



For Immediate Release

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**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY ANNOUNCES FOUR LOCAL RESILIENCY
PROJECTS FROM NYRCR PLANS TOTALING NEARLY \$5.5 MILLION FOR
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE NORTH COUNTRY**

NY Rising Community Reconstruction program signs agreement with a subrecipient, 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 four projects— totaling nearly \$5.5 million— to be implemented in the North Country 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 an agreement with Essex County, who will serve as subrecipient to execute the four projects with support from New York State. The signing of the agreement 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 North Country move forward with the first four 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 North Country are as follows:

TOWN OF JAY

Au Sable Forks Water Building Relocation and Rolling Mill Road Protection

Estimated Cost: \$2,205,154

Subrecipient: Essex County, in partnership with the Town of Jay

Description: Essex County and the Town of Jay are working together to relocate the town's water building facility to higher ground. It will replace the water plant in its entirety to meet current standards and codes and protect it from future flood damage.

Rome Dam Initiative

Estimated Cost: \$135,000

Subrecipient: Essex County, in partnership with the Town of Jay

Description: Essex County and the Town of Jay are using NY Rising funds to evaluate the probability, possible impacts, and measures to avoid catastrophic failure of Rome Dam. This dam is located just north of the Town, and removal may be necessary to protect human life, property and the environment.

TOWN OF KEENE

Restoration and Flood Mitigation at Gulf Brook

Estimated Cost: \$3,000,000

Subrecipient: Essex County, in partnership with the Town of Keene

Description: Essex County and the Town of Keene are working together to undertake repairs along Gulf Brook in the hamlet of Keene, which overtopped its banks during Hurricane Irene. Floodwaters severely damaged the Keene firehouse, library, a medical center, several small businesses and a number of

residential properties. These improvements will protect the Town from future flooding, and restore the Brook to its natural function.

“Following the devastation of past storms that hit our communities we must find ways to rebuild better and smarter,” said Chairman of Essex County Board of Supervisors Randy Douglas. “This funding and the upcoming improvements to Gulf Brook will greatly reduce flooding along 9N and surrounding areas. I applaud Governor Cuomo for making these funds available and continuing to support our communities.”

“This funding will go a long way towards making our communities and businesses resilient for future storms,” said Keene Town Supervisor Bill Ferebee. “Governor Cuomo has been there since day one with help and resources to rebuild our communities and his support continues today. We look forward to continue this partnership to make our communities better and stronger than ever.”

“It has been a pleasure to participate in the Community Reconstruction Program, as we all rallied together to assess our community’s recovery and resiliency needs,” said Scott McDonald, Co-Chair of the Towns of Jay and Keene NYRCR Planning Committee. “The relocation and upgrade of the plant is not only a victory for nearby residents, but for the future of our entire region. We’d like to whole-heartedly thank the Governor and the NY Rising Program for making resiliency a priority– both in the Towns of Jay and Keene and in municipalities across the State.”

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 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.

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