

# Ohio Valley Long Term Recovery Committee (LTRC)

## May 30, 2012

### Chair Report – Pastor Jim Dinkel

Jim reported that the event hosted by Channel 12, “Grilling with Tim,” held last Thursday in Moscow went well. It highlighted the progress made in the Village.

### Vice Chair Report – Beth Nevel

Beth discussed the letter for assistance on downed or damaged trees for tornado victims with tree removal needs. The letter includes the information from Annette Decatur on the Neighbor Stabilization Program for Clermont County residents. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program will cover tree removal, grinding and/or stump removal, and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Eligibility is 120% of median income (two person income up to \$68,000). For assistance, residents should contact Annette directly. The LTRC agreed that the tree debris assistance letter should be delivered in person to the homeowners. Bev and Dawn have the address for the 12 properties on their list.

Beth provided information on the “Moving Forward Ohio,” a grant program for local jurisdictions (Counties, Cities, Townships and Village) to demolition foreclosed, damaged, or abandoned properties within their jurisdiction. This program is not specific to tornado related damage. This program will be coordinated through Community and Economic Development in Clermont County. Beth is going to follow up with Adams, Brown and Pike Counties.

A new update to the Ohio Revised Code provides an opportunity for Townships, Villages and School Districts to take over properties that have been foreclosed and presented at the Sheriff’s auction two times without a sale. The Townships, Villages and School Districts should receive a letter. If none of the entities want the property, the property is transferred to ODOT.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries (KCM) is coming to the Village of Moscow in July. They have requested information on hot dog and snow cone vendors for the event. They have been provided a list of civic groups that have helped with the Fall Festival in the past.

Moscow is interested in being “The Most Prepared Community.” Mitigation Against All Hazards Training is scheduled at the Campbell County EMA on June 26 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. The training information will be provided electronically.

Beth provided information on a Brown County resident that purchased a tornado shelter.

### Financial Report

Received the following donation:

- United Way Greater Cincinnati \$15,000

Check written:

- Payment for Beds (Mr. Mattress)\$ 2,135

Current balance in the account is: \$24,207.57

The LTRC will be paying for the Donation Center utility costs at the Red Barn. Kathy will need the invoice to make a payment.

The LTRC has not received the check from the Milford 5K Run/Walk. Pam will follow up with Joellen.

The LTRC will send a thank you letter to Rob Reifsnnyder of United Way Greater Cincinnati for the donation.

Starting Friday, quarterly reports will be sent to everyone who has donated. The reports will verify the money is going to unmet needs.

Beth will have a conference call with River Hills Bank and the Southern Ohio Realtors to discuss fund raising, coordination of benefits, accountability, and unmet needs verification.

### **Volunteer Management**

The Catholic Heart Camp has not received confirmation of available projects (St. Vincent de Paul and the Village of Moscow). Dawn and Bev need an update by the end of the week.

Vineyard Church has 120 youth volunteers coming to Clermont County in June for five days. As projects are developed, LTRC will need to decide what volunteers can do versus skilled labor. LTRC will determine when crews are needed and provide a calendar to volunteer groups.

Northern Kentucky and Indiana are still in need of volunteers. Information for Holton, Indiana can be obtained from the head of construction, Darren Kroger, 812-584-1306, or Bob Cannon, Hamline Chapel United Methodist Church, 812-537-2170. The LTRC discussed that the Ripley, Indiana LTRC has a paid position through the Eli Lily Foundation.

Information for Henryville, Indiana can be obtained through their website, [www.march2recovery.org](http://www.march2recovery.org), which includes the process for volunteer registration. Open Monday – Friday during normal business hours; Phone number 502-599-8557. The organization will stay open indefinitely – until the last door is hung.

LTRC discussed that with school out, summer youth groups will come forward asking for projects. LTRC will need to line up projects, identify skilled labor needs, and the tools required to complete the project. The LTRC discussed asking the schools to send information to seniors needing community service; also letting the media know what we are doing beautification as well as preparedness. Moscow and Felicity have been hit twice in the last 15 years, and we need to be serious about preparedness.

Ohio VOAD will help supply skilled labor for construction to include plumbers and electricians.

### **Case Management**

Bev reported on a meeting with Jodie from Matthew 25 Ministries. Gift cards will be distributed to recipients today between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Matthew 25 Ministries will issue 26 cards. All 26 requests were approved.

Ohio VOAD has a volunteer to assist with building material assessments. Bev has six sites that need an assessment. Bev has 2 assessments scheduled for Thursday or Friday.

St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities have added dishwashers to the list of appliances that they will cover with the appliance vouchers to Lee and Jacks.

### **Government Report**

No SBA or State Individual Assistance Update. The SBA personal property application closed on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Other Business**

The Tree Committee is looking at ideas for using downed trees, possibly for benches in Moscow Park. The Committee is working with Steve Fols, an arborist/naturalist from the Cincinnati Zoo, to help identify ways to recycle trees and stones from foundations. The Committee will develop a project map/plan for work assignments and volunteers needed.

The Tree Committee has started a tree nursery. When citizens are ready to move back, they can select trees from the nursery to replant at their homes. The Committee brought up there may be opportunities for volunteers on this project.

Senator Portman would be interested in volunteering on the park project.

Thalia provided a Facebook update. She uploaded new photos along with a note on the upload process. Linda is taking pictures of lost and found items and uploading those to the site. Thalia provided Linda with administrator rights for uploading.

Pam was contacted by a local Girl Scout Leader about the Emergency Preparedness badge for high school age girls. Two to three Girl Scouts may attend the next meeting and then take a tour of Moscow. Pam also shared the bird feeder idea with the Leader for younger scouts to get involved in the recovery effort. The Leader will be coordinating with Linda Carter.

Jim asked if it was possible to get aerial shots in June to compare to earlier photos. Pam is following through to see if any photos were taken over the weekend and if future flights are scheduled.

LTRC discussed the need for paid staff in larger disasters. The Committee needs to look at the level and scope of the disaster.

Value City is offering to provide new furniture to those in need. The store will come up with a dollar figure limit. The offer may not include appliances. The Value City contact is Heather Schreiber, phone number 614-216-3757. LTRC suggested implementing a voucher system for the furniture donations.

LTRC discussed chain saw art. Bev will get the cost and forward the information to Mickey.

LTRC discussed a request to the FHLB to cover landscaping. FHLB does not provide grants directly for landscaping. The bulk of the money must go to renovation/structural improvements. Restoring the property to marketable value, which may include shade trees, may be considered. FHLB is still tweaking the guidance.

### **Moving Forward Ohio Program**

The following information was added as an update to the 05-30-12 Meeting Minutes by Annette Decatur of the Clermont County Department of Community & Economic Development.

Last week, Attorney General Mike DeWine [announced](#) the launch of a new grant program called the Moving Ohio Forward Grant to assist communities in their economic recovery by removing blighted or abandoned structures to reclaim our neighborhoods. Based on the need to remove blighted properties in every part of this State, the Attorney General has allocated funds to all 88 counties in Ohio. The allocation formula is based on the percentage of foreclosures filed in each county between 2008 - 2011. Lead Entities must apply and be approved in accordance with the established eligibility criteria before funds will be obligated. Clermont County has been allocated \$1,173,073. Recognizing the economic hardships facing local governments, the Attorney General will not require a match for up to the first \$500,000 allocated to each County.

**Please carefully read the following guidelines, as it will answer questions you may have that are not covered below. While you should also review the application, it will only need to be completed and submitted by the Board of County Commissioners. We currently anticipate processing demolition projects in the order they are submitted until initial grant funds are expired.**

#### Eligible Uses of Funds

- The demolition of residential structures that are abandoned, blighted or vacant. For a definition of these terms, see pages 11-12 of the attached Guidelines.
- Allowable reimbursable demolition expenses include the cost of demolition contractors and vendors, environmental assessments and disposition, title searches and legal advertisements, and contract preparation or review.
- Reasonable administrative and operating expenses are eligible expenses, but may not exceed 5% of each reimbursement request report. Total administrative and operating expenses shall not exceed \$100,000 per county allocation under this grant program.

### Ineligible Uses of Funds

- Grant funds may not be used to purchase property.
- This grant program does not permit using grant program funds or matching funds for commercial or industrial projects. Funds may not be used for purposes of maintenance or after demolition costs.

### Key Dates

Application Submission Deadline: June 30, 2012 - 5:00 p.m.

Grant Award Date: August 1, 2012

Project Completion Date: December 31, 2013

Final Drawdown Submission Date: January 31, 2014

Final Performance Report Due Date: December 31, 2014

### Application Process (NEXT STEPS)

1. The Department of Community and Economic Development will recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to initially apply for \$1,173,073, and anticipates this resolution will be acted upon by the Board at a meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup> or June 27<sup>th</sup>. We must submit the application to the Attorney General by COB on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. **We will need to include resolutions/ordinances from any community wishing to access these funds to demonstrate cooperation between the Lead Entity and any participating local governments. The attached "sample subrecipient resolution" is attached. These resolutions need to be included with the application we submit to the state – deadline for receipt of community resolutions is Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> by 4:30 pm. Resolutions with original signatures may be mailed or hand delivered to the address listed below.**
3. We will rely upon each community to supply us with a list of eligible properties and specific structures which will be eligible for demolition, and to obtain proof of authority for demolition (title, consent, court order, etc.).
4. At this point in the process, we are open to communities managing the process with your own staff, which would also enable you to utilize grant funds for reimbursement of staff time as an administrative expense not to exceed 5% of each reimbursement. We will provide complete management (advertising the demolition projects, bid management, contract management, financial management, and all record keeping/reporting) to those communities who are unable to/do not wish to take on this responsibility.
5. Regardless of how your community wishes to handle item #4 above, every community may be required to execute a subrecipient grant agreement (see page 4 of the attached guidelines). At this point we are unsure if this requirement will be enforced for those communities not actually managing any demolition projects. A sample subrecipient agreement will be provided to the Lead Entity after a contract is signed with the Attorney General's Office.

### Lead Entity (County) & Subrecipients (Local Governments):

- The Lead Entity is the award recipient and the responsible party with whom the Attorney General will execute a grant agreement for the grant funds. There shall be one Lead Entity per county.
- Lead Entity application must demonstrate collaboration with all potential subrecipients within that county. Any collaboration between the Lead Entity and other local governments or non-profit organizations must be documented in the Application.
- The Lead Entity must enter into a subrecipient agreement with end users of any award.
- A subrecipient agreement between the Lead Entity and other end users (e.g., other local governments, non-profit organizations, community development corporations, regional planning commissions, community action agencies, etc.) is required.
- A sample subrecipient agreement will be provided to the Lead Entity after a contract is signed with the Attorney General's Office.

### LTRC Meeting

Next LTRC Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The new phone conference number is 513-732-8008 Pin 130113.