



**Press Release – For Immediate Release – November 18, 2014**

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**Lower Township Council Prepares to Enhance Shoreline  
Applies for Post-Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant**

Lower Township Council unanimously voted to apply for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program which could bring \$250,000 in federal funds to pay for projects that restore ecological systems and protect communities.

On behalf of the Department of the Interior, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program which supports projects that reduce community's vulnerability to the growing risks from coastal storms, sea level rise, flooding, erosion and associated threats through strengthening natural ecosystems that also benefit fish and wildlife.

The Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program will award more than \$100 million in grants throughout the region affected by Hurricane Sandy. Grants will be awarded to projects that assess, restore, enhance or create wetlands, beaches and other natural systems to help better protect communities and to mitigate the impacts of future storms and naturally occurring events on fish and wildlife species and habitats.

In Lower Township, \$250,000 in grant funds would go toward enhancing the various existing flood protection measures, including dunes, bulkheads and vegetation. The project would also provide additional ecological-sound measures to provide more flood protection and habitat restoration for native species, such as piping plovers, red knots and horseshoe crabs. That work may include beach-fill and dune creation.

Additionally, a portion of the work in the salt marshes in Cox Hall Creek and Fishing Creek will pick up where the 2003 county grant ended. Working off the information and infrastructure improvements from that past project, this new grant would provide for the outfall structures in Cox Hall Creek and Fishing Creek to be evaluated and enhanced to make sure they can accommodate an increased tidal flow. That work on the tide gate structure will also restore the salt marsh habitat.

The scope of the project would stretch for over five-miles of coastline from the Cape May Lewes Ferry Terminal to Fishing Creek. The project would also extend inland for two miles to include various tributaries to the Delaware Bay and encompass approximately 2,800 acres.

The Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant is scheduled to be awarded in March 2015.

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