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PRESS RELEASE

03/07/2007

**Conewago Municipal Authority Issues Notice to Proceed with
Construction for Phase II Sanitary Sewer Facilities**

*More than 350 residents, 15 businesses, and the Conewago Elementary
School will connect to the public sewer system upon completion*

CONEWAGO TOWNSHIP - Conewago Municipal Authority (CMA) Chairman, Mr. Greg Hill, announced that construction of the Phase II wastewater collection facilities was authorized on March 1, 2007. Mazzuca Enterprises of Pottsville PA was the low bidder on the project with a construction bid of \$3,578,853. The area to be served by this project is the Route 743 corridor beginning near the intersection of Route 743 and Old Hershey Road and ending in the vicinity of the Conewago Elementary School. The project area will also include properties located along Old Hershey Road and portions of Ridge and Roundtop Roads. It is anticipated that the system will be available for connections in approximately one year. The official Notice to Proceed with construction was issued after final settlement of the financing for the project provided by The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST).

PENNVEST awarded CMA a financial assistance package totaling \$5,210,138 for sanitary sewer improvements. The financing package consists of a \$4,591,356 loan and a \$618,782 grant. The loan is repayable over 25 years with an interest rate of 1% per annum. Representative John Payne recommended the project to PENNVEST, on behalf of the Authority, in order to help eliminate some of the environmental concerns associated with on-lot wastewater disposal and to help keep the annual cost of sewer service reasonable for the estimated 150 homes and 15 businesses that will be served by the project. The Lower Dauphin School District's Conewago Elementary School will also be served by the project. In addition to construction, related costs for engineering, wastewater treatment capacity, interest, and contingencies were also funded by PENNVEST.

It is anticipated that homeowners connecting to the system will pay a one-time fee of \$6,000.00 and a monthly user fee. The rates for service will be the same as those charged in the Township's Phase I service area and those charged by the Derry Township Municipal Authority (DTMA) for service within Derry Township. The current fee is \$33.00 per month for a single-family home, but may be higher by the time the system is completed if DTMA increases its rates. Non-residential users will receive a monthly bill that includes a flat charge and a charge based on the volume of water they consumed. Properties that are required to install a grinder pump in order to connect to the system

will receive a payment to help offset the higher cost for the pump. This payment is expected to be the same as Phase I, \$4,400.00.

Wastewater treatment service will be provided by DTMA, who will also serve as the manager of the system for CMA under the terms of a service agreement negotiated between the two authorities. Chairman Hill believes that the long-term service agreement was an important element in the project since it provides long-term rate stability for users of the system and a common set of rules and regulations throughout the entire region. “DTMA is a large, well run and professionally managed utility that has the experience and expertise to properly maintain the CMA system and ensure compliance with all the environmental laws and regulations,” according to Hill.

The project includes the construction of approximately 23,775 linear feet of new sewer line to connect properties with failing on-lot septic systems to the public treatment system. All properties for which the principal dwelling is located within 150 feet of the sewer will be required to connect to the system in accordance with the Township’s ordinance. The collected wastewater will be conveyed and treated at DTMA’s wastewater treatment facility.

The project is required by Conewago Township’s approved Act 537 Official Sewage Facilities Plan which includes an implementation schedule and enforceable deadlines mandated by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. This project will:

- Improve the area’s water quality by eliminating malfunctioning on-lot systems. Approximately 42% of the on-lot disposal systems had malfunctions. Another 58 units were classified as potential malfunctions. Of the 171 dwelling units, approximately 130 are classified with some type of malfunction that will be eliminated by the project.
- Improve the drinking water for residents as 36% of the water samples tested positive for some type of pollution some of which is related to the malfunctioning on-lot disposal system.
- Reduce the amount of nutrients and bacteria entering Hoffer Creek, a tributary of Conewago Creek. In 1998, DEP listed Hoffer Creek as an impaired stream due to excess nutrients, siltation, and habitat alternatives, and developed a Total Maximum Daily Load Plan for the Conewago Creek Watershed.
- Serve the Conewago Elementary School which is currently served by an on-lot disposal system. The availability of the public sewers will allow the school to expand to meet the needs of the existing population. Currently, some Conewago Elementary School students are being bused to Londonderry Elementary School. By providing public sewerage service to the School, the on-lot disposal system will be removed, enabling the building to be expanded allowing students to attend the neighborhood school.

- Serve the majority of businesses in Conewago Township especially those along PA Route 743.

“This project was an ambitious undertaking for the Authority,” noted Hill. There were many steps that had to be taken in order to size the system properly for both current users and some additional development that is likely to occur over the next twenty years and to make it affordable. These were the key elements that had to be addressed in addition to meeting all the requirements imposed by DEP in order to meet the environmental goals.

The project would not have been possible without the dedication and support of the Conewago Board of Supervisors, according to Hill. They have guided the Authority through the entire process and provided the necessary financial support until the Authority could obtain its own permanent financing for the project. Hill also added, “The engineering firm of Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc. (HRG) has assisted the Authority with project planning, design reviews, and project financing, including preparation of the financial assistance application to PENNVEST.”

CMA members are: Mr. Greg Hill, Chairman; Mr. John Rochat, Vice Chairman; Mr. Galen Shelly, Secretary; Mr. Ralph Luttrell, Treasurer; and Mr. Norman Miller, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

For further information, please contact Ms. Kim Bloom of DTMA at (717) 566-3237 x 301.

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