

MOUNDS LAKE PROJECT, “IT’S ALL ABOUT WATER” ***Environmental Impact Study crucial part of Phase II.***

ANDERSON, Ind. – In October of 2013, the State of Indiana awarded, through its Revolving Fund loan program, a \$600,000 grant to the Corporation for Economic Development of Anderson/Madison County (CED). This grant is being used to complete a Phase II feasibility study of the proposed Mounds Lake. Major components of this study include: Environmental Issues, Financial Components, Engineering Studies, and Community Impact. When these feasibility studies are complete, the CED will release them to the public.

“We are looking forward to the results of these studies, especially as they pertain to engineering aspects and the environmental impact,” stated Rob Sparks, Executive Director for the CED. “The engineering portion will tell us a great deal concerning water flow data, core sampling and project impact, all of which will be critical as we develop a model for meeting the region’s water supply needs.

“From an environmental perspective, our goal with this project, should it move forward is to improve and enhance the community,” said Sparks. “We believe the Environmental Impact Study will give us the information we need to understand where the problems may lie and how best to mitigate and address those concerns.”

Some have stated that the main driving force behind this potential lake is economic development, i.e.: increased real estate values, tourism revenue, and bringing in new business to the area, but Sparks indicates this is not the case.

“Economic development is very important to our community but that becomes the benefit of this project,” said Sparks. “It is about a regional water resource; a resource that’s becoming more scarce. The result of the project will be having enough fresh water for our communities and region to grow, even during dry times.”

According to a joint research program between the University of Illinois and Purdue University, the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant (IISG), water sources throughout the U.S. are shrinking. Major lakes and rivers are being overdrawn and are being inadequately replenished.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found that the demand for water in the U.S. has tripled in the last 50 years, and that at least 36 states were anticipating local, regional, or statewide water shortages in 2013, even under non-drought conditions.

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) stated (in 2012 a Homeland Security Report) that the U.S. water infrastructure is not equipped to handle the water needs of the growing U.S. population over the next 20 years.

If nothing were done to address this problem, drought conditions could adversely affect Indiana communities and other parts of the U.S. in the foreseeable future.

Sparks, who attended the National Hydropower Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., said, "Over the last year, repeatedly, the community has asked about the possibility of hydro power included into the Mounds Lake project. This event allowed us to meet national governmental

representatives, power producers, and a variety of project owners who helped us understand our options and the feasibility of producing power with Mounds Lake."

Upon completion of Phase II, there will be a number of public forums scheduled for Anderson, as well as the surrounding communities of Chesterfield, Daleville, and Yorktown. The focus of these forums will be the Phase II impact study results, to gather community feedback, and continue to provide information about the project.

Dates for the public forums will be announced within the next month through future news stories and will be posted on the Mounds Lake website at www.moundslake.com.

The Corporation for Economic Development of Anderson/Madison County is a 501c3 non-profit that was incorporated in 1983. Their mission is to plan and undertake activities leading to steady job growth, increasing economic diversity, and a strengthened employer base, which enhances the quality of life in Madison County, Indiana.

For more information about the proposed Mounds Lake, visit www.moundslake.com, or contact Rob Sparks at 765-642-1860 or at robsparks@cedanderson.com.