



*For Immediate Release*

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES 30 LOCAL RESILIENCY PROJECTS FROM NYRCR PLANS TOTALING \$22 MILLION FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CATSKILLS AND THE HUDSON VALLEY**

*NY Rising Community Reconstruction program signs agreements with 15 subrecipients, as first step in implementation phase for proposed projects.*

Albany, NY (May 14, 2015) – The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) today announced the first 30 projects— totaling \$22 million— to be implemented in the Catskills and the Hudson Valley through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program—a grassroots undertaking that empowers localities to increase their physical, social and economic resilience following impacts from Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.

The more than \$700 million NYRCR program has identified and finalized agreements with 15 municipal entities in the Catskills and the Hudson Valley, which will serve as subrecipients to execute the projects with support from New York State. The signing of the agreements is the first official step in bringing the proposals to fruition—with the State offering additional resources to promote the progress being made.

“As we carry out all of our recovery initiatives, we understand the importance of balancing top-down responses with the informed and passionate ideas that come from bottom-up planning,” said Executive Director of GOSR, Jamie Rubin. “The NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program exemplifies this approach, and gives a voice to those who know their regions best. We are pleased to see the Catskills and the Hudson Valley move forward with their first 30 projects, as we continue to make our State better and stronger than before.”

The implementation phase comes after eight months of bottom-up planning—an effort that enabled local residents and community leaders to become actively involved in the recovery and resiliency process and integrate local needs into final NYRCR Plans.

Throughout the State, a total of 66 NYRCR Communities (representing 124 disaster-affected localities) have collectively taken part in Rounds I and II of the NYRCR Program. As part of the initiative, NYRCR Communities are led by local Planning Committees, who work alongside State planners and world-renowned planning firms to develop actionable proposals. The State has allotted awards of up to \$3 million and \$25 million for the implementation of eligible projects.

More than 650 New Yorkers have represented their communities by serving on NYRCR Committees and have participated in more than 650 Planning Committee Meetings. Committees also held 250 heavily-

publicized Public Engagement Events, which attracted thousands of community members that wished to provide feedback on the planning process and project proposals.

GOSR will provide additional resources to facilitate the implementation of NYRCR projects, thereby supplementing the allotment of each NYRCR Community and maximizing State investment. As such, the NYRCR Program will provide subrecipients with Project Coordinators, who will offer technical assistance to ensure compliance with federal regulations. GOSR will also fund and carry out necessary environmental reviews on all projects, as well as provide staffing support to subrecipients for NYRCR Program-specific work.

Communities unveiled their final NYRCR Plans to Governor Cuomo at the Spring 2014 NYRCR Conference. In Upstate New York, the State has allotted up to approximately \$150 million for the implementation of eligible projects proposed in 42 Upstate NYRCR Plans. Projects will be implemented on a staggered basis, up to the community's pre-determined allotment. Estimated costs and project scopes are subject to change as project applications are developed. The first projects to move forward in the Catskills and the Hudson Valley are as follows:

## **VILLAGE OF ELLENVILE & TOWN OF WAWARSING**

### **Stream Bank Rehabilitation**

**Estimated Cost:** \$3,674,000

**Subrecipient:** Village Of Ellenville, in partnership with the Town of Wawarsing

**Description:** The Village of Ellenville and the Town of Wawarsing are using NY Rising funds to analyze and implement the most effective methods of improving/ restoring damaged streams and stream corridors.

## **TOWN OF HARDENBURGH**

### **Bridge and Culvert Repair, Upgrade and Replacement**

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Hardenburgh

**Description:** The Town of Hardenburgh will use NY Rising funds to upgrade the following storm-damaged bridges and culverts: New Ploutz Road/ Millbrook Road Bridge construction, replacement of existing Millbrook Road Bridge and abutment stabilization, Rider Hallow Road/ Todd Mountain Road Bridge replacement, and Beaverkill Road embankment stabilization.

## **VILLAGE OF MARGARETVILLE**

### **Bull Run Debris Removal and Stream Bank Restoration, Retaining Wall Repair, and Bridge Replacement**

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,820,000

**Subrecipient:** Village Of Margaretville

**Description:** The Village is using NY Rising funds to address flooding along the entire stretch of the Bull Run Creek. During Hurricane Irene, floodwaters damaged property, restricted travel and hampered first responders. The village will undertake a hydraulic and hydrologic study, and then implement its recommendations to mitigate future flooding.

## **TOWN & VILLAGE OF NEW PALTZ**

### **Springtown Road Rail Trail Approach Reconstruction**

**Estimated Cost:** \$250,000

**Subrecipient:** Town of New Paltz

**Description:** The Town of New Paltz is using NY Rising funds to reconstruct the rail trail path that provides access from Springtown Road to the Wallkill Rail Trail Bridge crossing. It also intends to install emergency vehicle turn-arounds on the trail approach to the bridge on the east side of the river. During Hurricane Irene, the primary access to the western portion of the town was compromised and residents were cut off from all emergency services and recovery resources. This bridge will provide a safe means of crossing the Wallkill during future storm events.

## **TOWN OF OLIVE**

### **Esopus, Bushkill, and Maltby Hollow Creeks Flood Mitigation Project**

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Olive

**Description:** The Town of Olive is using NY Rising funds to restore and/or improve damaged creeks and creek corridors within the Hamlets of Boiceville and West Shokan in the Esopus, Bushkill, and Maltby Hollow watercourses. In Boiceville, flooding from the Esopus Creek forced the closure of the only local grocery store and pharmacy for months after the storms. In West Shokan, the Bushkill and Maltby Hollow Creeks over topped their banks, forcing road closures and isolating residents from emergency response efforts. The planned improvements will ensure increased capacity in the waterways during future high water events.

## **TOWN OF PRATTSVILLE**

### **Land Acquisition, Infrastructure Expansion, and Regional Health Care Facility**

**Estimated Cost:** \$3,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Prattsville

**Description:** The Town of Prattsville is using NY Rising funds to construct a regional health care center. During Hurricane Irene, residents were isolated from medical services for over a week. The health center will provide services to residents of Prattsville and the surrounding area.

## **TOWN OF ROCHESTER**

### **Rochester/Roundout Creek and Tributaries Immediate Repair**

**Estimated Cost:** \$800,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Rochester

**Description:** The Town of Rochester is using NY Rising funds to repair the riparian buffer and for targeted removal of debris deposited by Hurricane Irene from the Rochester and Rondout creeks and tributaries. The project will restore flow and capacity of the creeks and reduce the risk of future flooding along Route 209 and to the agricultural assets located adjacent to the affected creeks.

## **TOWN OF ROSENDALE**

### **Flood Control**

**Estimated Cost:** \$600,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Rosendale

**Description:** The Town of Rosendale will use NY Rising funds to identify, design and construct the most effective flood control measures along James Street that experienced significant flooding during Hurricane Irene. In addition, the Town will use NY Rising funds to replace a damaged culvert that caused the road to collapse and to install a pedestrian walkway on the south side of the Rondout Creek along James Street from Route 32 to Parkcrest Drive.

## **TOWN OF SAUGERTIES**

### **Replace Culverts at Platte Clove and Wilhelm Road**

**Estimated Cost:** \$575,645

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Saugerties

**Description:** The Town of Saugerties will use NY Rising funds to replace stormwater drainage infrastructure on Platte Clove Road and Wilhelm Road that were damaged during Hurricane Irene. These improvements will protect surrounding homes and ensure that area residents do not become isolated by flooding in the future

## **VILLAGE OF SAUGERTIES**

### **Parks Restoration**

**Estimated Cost:** \$806,000

**Subrecipient:** Village Of Saugerties

**Description:** The Village of Saugerties will use NY Rising funds to repair damage to several Village parks affected by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. The Village will repair or replace: damaged docks and boat ramps to maintain public access to Esopus Creek at Village Beach; the

bulkhead at Tina Chorvas Waterfront Park; the Saugerties Lighthouse's bulkhead, pier, docks, and the dike that protects the harbor channel.

## **TOWN OF SHANDAKEN**

### **Five Bridges Infrastructure**

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,984,185

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Shandaken

**Description:** The Town of Shandaken is using NY Rising funds to improve five local bridges: Little Peck Hollow Road Bridge, Lower Birch Creek Road Bridge, Muller Road Bridge, Pantherkill Road Bridge, and Peck Hollow Road Bridge. All of these bridges were damaged by Hurricane Irene.

## **VILLAGE OF SIDNEY**

### **Neighborhood Extension**

**Estimated Cost:** \$3,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Village Of Sidney

**Description:** The Village of Sidney is using NY Rising funds to pursue their vision of relocating severely vulnerable residents out of the floodplain.

## **TOWN OF STONY POINT**

### **Shoreline Protection Against Erosion and Wave Action (Beach Road)**

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Stony Point

**Description:** The Town of Stony Point is using NY Rising funds to protect existing homes, facilities, infrastructure, and other shoreline resources from flooding along the Hudson River. Funding will be utilized to conduct a hydraulic and hydrologic study of the shoreline, and for the construction of physical defense structures based on recommendations and solutions offered by the study.

## **VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE**

### **Joint Master Drainage Plan**

**Estimated Cost:** \$1,000,000

**Subrecipient:** Town of Blooming Grove, in partnership with the Village of Washingtonville

**Description:** The Town of Blooming Grove will undertake a hydrologic and hydraulic study of all the waterways within the Moodna Creek Watershed to identify flooding characteristics and ascertain the

amount of sedimentation, erosion, and shoaling present in the creeks. Recommendations will be included in a Master Drainage Plan and implemented using additional NY Rising funds.

## **TOWN OF WOODSTOCK**

### **Infrastructure Improvements Program**

**Estimated Cost:** \$650,000

**Subrecipient:** Town Of Woodstock

**Description:** The Town of Woodstock is using NY Rising funds to replace inadequately sized culverts in two key locations with appropriately-sized concrete box culverts: the intersection of Lane and Silver Hollow Roads, and at Reynolds Lane and Route 212. The Town will also use NY Rising funds to install a culvert on John Joy Road as well as raise approximately four hundred feet of the existing road near its intersection with Zena Road. During Hurricane Irene, the culverts were overtopped, causing roadway flooding that impeded emergency access and isolated residents from recovery resources

"The Blooming Grove corridor is one of the most flood prone areas in Orange County and this community has seen more than its share of devastation from recent storms," said Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus. "This funding will be a big shot in the arm for these communities surrounding the Moodna Creek Watershed as we work to mitigate future flooding and protect homes and businesses. I want to thank Governor Cuomo for his leadership in putting this program together and providing us the resources to build back better."

"Thousands of Rockland County residents endured weeks of cold, darkness and uncertainty in Sandy's aftermath - and, many will never fully recover," said Rockland County Executive Ed Day. "This investment of \$1 million will allow us to better prepare families and protect Stony Point homes and properties ahead of the next big storm. My thanks to Governor Cuomo for his long-term commitment to Rockland County's hardest hit communities that are still on the road to recovery."

"I am extremely pleased to see the commitment of serious funding to address the devastating effects of these natural disasters," said Ulster County Executive Mike Hein. "NY Rising funding will go a long way to assist a number of our towns who have seen the worst of hurricanes, tropical storms and superstorms."

"I would like to first thank the Governor for providing the resources needed to help our respective Committees to identify hazard mitigation opportunities," said Town of Blooming Grove Supervisor Robert Fromaget. "The first project for both Blooming Grove and Washingtonville will give our town and villages the scientific data needed to select those projects that will maximize the impact of our available funds and minimize future flooding."

"The Village of Margaretville is very pleased that we are moving forward the Bull Run Project," said Margaretville Mayor Diana Cope. "This project will have a significant effect on flooding that occurs on lower Main Street, Academy Street and Swart Street. The Village Board of Margaretville is dedicated to the NY Rising initiative. We thank you Governor Cuomo."

"We were excited about the NY Rising program the moment we heard about it and we've been 100 percent committed to it since day one," said Town of New Paltz Supervisor Susan Zimet. "The town and the village came together and worked together cooperatively to identify projects that served the

community as a whole and not the individual municipalities. We thank the Governor for this visionary program that will help protect our town from the potential devastation of another storm."

"This project will help to mitigate future flooding in the community by removing debris deposited by Hurricane Irene from the Rochester and Rondout Creeks," said Town of Rochester Supervisor Carl Chipman. "I would like to thank the Governor for his vision and leadership, which made this possible and will enable communities across New York State to become more resilient."

"I would like to thank Governor Cuomo, on behalf of the Town of Rosendale for the \$3 million we will receive from the NY Rising program to build back better areas that were impacted in our town from Hurricane Irene," said Town of Rosendale Supervisor Jeane Walsh. "Our first project will replace an old stone culvert, and enhance the Rondout Creek frontage by creating a pedestrian promenade from the park crest intersection to Route 32. This will make James Street more resilient to future storms, and create economic development in the form of an area where people can enjoy the Rondout Creek frontage."

"The Village of Saugerties is honored to be selected by Governor Cuomo's office to be one of the first Community Reconstruction projects be implemented in the Hudson Valley," said Saugerties Mayor William Murphy. "This grant will enable us to stabilize the shoreline of the Esopus Creek at our Tina Chorvas Park and on the adjacent Arm of the Sea property. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work together to correct this situation before future storm events worsen the problem."

"I would like to thank Governor Cuomo for providing our community with the opportunity to build our resiliency to future storm events," said Stony Point Supervisor, Geoff Finn. "Superstorm Sandy devastated one of our town's most valuable resources: the Hudson River waterfront. We lost housing, businesses and were in danger of losing future opportunities for growth. With the help of NY Rising, we now have the resources to evaluate and implement mitigation measures and, most importantly, to demonstrate our commitment to the future of Stony Point's waterfront. Thank you again for this exciting opportunity."

"The Governor's NY Rising Program mandated that community infrastructure projects to improve resilience to severe storm events be developed from the bottom-up rather than the top-down," said Town of Woodstock Supervisor Jeremy Wilber. "Through the program, communities developed important infrastructure projects to improve resilience that were promoted and supported by the public."

### About GOSR

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.

Visit [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr) to learn more about the NYRCR Program and to read the final NYRCR Plans. Procurement opportunities are available through each subrecipient and are listed on the GOSR website at [www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/gosr-supplemental-contract-opportunities](http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/gosr-supplemental-contract-opportunities).

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