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**NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF  
ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Emergency Communications/Emergency Management

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**ULSTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE MIKE HEIN TO HOLD A PUBLIC  
INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON THE CATSKILL FLOOD REMEDIATION  
PROGRAM**

**KINGSTON, N.Y.** – Ulster County Executive Mike Hein will hold a public informational meeting regarding the Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program in the Town of Wawarsing Courtroom on the second floor of the Wawarsing Town Hall, located at 108 Canal Street in Ellenville, New York on October 20, 2011 at 5:30 PM. The meeting will pertain to the County’s facilitation of the Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program. The meeting will consist of an overview of the program’s guidelines followed by a brief period for questions and answers.

“The people of Wawarsing have suffered for far too long and it is my great hope that the Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program will bring forth much needed relief,” said County Executive Hein. “This meeting is intended to inform the impacted residents about the important programmatic details necessary to move forward. As we move forward in this process there may be other funding available through other agencies. Ulster County will move as quickly as these other partners will allow.”

Senator John Bonacic, the sponsor of the legislation that authorized the Greater Catskill Flood Remediation Program said, “I was pleased to secure the funding to make this program a reality. I appreciate Ulster County’s stepping up to administer the program. County Executive Hein and I will keep pushing to hold New York City accountable. I know neither he nor I will be satisfied until the City starts writing checks to the people of Wawarsing, who the city has treated with such utter indifference for far too long.”

Applications are now being accepted for the Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program. This is a program funded by New York State, with eligibility criteria established by New York State. The intent of this program as stated in the enabling legislation is to purchase homes within two miles of a New York City aqueduct. Priority is to be given to homes within Wawarsing that

have been subject to ground water seepage. Ulster County will be administering the program on behalf of the state, using the criteria established by the state.

General program guidance includes the following:

- The home must be a single or two-family residence.
- If the home is still habitable, the owner must reside in the house.
- The home must be the owner's primary, legal residence.
- The combined family income must not exceed 150% of the area median income.
- The owner must agree to satisfy all debt associated with the home at closing.
- The value of home must not be greater than \$250,000.
- There must not be any title issues that cannot be resolved.

It is important to note that at some point there *may* be other funding sources in addition to the State program. Therefore, residents are encouraged to submit an application even if they believe the value of their home exceeds \$250,000, or if they earn more than 150% of the area median income. If another funding source becomes available, residents will be made aware of any benefits or specific guidance for that program.

All applications must be signed before a notary public and returned to the attention Arthur Snyder by October 28, 2011.

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