

LITTLE THOMPSON JOURNAL: ISSUE 1: FEBRUARY 10, 2014

NEWS FLASH:

Need debris picked up on your property?. See the latest news at www.bigthompson.org

GENERAL UPDATE:

As you may know, the Little Thompson Watershed Restoration Coalition was formed in mid-January, comprised of property owners, government agencies, and other interested parties. Led by the Big Thompson Water Conservation District, the mission of the coalition is to assist in the restoration of the river and its tributaries to a safe, healthy, and stable condition.

Four volunteer committees have been formed so far: Technical, Resource, Fiscal, and Steering. They're described on the www.bigthompson.org website, so please visit the *Little Thompson River Restoration Coalition* link there for a description of goals, contacts, and other info.

Today, this email is to report immediate news requesting your participation to emphasize the impact the flood had on the Little Thompson River, as it relates to being considered for federal funds!!

IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR POST-FLOOD FUNDING

The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated \$62.8M in Community Development Block Grant, Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) to Colorado to assist in flood disaster related costs. Funds are designed to assist with a small amount of needs not being met through FEMA or other federal funds. To secure the funds, CO is required to submit an **Action Plan** to HUD detailing a proposed fund allocation based on community priority to address a portion of the unmet need for housing, economic development and infrastructure.

So the state met Jan. 21-24, 2014 with local, state and federal agencies, housing authorities, business owners and service agencies working on flood recovery to talk about proposed distribution of funds and write an **Action Plan** to use the funds. **The Action Plan will be made public today, Monday, Feb 10, online at**

<https://dola.colorado.gov/cdbg-dr/content/action-plans>

There are 4 Public Hearings to review, discuss and receive input on Colorado's draft Action Plan.

Deadline for comments is February 18, 2014

Tuesday, February 11 from 4:30 - 6 pm

Manitou Springs Memorial Hall
606 Manitou Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Wednesday, February 12, Noon to 2pm

Estes Park Town Hall, Board Chambers
170 MacGregor Ave., Estes Park, 80517

Wednesday, February 12 from 7-9pm

County Clerk & Recorder, Houston Room
1750 33rd Street, Boulder, CO

Thursday, February 13 from 6-9pm

Evans City Hall, Cottonwood Banquet Room
1100 37th Street, Evans, CO 80620

Online comments are also being accepted through Tuesday, February 18, 2014.
<https://dola.colorado.gov/cdbq-dr/content/public-comments>

This is an expedited program with extremely limited financial resources available, so participation at the hearing or online from Little Thompson residents affected by the flood is very important, especially since many of us on the river we do not have a “town” representing us. For public comment at the hearings, you will need to sign up upon arrival, and speak in the order of sign in.

We urge you to read the **Action Plan TODAY**—as soon as it is released—and provide feedback and comments in person or online—**all comments are due by Feb 18.**

The public hearings are being hosted by the Governor’s Recovery Office, the Dept. of Local Affairs (DOLA), the Governor’s Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the CO Dept. of Agriculture and the CO Dept. of Public Safety. This information was made available from Val Nosler Beck, Communications and Strategic Implementation Director, Governor’s Recovery Office, Office:303-866-5773, Cell:303-350-0772, Val.Beck@state.co.us

Second, below is some other important help info that you may not have heard about.

Long Term Flood Recovery Assistance

Many of the emergency assistance activities have transitioned to Long-Term Recovery Groups. If you suffered losses from the September 2013 flooding, you may be eligible for assistance. A limited amount of funds have been raised to date for survivors who have not been compensated from insurance or other sources. Eligible uses of the funds include the following:

- Repair or replacement of primary homes
- Repair or replacement of personal property
- Loss of livelihood
- Temporary housing needs
- Health-related issues
- Other compelling needs

Note that these groups are primarily focused on humanitarian needs, not debris cleanup, road repairs, or erosion control.

You’ll be assigned a case worker who will help identify resources for your situation. Larimer County residents should call 970-461-2222 to schedule an appointment at the Loveland location, or 970-577-0610 in Estes Park. Boulder County residents should call 303-895-3429 or email floodrecovery@unitedwayfoothills.org. Boulder County also has a number of walk-in centers. Residents of Weld County can call Weld Recover’s Case Management at 970-590-8401 or, for assistance in finding recovery help, 970-353-8808 or toll free 800-559-5590. These groups are being hosted and staffed by other non-profits. When you call, simply ask for “Long-Term Recovery,” and they’ll put you through to the right people.

We’ll keep emails to a minimum. Expect one next week with an update/report on the progress made in the two weeks since the committees began their work, then a general update every few weeks. Occasionally, we may send out a specific news item or request.