Public Engagement Events. Funding for both planning and project implementation comes from HUD’s CDBG-DR Program.

Six municipalities make up the NYRCR Broome Community and are eligible to receive up to \$18,660,947 to implement storm recovery projects. While these municipalities vary greatly in their geographic size, population, and local economy, they all share their borders with the Susquehanna River and have experienced a similar history of flood damage and loss due to extreme storm events.

During Hurricane Irene, the National Weather Service recorded 2.71 inches of rain and a peak wind gust of 45 mph. Ten days later, Tropical Storm Lee dropped an additional 12 inches of rain on already saturated soils leading to massive flooding. The Susquehanna crested four feet higher than the previous record and for the first time overtopped levees and floodwalls along the River in Binghamton, Vestal and Union.

The regional CDBG-Disaster Recovery allotments are: City of Binghamton - \$3 million; Town of Conklin - \$3 million; Town of Union - \$3,660,000; Town of Vestal- \$3 million; Village of Endicott - \$3 million and Village of Johnson City - \$3 million.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates Statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its NYRCR Program– as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business and Infrastructure programs– GOSR invests \$4.4 billion made available through HUD’s CDBG-DR Program to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. *More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.*

###