

Beaver County Times

Sunday October 24, 2010

Communities get grant for brownfield remediation

By: Larissa Theodore
Beaver County Times

MONACA — A \$175,000 federal grant will be used by four communities to develop plans for cleaning up and reclaiming former industrial sites.

Monaca officials applied for the grant, which will also be used by Midland, Aliquippa and Coraopolis to target so-called “brownfield” areas along the Ohio River.

Monaca Manager Mario Leone Jr. said the grant is one of 23 community grants totaling \$4 million awarded nationwide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The pilot “community brownfields” program is designed to help communities identify the steps necessary to clean up sites and find potential uses for the properties.

The local grant, the only one awarded in the state, will help pay for consultants and other expenses.

Leone said the borough’s previous work in partnering with the Ohio River Trail Council led to the awarding of the EPA grant for the four-community partnership.

Leone said that although he applied for the funding, he never counted on getting it. His intent was to get the local communities on the EPA’s radar so they could eventually see a grant in the future.

“I’m really, really proud that we were able to get this, as challenging as it was,” Leone said. “We were really taking a stab in the dark on this thing.”