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Milton Wastewater Treatment Project - Update

Project Summary

This past summer, the town of Milton was notified that there was a chance they could receive stimulus funding for their wastewater treatment project. Through the recently completed planning study, it was determined that construction of a collection system with a contract for wastewater treatment services would be the most manageable option for the town if the opportunity for stimulus funding were to be secured. The planning study had identified Western Wayne Regional Sanitary District (WWRSD) as first choice for treatment services, with Connersville Utilities as second.

The benefit of stimulus funding is more funding is available than through traditional programs. However, stimulus money has many more requirements that need to be followed and much tighter timeframes for project development. There are two funding agencies involved in the Milton project. The Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) and the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). Each funding agency has different requirements that must be followed.

Notification of the stimulus funding opportunity kicked off a number of different tasks and processes. Work began immediately on requirements. A CDBG application had to be completed, public hearings had to be held, an environmental review of the area where actual construction of the system would take place had to be completed and regulations for the acquiring of permanent easements had to be followed. Simultaneously, negotiations for a wastewater treatment contract with WWRSD began. However, an agreement town representative's felt was most beneficial for Milton in terms of cost effectiveness and future management could not be achieved. The town ended negotiations with WWRSD and began discussions with Connersville Utilities. After a short period of negotiation, an agreement for services was reached with Connersville. As a result, many of the required processes that had been completed had to redone in order to account for the change in the wastewater treatment provider.

Work continues in order to meet the deadline of the state agencies. The environmental review process and acquisition of permanent easements must be completed around early March in order to secure the funding. A second public hearing is also required and will be held on February 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the town hall. The bid advertisement for a contractor will be run and bids will be opened on February 11th at 10:00 a.m. in the town hall.

What's at Stake – Breakdown of Funding for Project

CDBG	\$1,170,250
SRF Loan	2,000,000
<u>SRF Grant</u>	<u>2,449,651</u>
Total Cost	\$5,619,811

Currently the funding agencies are trying to maintain an initial wastewater billing rate of \$65 a month.

About the Funding Agencies

There are two funding agencies involved in the Milton project. The Wastewater and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) is managed by the Indiana Development Finance Authority (IFA) for the state. The Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) is administered through the Indiana

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Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA) at the state level and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at the Federal level. In order to qualify for CDBG funding the town had to undergo an income survey which was done about two years ago. 51% or more of the residents in the project area have to be at or below the low-to-moderate income level as determined by the state.

Acronym List

CDBG – Community Development Block Grant
IOCRA – Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
HUD – Department of Housing and Urban Development
SRF – State Revolving Loan Fund (Wastewater and Drinking Water)
IFA – Indiana Development Finance Authority
WWRSD – Western Wayne Regional Sanitary District
ER – environmental review

Questions or More Information

Project updates will be posted on the EDC of Wayne County's website as they become available.

www.edcwc.com

Click on the last bullet point called **Community Projects** in the **News Center** section on the home page of the site. New information will be posted under **Milton**.

Project Questions

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Permanent Easement Questions

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