

**Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds**  
**Small Cities Development Program**  
**State of Minnesota**

**July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

County of Mille Lacs  
Roger Tellinghuisen, County Board Chairman  
635 2<sup>nd</sup> St. SE  
Milaca, MN 56353

Central MN Housing Partnership, Inc.  
Program Administrator  
Ed Zimny  
320-258- 0673

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS: On or about August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the County of Mille Lacs will request the Business and Community Development Division, Small Cities Development Program, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), to release federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 98-181) for the following project:

County of Mille Lacs Comprehensive rehab project will take place in the Cities of Isle and Wahkon, Census Tract 9701. The target area for the rehab projects is not located in the 100 year floodplain. See attached target area maps.

The following is a breakdown of activities and the cost of the project.

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Small Cities Funds</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Owner Occupied Rehab	\$195,000	\$226,000
Commercial Rehab	\$160,000	\$200,000
Administration	\$46,850	\$46,850
Total:	\$401,850	\$472,850

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act Requirements because the target area for the rehabilitation proposed is not in or near a 100 year floodplain. An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting this project has been made by the County of Mille Lacs that documents the environmental review of the project. This ERR is on file at the address above as well as the Isle & Wahkon City Halls and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, on weekdays: Mille Lacs county & Isle City Hall 8 to 4:30, Wahkon City Hall 9 to 1.

In accordance with 24 CFR Part 58.15, a tiered review process has been structured for the rehabilitation, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be complied with, when participating properties have been identified and projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target areas have been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been established: wetland protection, sole source aquifers, endangered species, wild and scenic rivers, coastal zone management, air quality, airport runway clear zone requirements, floodplains and environmental justice.

In addition, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, comments on the identification and treatment of historic properties in the project area are welcome.

Compliance with the following laws and authorities will take place once properties within the target area have been identified, but prior to the commitment of funds: historic properties, floodplain management/Flood Disaster Protection Act requirements and HUD environmental standards for hazards. Compliance documentation on the aforementioned laws and authorities will be in each individual property file, and copies will be available, once established, at the Central MN Housing Partnership, Inc.

Submission procedures will be followed for the MNSHPO and interested Tribes when applicable. The Rehabilitation of any historic properties will be done under the direction of MNSHPO.

The Target area is not located in the 100 year flood plain or a wetland.

Individual rehabilitation projects will be evaluated for hazardous material according to the MNPCA.

There will be no impact on any river designated as a Wild & Scenic waterway.

There will be no impact on any Sole Source aquifer.

There will be no impact on any coastal boundary.

If it is discovered that the Northern Long Eared Bat or the Gray Wolf, two species on the "Threatened" list by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service, is to be habituating in a building to be rehabbed, then the project will proceed under the direction of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife service.

### **Public Comments on Request to Release Funds**

Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Mille Lacs County Courthouse. All comments received by August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 will be considered by the County of Mille Lacs prior to submission of a Request for Release of Funds.

The County of Mille Lacs will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from DEED, under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of Mille Lacs is certifying to DEED that the County of Mille Lacs and Roger Tellinghuisen, in his official capacity as County Board Chairman, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that with approval, the County of Mille Lacs may use the Block Grant funds, and DEED and HUD will have satisfied their responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

### **Objections to Release of Funds**

BCD will accept objections to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification for a period of eighteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only for one of the following reasons: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the Chief Executive Officer or other officer of the grantee approved by BCD; (b) that the grantee's ERR for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient has incurred costs not authorized at 24 CFR Part 58.22 before approval of a release of funds by BCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 24 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to Small Cities Development Program, MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, Business and Community Development Division, 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200, St. Paul, MN 55101-1351. Potential objectors should contact DEED at 651-296-7057 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Roger Tellinghuisen, County Board Chairman  
County of Mille Lacs



State Highway 27

6th St

Hennepin Ave N

4th St

3rd St

3rd St

Wahkon

1st St W

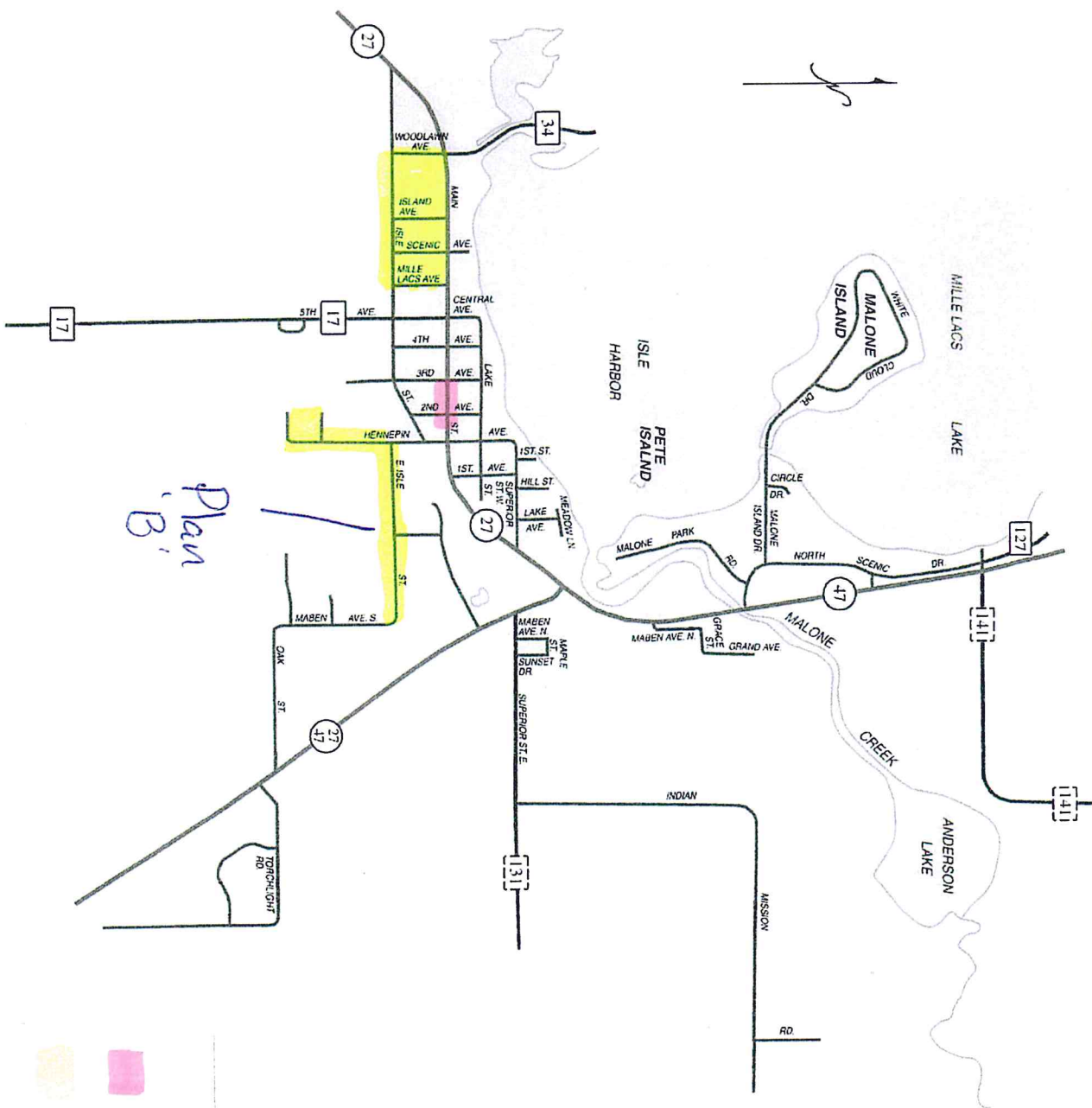
1st St W

Summit Ave

State Highway 27

**City of Wahkon  
Owner Occupied Target Area**

# City of ISLE



- = Commercial Slum & Blight
- = Owner Occupied