



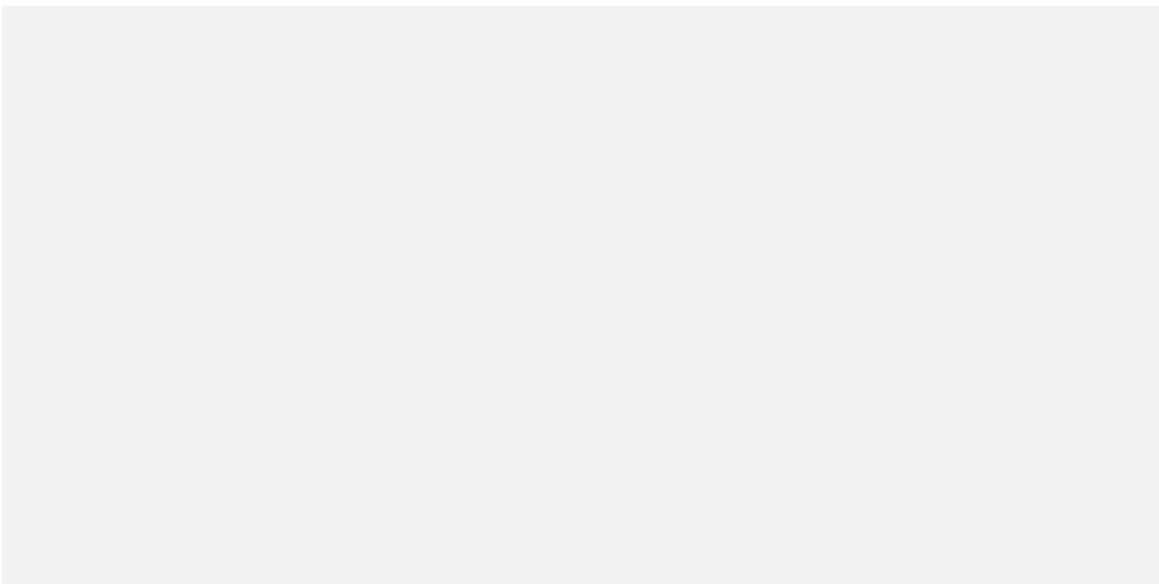
**Publicity Events
Booklet
2008**

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ALASKA

(Threshold Services Inc – Kodiak Island)



Kodiak recycling center receives grant, loan to purchase building

Article published on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008

By MISTY MAYNARD

Mirror Writer

Today is Earth Day and to celebrate U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced 48 communities in 30 states have been selected to receive more than \$164 million in loans and grants to pay for infrastructure improvements to help the environment.

Threshold Recycling in Kodiak will receive a \$348,000 low-interest loan and a \$41,750 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to purchase and renovate the building it now occupies.

"Earth Day is a great time to make these loans and grants that will help finance much-needed improvements to water, sewer and infrastructure systems," Schafer said. "Strategic investments such as the ones announced today also help improve the economy and quality of life in our rural communities."

Carol Tracy, a member of the board of directors at Threshold, said purchasing the building allows Threshold to expand its business.

Tracy said there are numerous upgrades planned for the building, including to the roofing and electrical system.

Rick Pillans, plant manager for Threshold Recycling, said the funding is something the organization has sought for years. In the past, Threshold moved from place to place and the purchase demonstrates Threshold's commitment to the community, Pillans said.

Threshold provides jobs and job training opportunities for Kodiak residents with physical and developmental disabilities, and Pillans said buying the building will provide a stable work place for those employees.

"This is a huge recognition from a major lending institution," Pillans said of the funding award. "I want to thank everybody for getting us to this point."

Mirror writer Misty Maynard can be reached via e-mail at mmaynard@kodiakdailymirror.com.

ALABAMA

(Town of Somerville)

AL - Somerville receives check for \$3.7 million for sewer

By Ronnie Thomas
Staff Writer

SOMERVILLE — The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development used the 38th anniversary of Earth Day to make Somerville's day.

Beverly Helton, assistant to the state director for the agency, gave the town a check for \$3.7 million Tuesday for Phase 1 of Somerville's sewer system. She said the check represents a \$2.7 million grant and a \$1 million loan.

Mayor Ray Long said the town qualified for 75 percent of the total cost of the project and got 73 percent.

"We're excited about that," he said. "Most folks don't get what they qualify for, but we came really close. It's a blessing for us."

Long said the town has a 40-year-loan with Rural Development for the \$1 million at a 4.3 percent interest.

"This is great for our town," the mayor said of the sewer system, which he began pursuing when he took office in October 2004. "We've really needed it for many years. The town just couldn't afford the cost of installing one. Now we can."

The stretch of pipe for Phase 1 will extend from Sharp Road in Somerville, about a mile and a half east of the caution light at Alabama 67 and Alabama 36, to Priceville.

Priceville agreed to treat Somerville's sewage in November 2006. The 8-inch force main line will connect to a 15-inch line at the bottom of Priceville Mountain that serves Cove Creek Crossing and Churchill Downs subdivisions.

"We're requesting that the line run down the north side of Alabama 67 because our pumping stations will be on that side of the road," Long said.

Larry Whitley, president of Ladd Environmental Consultants Inc. of Fort Payne, said the project will involve a total of 15.4 miles of pipe. He said that construction should begin in six to nine months.

Long said Phase 1 will cover about 262 potential customers and about 30 potential non-residential customers, including churches and businesses. Connect for free

"Everyone who lives within town limits are required to hook on," Long said. "Other residents may choose to connect if the sewer runs in front of their house. I don't know

why they wouldn't (connect) because for this phase, it's a free hookup. You get it for free now or pay later. For later extensions, the customers will pay a tap fee."

Long said residents will be able to do away with old septic tanks and field lines, which he said are always in need of work.

Somerville already has a \$384,000 loan that U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Tuscaloosa, secured from the Environmental Protection Agency for Phase 2. That project will go from Sharp Road east to Alabama 67 and Alabama 36.

"There are 52 residences that could be served in that project and 12 non-residential customers," Long said.

Priceville Mayor Melvin Duran, who also serves as sewer superintendent, said, "We're just glad to be a part of this. I think it's a good decision by our Sewer Board and our Town Council that we've decided to partner with Somerville."

Duran said the partnership will lessen the environmental impact on the area. "We will not have two separate treatment plants and two separate discharges into the Tennessee River," he said. "It's just a whole lot better for everyone concerned."

Helton said Somerville is one of 48 communities in 30 states the U.S. Department of Agriculture assisted to mark Earth Day. She said Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced the total package at more than \$185 million in loans and grants.

"While riding around town with Mayor Long, he spoke about going door-to-door encouraging residents to sign up and be a user of the system, and showing me the boundaries," she said. "They don't just run in a straight line. It shows how much he knows about his community."

Helton said that to adequately utilize a \$2.7 million grant there first must be a plan. "Then you need good leadership and community support," she said. "I commend you for all of that."

About 50 people attended the presentation ceremony on the lawn of the Old Somerville Courthouse. Among them were representatives of Shelby, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Mobile, and Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Haleyville. Kindergartners from Somerville Baptist Church planted a patio peach tree to commemorate Earth Day.

COLORADO

(City of Brush)



DELAWARE

(Town of Millsboro)

DE Officials Announce Nearly \$15 Million In Upgrades To WWTP

By JACOB VERDIS -- WMDT 4/22/2008

Monday, Delaware officials announced nearly 15-million dollars in upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant that's under construction in Millsboro. The upgrades will double the sewage capacity for the growing town and provide for a much cleaner discharge from the plant into the Indian River.

Senator Tom Carper says, "When the water comes out of this wastewater treatment plant when this work is done, it's basically clean enough to drink. I don't know that people will be lining up to drink it, but it is basically clean enough to drink."

Officials say they expect the new wastewater plant to be up-and-running by the end of 2009.

KENTUCKY

(City of Owingsville)



Photo by Jeff Hoots

Those present at the presentation of the check for the Owingsville water expansion projects were from left: Holly Hopkins from Jim Bunnings office, Jackie Gleason Assistant to the Under Secretary of the USDA Rural Development, Owingsville Mayor Don Kincaid, Kenneth Slone the State Director from USDA Rural Development, Bath County Judge-Excutive Carolyn Belcher, Representative Sannie Overly, Adam Howard for Mitch McConnell office, and Pat Wooten from Hal Rogers office.

LOUISIANA

**(Jefferson Davis Parish Waterworks District
#4,
Magnolia Plantation Water System, Inc.,
Lake Arthur)**

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Jennings Daily News

Jennings, LA

Daily (ex. Mon/Sat)
(Diy 5,875)

April 20, 2008

L.A. chosen to host Earth Day Celebration

■ By SHEILA SMITH
Daily News Staff Writer

44

LAKE ARTHUR – One Jeff Davis Parish town was chosen as the setting for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Earth Day Celebration, an event designed to announce funding for upcoming projects while discussing what residents can do to keep Mother Nature healthy.

Lake Arthur Mayor E.R. "Red" Giles said Friday that he was honored to learn recently that his town had been chosen to host the Earth Day event.

"Out of all the towns in Southwest Louisiana, ours is

the one the USDA chose," Giles said. "Officials with USDA came to Lake Arthur, and when they reached our park and looked out on the water, they said they didn't need to go any further."

The Earth Day Celebration will be held Tuesday, April 22, at 10 a.m. at the Lake Arthur Town Park. There, USDA officials will discuss the \$5.5 million in funding for drinking water and waste water projects for area communities while announcing a sign-up period for a new wildlife enhancement program, State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). Giles said he and other local and state officials will be speaking, as well.

"We'll basically be discussing what we can do to protect our environment," the mayor said. "And that's something important to our town, because our outdoor attractions are what make Lake Arthur so unique."

Giles added that USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde C. Holloway will donate and plant a tree in the town's park.

According to a USDA press release, the agency's goal is to conserve and sustain Earth's natural resources while improving the quality of life in rural communities. Each year on Earth Day, USDA celebrates by introducing new programs, projects and initiatives that improve the environment and help rural residents.



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Jennings Daily News

Jennings, LA

Daily (ex. Mon/Sat)
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April 23, 2008



Daily News photo by Scott Lewis

USDA Rural Development Director Clyde Holloway (far left) presented a check for \$1,166,000 to members of Jeff Davis Parish Waterworks District No.4 on Tuesday.

EARTH: *from Page 1*

worried we wouldn't be able to get water to that area over the next few years with all the growth."

Sarver, Davis, Waterworks board member Curtis Welch, Police Jury President Donald Woods and members of the parish's engineering firm, Aucoin and Associates, were all on hand to receive the check from USDA Rural Development State Director Clyde Holloway and USDA Farm Service Agency State Executive Director Willie Cooper.

"We can do without a lot of things, but we can't do without clean drinking water," said Holloway during the ceremony.

USDA officials also presented the Magnolia Plantation Water System in Vermilion Parish with over \$3 million in direct loan funds for their water plant. The town of Melville in St.

Landry Parish received over \$1.19 million in loans and \$172,985 in grant money to renovate their waste water facility and to extend services to another 35 homes.

In addition to money, Holloway and the USDA also donated two crabapple trees, which were planted in the Lake Arthur Park after the ceremony. As a nursery owner, Holloway said he understands Earth Day's mission very well.

State Conservationist for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Kevin Norton said history proves that taking care of the land is not only the right thing to do, but is beneficial to society.

"If you look at history, the one thing you can determine is that those nations that fail to take care of their resources do not survive."

Welsh Citizen

Welsh, LA

Weekly (Tue)
Circ. 2,500

April 29, 2008



WELSH CITIZEN / Bengt Lindell

THANK YOU: Red Giles (right), mayor of Lake Arthur receives a plaque from Clyde Holloway, state director of USDA Rural Development, expressing the appreciation of hosting an Earth Day celebration in that town.

USDA celebrates Earth Day in Lake Arthur

LAKE ARTHUR - Earth Day is celebrated around the world as a day to promote awareness of environmental issues. In Louisiana, USDA officials recognized Earth Day by announcing key environmental projects that will impact area residents.

Willie F. Cooper, State Executive Director for USDA Farm Service Agency, announced a sign-up period for a new wildlife enhancement program - State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE). The sign-up is scheduled to begin May 5, 2008.

"SAFE is designed to restore native grassland and shallow water habitats in selected regions around the United States," said Cooper. "In Louisiana, agricultural owners and operators in eight southwestern Louisiana parishes may be eligible to sign-up for this program."

Clyde C. Holloway, State Director for USDA Rural Development, announced fund-

ing for three environmentally-important projects:

- Jefferson Davis Parish Waterworks District 4 (Jefferson Davis Parish) - Over \$1.1 million in USDA Rural Development direct loan funds will be used to renovate and expand the water system.

- Magnolia Plantation Water System, Inc. (Vermilion Parish) - Over \$3 million in USDA Rural Development direct loan funds will be used to upgrade the water treatment facility and water distribution system.

- Town of Melville (St. Landry Parish) - Over \$1.1 million in USDA Rural Development direct loan funds and \$172,985 in USDA Rural Development grant funds will be used to renovate Melville's waste water system and extend sewer service to an additional 35 homes.

"Very few things are more important to a community than clean, safe drinking water or a safe waste water disposal system," said Holloway. "Rural

Development works with rural communities to make sure residents have access to these basic necessities."

Kevin Norton, State Conservationist for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), joined Cooper and Holloway to celebrate Earth Day.

"NRCS's mission is to help people help the land," said Norton. "We help people every day care for the Earth; so, I guess you could say that every day is Earth Day for us."

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve soil, water, and other natural resources. NRCS provides technical assistance based on sound science and suited to each customer's specific needs. NRCS also provides financial assistance for many conservation activities.

MARYLAND

**(Town of Boonsboro,
Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, Inc)**

Boonsboro, Fahrney-Keedy get \$9.2 million loan for wastewater plant upgrade

By DAN DEARTH (dan.dearth@herald-mail.com)



Marlene Elliott Brown, state director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, listens to Boonsboro Mayor Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman Jr. during a wastewater funding announcement held Monday at Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home Inc. *(Ric Dugan/Staff Photographer)*



Marlene Elliott Brown, state director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, listens to U.S. Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-Md. during a wastewater funding announcement held Monday at Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home Inc. *(Ric Dugan/Staff Photographer)*



Boonsboro Councilwoman Natalie Mose jokingly takes a ceremonial check away from Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home Inc. CEO Jay Shell after a wastewater funding announcement Monday by the USDA. *(Ric Dugan/Staff Photographer)*

U.S. Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-Md., talks about a multimillion dollar loan that the Town of Boonsboro and Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home officials received on Monday to help pay for improvements to their wastewater treatment facilities. *(Dan Dearth/Reporter)*

BOONSBORO - Federal officials are loaning the Town of Boonsboro and Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home Inc. more than \$8 million to help upgrade their wastewater treatment facilities.

On Monday, Marlene Elliott Brown, state director of rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, presented a check to Boonsboro and Fahrney-Keedy officials for \$9.32 million.

Among the other dignitaries at the ceremony on the Fahrney-Keedy grounds were U.S. Rep. Roscoe G. Bartlett, R-Md., and representatives from the offices of U.S. Sens. Barbara A. Mikulski and Benjamin L. Cardin, both D-Md.

Boonsboro received a \$5.9 million low-interest loan, which is payable over 40 years, and a \$1 million grant to help pay the \$12.5 million cost of replacing the town's wastewater lagoon, said Debra Smith, town manager.

The remaining cost of the project will be paid for using \$4.6 million in state aid and \$1 million from local funds, according to the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Fahrney-Keedy received a \$2.3 million loan to upgrade the wastewater facilities there.

Jay Shell, president and CEO of Fahrney-Keedy, said the nursing home applied for the loan about 18 months ago so the facility's wastewater system could be upgraded to meet environmental standards.

Shell said he was pleased after hearing Fahrney-Keedy received the loan.

"We certainly didn't have that money in the bank," he said.

Boonsboro Mayor Charles F. "Skip" Kauffman Jr. said he was relieved when he learned the town had received the loan and grant. Without federal assistance, Boonsboro, a town of about 3,000 residents, could not afford to upgrade its wastewater treatment system, he said.

"Trust me, it will be put to good use," Kauffman said. "We'll be spending it as soon as we get it."

Kauffman said he hoped tax revenue from future developments would pay off a majority of the loan.

Bartlett said the primary benefactor of the wastewater projects in Boonsboro would be the Chesapeake Bay.

"The effluent from our wastewater treatment here goes into our streams and eventually flows into the bay ...," he said. "I'm really pleased we're helping the environment. I'm doubly pleased our tax dollars are coming home."

MAINE
(City of Ellsworth)

City Secures Funding for New Wastewater Treatment Plant

Written by Jennifer Osborn

Tuesday, April 22, 2008



ELLSWORTH — The city will begin work to construct a new wastewater treatment plant next month thanks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which awarded the city \$10 million in funding Tuesday at the Union River Harbor park.

"It's a very exciting day for us," said City Manager Michelle Beal. The city has been working on securing funds for nearly four years, she said.

USDA Rural Development State Director Michael Aube said the funding includes a \$6 million loan and a \$4 million grant.

A new plant is one requirement in a consent agreement the city authorized with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

A significant violation has been an illegal bypass at the city's wastewater treatment plant, which has been sending untreated wastewater into the Union River during heavy rain events.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources has closed the Union River Bay to shellfish harvesting intermittently over the last several years due to high levels of fecal coliform.

The problems in the Union River have affected other communities, including the town of Surry.

Beal thanked, among several people, the citizens of Hancock County who raised concerns about the river and asked questions about the process the city's process in building a new plant.

The projected cost of the new plant is \$14 million. Beal noted at a City Council meeting last winter that the estimate is three years old and costs for fuel and building materials have since risen.

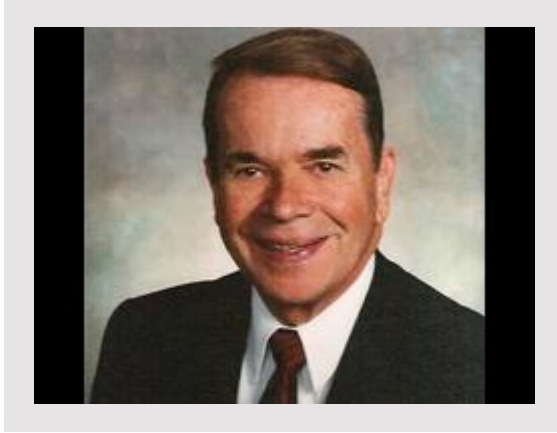
The city intends to build the new plant on a site off the Bayside Road.

MICHIGAN

**(Buena Vista Township,
Pinconning Township)**

Kildee announces funds to repair Buena Vista sewers

USDA Approves \$9 Million Loan



Posted: Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 4:52 p.m.

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Dale E. Kildee (D-MI) announced today that Buena Vista Township would be receiving a \$9 million loan to fund a survey and the rehabilitation of Buena Vista's inundated sewer system. The loan, approved by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development office, will fund the total project cost of a sewer evaluation program, a flow monitoring program and sub catchments rehabilitation.

"Buena Vista is in great need of sewer modernization. The current system was never meant to accommodate the volume that is struggles to manage today," said Kildee.

Excessive storm water flows caused by wet weather events have overwhelmed the system in the past. Flow exceeding the basin's storage capacity results in the release of untreated wastewater into the Saginaw River.

The sanitary sewer system in Buena Vista is aged and in disrepair. Cracked and leaking pipes, designed to handle sanitary sewage alone, now admit both groundwater and storm water as well, increasing the volume and flow. The program will locate and evaluate sources of groundwater and storm water entering the system. After the initial evaluations are completed, four sub catchments will be rehabilitated. The sanitary sewer system will serve 2,349 residential users and 177 commercial users.

"Sewage overflows pose a substantial challenge not only to the healthy environment of Buena Vista, but also to the health of its citizens," said Kildee.

Feds pipe money to Pinconning Township for sewer project

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

By **TOM GILCHRIST**

tgilchrist@bc-times.com | 894-9649

The federal government will help Pinconning Township pay \$2.5 million for the township's first residential sewer lines. Reg Huebner will pull out his checkbook, too.

"We need this and we've needed it for a long time," said Huebner, 78, who lives with his wife, Carol, along Center Drive in the Garden Acres subdivision.

"If teachers or other professional people move to the area and look for a home, they want water and sewer lines," Reg Huebner said.

So do entrepreneurs looking to develop businesses, said Sharon M. Stalsberg, supervisor of Pinconning Township, population 2,546.

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials visited the township Tuesday to announce that they've given Pinconning Township \$1.85 million in loans and \$645,000 in grant money for the project.

Stalsberg estimated construction will begin in August.

New sewer lines will serve several businesses and about 88 homes, including those in Garden Acres, Fenton and Riverside Meadows subdivisions.

"The residents want to have the sewer lines extended, and this will be the first sanitary sewer service for any residents in the township," Stalsberg said.

The project calls for expansion and renovation of a system of lagoons serving a McDonald's restaurant and The Cheese House diner and bowling alley near the Interstate 75 and Pinconning Road intersection.

The project includes a pumping station, and will

run sewer lines from Seven Mile Road on the west to the area of Center Drive, near the city of Pinconning, on the east.

Sewage from the subdivisions will get pumped to the lagoons for treatment.

"Most of our neighbors want the project," Carol Huebner said.

Reg Huebner figures it will cost the couple about \$15,000 for improvements allowing them to hook into the new township sewer system.

"We've had to replace our septic system once and the people across the street, too, have had problems with their septic systems," added Reg Huebner.

Some township residents, though, don't plan to pay for the sewer-line extension to their homes.

David Moenaert, who lives along Suburban Street in the Fenton subdivision, said residents along his street opted out of the project.

"Everybody else on my street had good septic systems except me, and I just had mine installed, so it should be good for 30 years," Moenaert said.

MINNESOTA

**(Blomkest-Svea Sewer Project,
City of Odessa)**

National USDA Official Visits Blomkest for Earth Day Celebration and Check Presentation

\$1,863,000 Rural Development loan and grant combination will help build new wastewater treatment system

BLOMKEST, Minn., April 22 – The city of Blomkest and community of Svea will soon be up to pollution control standards thanks to a little help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program.

Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator of Rural Development’s Utilities Programs in Washington D.C., visited Blomkest today to award a \$1,011,000 low-interest loan and \$852,000 grant to help the two communities build a centralized sanitary sewer collection and treatment system. The event was part of Rural Development’s annual Earth Day celebration, where national officials visit rural communities that have been proactive in working toward a cleaner planet.

“This is my second visit to Minnesota to celebrate Earth Day and projects like this make me want to return again next year,” Anderson said. “These are two communities that teamed up to address a serious problem. The result is a healthier planet and better infrastructure for residents. We need to encourage these types of partnerships throughout rural America.”

Blomkest and Svea, a community in Whitefield Township, formed a joint powers board to address the wastewater treatment issue. Residents currently have individual septic systems which are not up to requirements. The new system will feature two lift stations, two grinder stations and a pond-based treatment system. The project will take 25,000 feet of six-inch force main pipe, 13,850 feet of 8-inch sewer pipe and a 20-acre pond.

The total cost of the project is estimated at over \$3.3 million. Other funding sources include over \$1 million in grants from the State of Minnesota’s Wastewater Infrastructure Fund and a \$400,000 Small Cities Development Block Grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The new system will serve 757 residents.

“Strong infrastructure means a cleaner environment and improved quality of life,” said Steve Wenzel, State Director of Rural Development in Minnesota. “At USDA Rural Development, we carry out President Bush’s vision of a strong rural America. Strong partnerships make achieving that vision easier. We partnered with state agencies to secure financing and Blomkest and Svea partnered to best meet the needs of their residents.”

USDA Rural Development has invested over \$3.5 billion throughout rural Minnesota since 2001. Financing is available for housing, healthcare, emergency response, renewable energy, telecommunications and other infrastructure and economic development projects.

For more information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn, or call the local office in Willmar at (320) 235-5612, ext. 4.

National USDA Official Visits Odessa for Earth Day Celebration and Check Presentation

\$811,500 Rural Development loan and grant combination will help upgrade wastewater treatment system

ODESSA, Minn., April 22 – The clay sanitary sewer tiles in Odessa’s wastewater treatment system were performing poorly and causing maximum daily flows to exceed permit limitations. It was time for a new system and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development program stepped in to help make it happen.

Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator of Rural Development’s Utilities Programs in Washington D.C., visited Odessa today to award a \$558,500 grant and \$223,000 low-interest loan to help the city replace the current tile system with sealed PVC pipe and build two new lift stations. The event was part of Rural Development’s annual Earth Day celebration, where national officials visit rural communities that have been proactive in working toward a cleaner planet.

“It’s partnerships like these that contribute to a cleaner planet,” Anderson said. “Several organizations came together here to help Odessa address a serious problem. The result will be a modern system that not only is environmentally friendly, but also goes a long way toward improving the area’s quality of life and economic outlook.”

The project will cost about \$1.4 million with other financing provided by a \$588,500 grant from the State of Minnesota’s Wastewater Infrastructure Fund.

The new system will have 10,330 feet of eight-inch sanitary sewer pipe, 2,850 feet of six-inch force main pipe and two lift stations. It will serve 113 residents, meet permit requirements and eliminate the infiltration and inflows that plagued the old system.

“Odessa deserves credit for being proactive and contributing to a healthier planet” said Steve Wenzel, State Director of Rural Development in Minnesota. “At USDA Rural Development, we carry out President Bush’s vision of a strong rural America. One way to help the President’s vision become reality is to invest in infrastructure and that is exactly what we do at Rural Development.”

USDA Rural Development has invested over \$3.5 billion throughout rural Minnesota since 2001. Financing is available for housing, healthcare, emergency response, renewable energy, telecommunications and other infrastructure and economic development projects.

For more information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn, or call the local office in Willmar at (320) 235-5612, ext. 4.



MEMBERS OF THE ODESSA CITY COUNCIL proudly accept a check from the USDA Rural Development for \$811,500 to upgrade the city's wastewater collection system. The presentation was made on Earth Day, Tuesday, Apr. 22 at the Odessa City Hall. Pictured above from left to right are Curtis Anderson-Deputy Administrator of USDA Rural Development's utilities Programs in Washington, D.C.; Steve Wentzel-USDA Rural Development State Director; USDA representative Mike Hinrichsen; Odessa Mayor Cathy Teske; USDA Representative Bill Slininger; Odessa City Councilman Lon Moen; Brenda Elmer representing Senator Norm Coleman's office; Odessa City Councilman Gale Adolph; USDA Representative from Willmar Kevin Friesen, Odessa City Councilman Verden Gerber and Big Stone County Commissioner Howard Janssen.

Rural Development presents check to City of Odessa

The clay sanitary sewer tiles in Odessa's wastewater treatment system were performing poorly and causing maximum daily flows to exceed permit limitations. It was time for a new system and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program stepped in to help make it happen.

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It's partnerships like these that contribute to a cleaner planet," Anderson said. "Several organizations came together here to help Odessa address a serious problem. The result will be a modern system that not only is environmentally friendly, but also goes a long way toward improving the area's quality of life and economic outlook."

The project will cost about \$1.4 million with other financing provided by a \$588,500 grant from the State of Minnesota's Wastewater Infrastructure Fund.

Odessa Mayor Cathy Teske expressed her appreciation to those involved in making this possible.

"I want to thank all those involved for making this project possible," said Teske.

"Thank you to Rural Development for being here today to present the check to get the project started." They hope to begin work on the sanitary sewer system sometime this fall.

The new system will have 10,330 feet of eight-inch sanitary sewer pipe, 2,850 feet of six-inch force main pipe and two lift stations. It will serve 113 residents, meet permit requirements and eliminate the infiltration and inflows that plagued the old system.

"Odessa deserves credit for being proactive and contributing to a healthier planet," said Steve Wenzel, State Director of Rural Development in Minnesota. "At USDA Rural Development, we carry out President Bush's vision of a strong rural America. One way to help the President's vision become reality is to invest in infrastructure and that is exactly what we do at Rural Development."

Approximately 30 people were in attendance for the check presentation, including Mike Hinrichsen, Bill Slininger and Kevin Friesen representing Rural Development; Odessa City Council members Lon Moen, Gale Adolph and Verdon Gerber; Big Stone County Commissioner Howard Janssen; and Brenda Elmer, representing Senator Norm Coleman's office.

USDA Rural Development has invested over \$3.5 billion throughout rural Minnesota since 2001. Financing is available for housing, healthcare, emergency response, renewable energy, telecommunications and other infrastructure and economic development projects.

MISSOURI

(Holt County PWSD #1)

EARTH DAY CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION



**In recognition of Holt County
PWSD #1 and their continuing
success in expanding a safe,
convenient and dependable
drinking water supply to
additional District residents.**

April 2008

George W. Bush
United States President



Morris Westfall
Missouri State Director

NORTH DAKOTA

(Spirit Lake Nation)

Spirit Lake Nation celebrates Earth Day with unique ceremony

By Louise Oleson - Managing Editor

Published: Friday, April 25, 2008 11:56 AM CDT

It was a ceremony complete with music from the Minnewaukan students, the Rhythm Riders drum group, invocation by Father Paul Ruge of St. Michael and a welcome from Spirit Lake Chairwoman Myra Pearson. Hundreds of people from the surrounding communities and dignitaries from as far away as Washington D.C. and Washington state gathered for a special Earth Day ceremony.



Spirit Lake Nation Chairwoman Myra Pearson extends her welcome to the participants in an Earth Day celebration dedicating the new waste transfer building for the Spirit Lake community.

All held in an unlikely place - a solid waste facility.

The brand new three-million dollar facility is located on the Spirit Lake Reservation and will serve the people there for the next 50 years receiving and compressing garbage into containers for transport to the Sawyer Landfill.

Following the welcome and opening remarks of those on the program the facility was blessed and trees were planted in the fenced-in yard.

The theme of the day was celebrating Mother Earth and Pearson explained how grateful she was for all those who helped plan and build the new facility.

Curtis R. Anderson, Deputy Administrator for the Rural Utilities, USDA in Washington

DC was impressed with the day and even lent a hand in planting the trees in spite of the 35° temperatures, rain and a stiff North Dakota breeze. He handed Pearson a check for \$1,000,000 - federal funding to aid in the project.

"Four grants totaling \$1 million have been awarded to the Spirit Lake Tribe," Anderson said. "Only working together can we ensure that the environment we leave our children and grand children is a healthy and strong inheritance. We only get one chance to do this right."

With today's announcement, Rural Development congratulated the Spirit Lake Tribe and its community for making improvements to their solid waste management system. The old system was inefficient and the waste needed to be handled three times before being disposed of at Devils Lake, 13 miles away, which was the nearest transfer station to the reservation.

This project is meant to improve the activity of the solid waste management for the Spirit Lake Tribe and the community.

A communication from the USDA state director Clare Carlson said "USDA Rural Development is proud to be a partner in this project along with other environmental and health improvement projects."

The solid waste management facility was constructed in three phases. Rural Development awarded four water/waste Native American set-aside grants totaling \$1 million to the tribe to construct a solid waste transfer station, an inert disposal site and the purchase of solid waste equipment.

The new dump and facility is slated to serve the four communities of Spirit Lake for the next 50 years.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$2,246,508. Other sources of funding include \$1,125,500 from IHS and \$121,008 from the Spirit Lake Tribe.

The day concluded with a catered meal of roast beef and an open house continued until 3 p.m. so visitors could tour the facility.

Spirit Lake reservation has new waste transfer station...

Apr 25 2008 8:04AM
Associated Press

[Spirit Lake](#) reservation has new waste transfer station

FORT TOTTEN, N.D. (AP) Spirit Lake reservation residents have been hauling waste 13 miles to a transfer station in [Devils Lake](#) for the past 10 years. Now they have a new waste station of their own.

It was dedicated yesterday as part of the federal Earth Day observance.

The waste transfer station cost more than 2 million dollars, including new trucks. The money came from [USDA](#)'s Rural Development program, the federal Indian Health Services and the tribe.

Volunteers and work crews collected 55 tons of garbage in the two days, during Earth Day events on the reservation.

The tribe has started an annual award called the Clean Earth Community Member of the Year.

Andrew Morin, who got the first award yesterday, helped start a community service program to pick up trash. Morin has been the Spirit Lake reservation's Fish and Wildlife Department director for the past eight years.



NEBRASKA

(Village of Republican City)

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REPUBLICAN CITY CELEBRATE FUNDING OF \$2.2 MILLION FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Republican City, Neb., April 22, 2008 — USDA Rural Development and the residents of Republican City celebrated in honor of Earth Day, the funding of a \$2.2 million water improvement project. The improvements will ensure a dependable supply of safe drinking water to the 209 residents of the village.

“Water is one of our earth’s most precious natural resources and we need to make a concerted effort to preserve this resource for generations to come,” stated Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. “Rural Development is pleased to assist Republican City with their water system improvements that will bring a reliable supply of safe, potable water to its’ residents.”

USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check to the Village for a \$1,017,000 loan and \$695,000 grant provided via the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. A Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000 and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and grant totaling \$200,000 completed the funding needed.

“Thank you to the USDA Rural Development, CDBG and SRF for coming to the aid of Republican City. With their assistance, the Village Board is now able to go ahead with the development of a new well field to provide the residents with safe, potable water,” stated Wayne Lutjeharms, chairperson for the Village of Republican City.

The Village of Republican City’s municipal water system is under an Administrative Order for high nitrates resulting in a new water source being needed to bring the system back into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Village considered several alternatives for their water source needs and determined a new well field to be the best solution. Republican City also experiences problems with maintaining adequate water pressures throughout the entire community caused by the existing storage facility needing major repairs and maintenance and the lack of necessary height to maintain the pressures needed. A new 100,000 gallon storage tank will be developed to resolve the water pressure issue. Other water system improvements will include the installation of 228 water meters and system controls.

NEVADA

(Gerlach General Improvement District)

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

Carson City, NV – April 22, 2008 – Larry Smith, State Director for USDA Rural Development hosted an Earth Day celebration ceremony at the Gerlach/Johnson Schools and Gerlach Community Garden in Gerlach NV today. The event was to celebrate Earth Day and also present a big check to the Gerlach General Improvement District in the amount of \$791,360.00 for improvements on the Town of Gerlach's wastewater system which is being funded with a USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Loan and Grant.

Events of the day included poster presentations by the student body of the Gerlach/Johnson Schools with the theme of "What Does Earth Day Mean to Gerlach and Its Citizens". Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and Nevada Rural Water Association employees presented inter action ground water modeling demonstrations with the student body. Kevin Kirkeby, Rural Director for Senator John Ensign and Matt Tuma, Regional Representative for Senator Harry Reid were on hand during the activities. Matt Tuma, Regional Representative for Senator Harry Reid presented certificates to the Gerlach School and the Gerlach General Improvement District. Dean Heller's office also sent certificates to the teachers of the Gerlach/Johnson Schools for their role in celebrating Earth Day 2008. A donated tree was planted at the Community Garden in honor of the celebration.

Gerlach GID contacted USDA Rural Development following a report from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Pollution Control concerning needed improvements to the wastewater system. Rural Development is able to fund this project in part with their Water and Environmental Programs.

USDA Rural Development funds will be used for improvements to the Town of Gerlach's wastewater collection and treatment systems. System improvements include the lining of two of the four waste stabilization ponds as required by the State of Nevada, Department of Environmental Protection, improvements to the head works which include the installation of isolation valves and the replacement of the lift station and controls. The Gerlach GID serves 127 residential and commercial customers who will directly benefit from the improvements to the system. The improvements will assist the Gerlach GID in meeting the compliance requirements of the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and most importantly protection of the groundwater in the area.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and utility infrastructure. For more information about the Community Facility loan and grant programs and other USDA Rural Development programs visit our website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov. USDA Rural Development has three offices located in Nevada: Elko Local Office, (775) 738-8468 x 4; Las Vegas Local Office, (702)262-9047 x 4; and the State and Area Office located in Carson City at (775)887-1222.





OHIO
(Gallia County)

SPORTS



• GA tennis claims share of SEOAL South lead. See Page B1



Feds award \$3M for K/A sewer project

By ELIZABETH RIGEL
ERIGEL@MYDAILYTRIBUNE.COM

KANAUGA — State and community officials, leaders and members gathered at the DAV/AMVETS Hall on Tuesday to celebrate Earth Day and the selection of the Kanauga/Addison sewer to serve as Ohio's Earth Day Project for 2008.

Ohio USDA Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt was the special guest at this event, as he was the one who chose this project after reviewing all of Ohio's water/sewer projects and selecting the one that epitomizes the spirit of Earth Day and helps to focus the state's attention on local environmental initiatives.

Community Improvement Corporation Vice President Ryan Smith made the opening remarks and introductions.

"This is a project that came to fruition through a joint effort between the county, the city and members of the community,"

Smith said. "A lot of work and agreement and cooperation had to take place to get this project to where we are today. This shows what can be accomplished when we all work together."

He then thanked state, county, city, school, township and EPA officials for their parts in making this project happen.

Gallipolis City Commission President Jim Cozza took the stage next and agreed with Smith about the joint effort taken by the city and county commissions to bring this project about.

"I'm very pleased that we've been able to work together to reach this agreement," Cozza said.

Project Engineer for Stantec Consulting Gary Silcott gave a brief overview of the Kanauga/Addison sewer project.

He pointed out that it has been a work in progress for about 10 years, partly due to the fact it took coordination

Please see Project, A5



Elizabeth F

Ohio USDA Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt presents a check for million to Gallia County for the Kanauga/Addison sewer project. From left are Gallia County Administrator Karen Sprague, Hunt, Gallia County Commissioner Joe Foster, County Commissioners Vice President Dr. David Smith.



Gallia Acaden Team student ducted presented about energy vation during day's Earth D. Pictured from Olivia McGovern, Natalie Miller Diehl, and Ch Forgy presented bon dioxide in experiment.

Project

from Page A1

from the city, county and funding agencies to get everything put together.

Other than waiting to apply to the Ohio Department of Development for a Community Development Block grant, Silcott reported that everything else is wrapped up. Once the money comes in, he says the project will be up for bid and construction should take about 18 months to complete.

Gallia Academy High School teacher and Energy Team Advisor Sandra Forgey took the stage next and introduced the members of the Gallia Academy Energy Team.

She invited those present to take a look at some booths set up in the back that presented ways to conserve energy. She commended her students for getting involved and promoting energy awareness and emphasized the importance of everyone in the community taking an active role in conserving the environment.

Gallia County Commissioner Joe Foster introduced Fred Deel, director of the Governor's Office of Appalachia and former Gallia commissioner.

"It's a pleasure to come back and be a part of anything going on in Gallia County," Deel said.

He talked about reading *Silent Spring* by Rachael Carson and the impact that it had on him in regards to environmental conservation and ensuring resources. He also reflected on watching this project take place, first as a citizen of Gallia and then as a county commissioner.

"We're very pleased to be a financial part of this project because it is so important for Gallia County," Deel said.

Director of the Govern-

nor's Region 7 Office Ronda Kinnamon also cited *Silent Spring* as an influence. She then quoted former Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson, who is considered to be the founding father of the Earth Day observance as saying, "The ultimate test for man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

Gallia County Commissioners Vice President Dr. David Smith took the stage next to acknowledge project partners and introduce Hunt. He thanked both townships involved in this project, Gallipolis and Addison, as well as the city commission for its part in entering into a sewage treatment agreement with the county for the Kanuga/Addison project.

"People said that we'd never be able to work together and reach an agreement in this project," Smith said. "I hope that we can also work together on projects in the future."

Finally, Hunt took the stage and said that he'd been doing Earth Days for eight years and this was probably one of the biggest crowds and most organized events that he'd been to.

"It takes the blending of a lot of resources to make a project like this work," Hunt said. "Commissioners had to step up and put some money into this project to make it work and they did that. I want to congratulate Gallia County for putting this project together; it's at the local level that these things come about."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, CIC Director Lynne Crow passed out green shirts with the words "Team Gallia" on them and invited local leaders and officials to put them on and come up front.

"We are going green in Gallia County!" Crow said.

from Page A1

for the credit in 2007 have until June 2 to do so for this year. The 2008 application includes a box "Late application for prior year," that taxpayers may check to claim the exemption for the 2007 tax year as well.

"We are grateful to all the individuals throughout the state who have helped spread the word so that most seniors and people with disabilities can benefit from the Homestead Exemption," said Barbara E. Riley, director of the

making the most of this valuable tax credit."

Expansion of the homestead exemption was a key component of the two-year state budget bill proposed by Gov. Ted Strickland and enacted by the Ohio General Assembly last year. It allows all Ohio citizens age 65 and older, and permanently and totally disabled Ohioans, regardless of income, to exempt \$25,000 of the market value of the home they owned and lived in on Jan. 1 from property taxes. Certain surviving spouses of homeowners may also qualify.

Rates

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workers has increased by 15,000 in the past year.

The rate this March was up from 5.5 percent a year earlier.

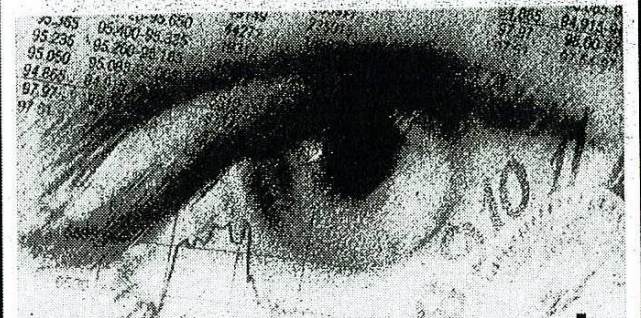
The state's 5.7 percent figure tops the national rate

of 5.1 percent.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services says Ohio continued to feel the effects of a weaker economy in March. Overall, losses in goods-producing industries overshadowed smaller gains in the service-providing industries.

(The Associated Press contributed to this report.)

3.50% A.P.Y.*



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PENNSYLVANIA

(Nuangola Borough Sewer Authority)

USDA Rural Development Awards Nuangola Borough Sewer Authority \$6.1 Million in Earth Day Celebration

Nuangola, PA – April 21, 2008 – On the occasion of the 38th anniversary of Earth Day, that is observed annually to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the environment, USDA Rural Development highlighted its award to Nuangola Borough Sewer Authority of over \$6.1 million for a new sewer system. Water and wastewater funds, that benefit communities by providing a cleaner environment, are obligated year around by Rural Development. Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski (PA-11) and Rural Development Area Director, Jack Kauffman, presented the ceremonial check to Sam Castellino, Authority Chairman.

“I am very pleased that for Earth Day, we have the opportunity to announce over \$6.1 million from the USDA to create a new sewer system which will help about 400 homes in Nuangola,” said Congressman Kanjorski. “I am proud to have helped reach out to the USDA to encourage them to provide this needed funding. Without support programs such as those offered by USDA, small communities like Nuangola might not have the funding to afford projects of this magnitude. I believe that it is vitally important to continue to build our infrastructure, and through such projects, also continue to protect the environment.”

"Rural Development is proud to be able to partner with Nuangola to provide wastewater services to help the residents with the financial burden associated with such a project and to help protect the natural environment of the area," said Jack Kauffman, Area Director.

A Rural Development loan of \$3,114,000 and a grant of \$3,032,600 will be used by Nuangola Borough Sewer Authority to construct a low pressure wastewater collection system to be built in Nuangola. Treatment will be by neighboring Mountain Top Area Sewer Authority's existing sewage treatment facility and will serve approximately 400 equivalent dwelling users. The total project cost is \$6,958,600 that includes a \$812,000 connection/tap fee. The new system will replace the Borough's existing waste disposal and treatment that consists of on-lot septic systems and cesspools, some of which are malfunctioning and cannot be repaired.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal agency for rural development needs by offering financial and technical assistance to individuals, businesses and communities. USDA Rural Development programs include funding for day care centers, fire trucks and other community facility projects; the purchase, construction or repair of homes; loans and guarantees to rural businesses to save or create jobs and renewable energy; and loans and grants for water and sewer utility projects. For more information on programs offered by USDA Rural Development, contact the Pennsylvania State Office at (717) 237-2299 or visit its website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/pa.

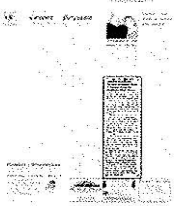


Pictured in the photo from left to right are: Attorney Charles Shea, Vice-Chairman; David Pekar, Treasurer; Congressman Paul Kanjorski (PA-11th); Sam Castellino, Chairman; Rural Development's Mike Angerson, Area Specialist and Jack Kauffman, Area Director; Mayor Norman Rule, John Kochan, Sewer Authority and Borough Council member.

SOUTH DAKOTA

**(BDM Rural Water System,
Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe)**

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**Johnson Announces
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
to Receive Funds for
Additional Water Source**

U.S. Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD) announced recently that the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate will receive a \$450,000 federal grant to improve the current wastewater system and construct a new lagoon. The funding is provided through the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program.

"Proper water infrastructure is crucial for our communities to continue to grow and this funding will greatly benefit the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate," said Johnson. "One of the pillars of my Hometown Prosperity Plan is investing in the public good, and this funding is a wonderful example of that kind of investment."

The funding will be used to construct water distribution lines, update the current sewer lines and to build a new lagoon. The existing housing units along with 54 new units will be served by these upgrades.

Senator Johnson's Hometown Prosperity Plan is a four-pillar agenda for advancing South Dakota's economy from the federal level. The four pillars, or strategies, include "Promoting Partnerships," "Emphasizing Entrepreneurship," "Investing in the Public Good," and "Protecting Pocketbooks." The full plan includes specific actions related to each strategy and can be downloaded from <http://johnson.senate.gov>.

County:
Roberts
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77 72 163 121
Owanka Rural Water Assoc. to construct \$1,575,292 water system with some Rural Development funding

A ceremonial check representing loan funds of \$166,000 was presented on April 24th to the Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc. for construction of a new rural water system.

The ORWA was recently formed as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of South Dakota to provide water service to the area adjacent to Owanka. This project is necessary to provide an adequate supply of water for the families residing in the Owanka area. Many members of the corporation currently have to haul water for household use. Some of the area's stock dams and dugouts are dried up or very low due to the persistent drought conditions that have existed in the area for the past several years.

"This rural water system project will provide potable water to area homes to alleviate severe water shortages that are currently occurring in the area," said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. "This project is a great example of what can happen when state and federal agencies can cooperate and come together to make a project like this happen in a short time. USDA Rural Development is committed to providing investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents."

These federal funds will be used for the construction of a rural

water system to include a new well, pumps, pumphouse, distribution lines, and a water storage reservoir. Rural Development's funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$30,000

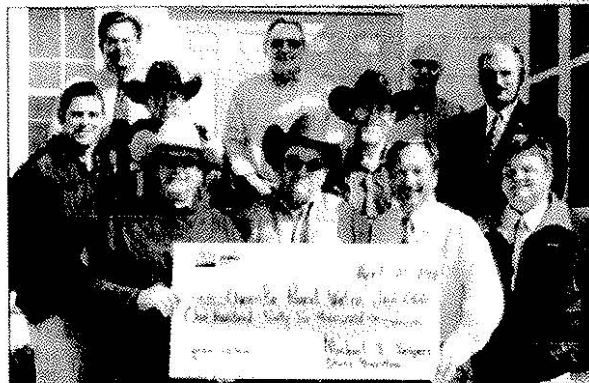
and a State Consolidated Water Assistance Planning Grant in the amount of \$270,000, Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding in the amount of \$431,292, and funding from the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$678,000. Total project cost is \$1,575,292.

"Quality and quantity of water have been problems in our community for many years. Thanks to Rural Development, Midwest Assistance, NRCS, BOR, DENR,

and our state senators, we will have quality drinking water for the people in the community and our livestock," said Marvin Williams, chairman of the ORWA.

In South Dakota, Rural Development provides loan and grant programs, loan guarantees and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Rural Development invested more than \$259 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the past 10 years in the state's economy.

Pioneer Review
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Involved parties ... Front row, from left: Marvin Williams, chairman of Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc.; Larry Volmer, ORWA vice president; Tim Potts, Rural Development area director; David Adrian, Rural Development specialist. Back row: Jessale Ewing, Senator John Thune staff; Darrell Shoemaker, Sen. Tim Johnson staff; Wes Reeves, ORWA treasurer; Jay Larsen, Midwest Assistance Program; Tim Stover, ORWA secretary; Gene Waterson, Natural Resources Conservation Service district conservationist; and Nick Jackson, South Dakota Rural Water Circuit Rider.

Courtesy Photo

County:
Haakon

BDM Rural Water, SWO and USDA Rural Development celebrate Earth Day with \$1,456,000 for area projects

Sisseton Courier
Sisseton, SD
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457249



Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Rural Utilities Programs, joined Rural Development South Dakota Area Director Bruce Jones and Specialist Janell Telin and staff, BDM Rural Water System, Inc., Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribal representatives, Natural Resources and Conservation District, and the Office of Environmental Protection to celebrate Earth Day on Apr. 23, 2008 at Agency Village with the announcement of federal funding for water and environmental projects totaling \$1,456,000.

"The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970. It was held to bring to the forefront environmental issues," said Anderson. "Thirty-eight years later, we are still celebrating Earth Day. The proposed projects of the BDM Rural Water System and the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe support positive environmental efforts for safe, sanitary water and sewer systems to the users of Sisseton and surrounding areas."

BDM Rural Water System, Inc. will construct additional water storage reservoirs within the six existing reservoirs of the water system. The additional water storage will help meet increased water demand placed on the system by the increased number of users. This project will increase water storage by 1,200,000 gallons, for a total of 1,800,000 gallons at the six water storage sites. This will enable the water system to meet increased demand and peak flows for several years into the future. Today, BDM Rural Water System, Inc. was awarded a USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal direct loan in the amount of \$370,000 and a Native American

Set-Aside grant of \$636,000. The federal funds will be leveraged with Environmental Protection Agency funds in the amount of \$894,100 for a total project cost of \$1,900,100.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux

Tribe plans to construct water distribution lines, sanitary sewer collection lines, rehabilitate the existing sewage lagoon, and build a new lagoon to accommodate the 30 existing housing units in the area and for future users at the Long Hollow project site. The Long Hollow project is a housing development subdivision where the construction of 44 new multi-family housing and single family housing units will be built along with the installation of infrastructure including drinking water and sanitary sewer systems and streets. The Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe was awarded a USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal grant in the amount of \$450,000 from Native American Set-Aside funds. The Sisseton Wahpeton Housing Authority is

developing a \$1,300,000 eleven-unit multi family housing complex at the Long Hollow site. USDA Rural Development is providing a Section 515 Loan in the amount of \$1,000,000 with rental assistance for very low and low income families.

"These projects will build and improve rural water and sewage systems and the community of Sisseton and surrounding areas will benefit through clean, safe drinking water and sanitary sewer systems," said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. "USDA Rural Development is proud to be a partner in environmental and health improvement projects."



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BDM GRANT--USDA Rural Development award a loan and a grant in the amount of \$894,100 to BDM Rural Water System, Inc. for a project to increase water storage. Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Tanya Peterson from Senator Tim Johnson's staff; David Wade, General Manager for BDM Rural Water System, Inc.; Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Program; and Judy Vrchota from Senator John Thune's staff.



TREE PLANTING CELEBRATES EARTH DAY--USDA Rural Development presented funds in the amount of \$1,456,000 to BDM Rural Water and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate during ceremonies at Agency Village on Wednesday, Apr. 23, 2008. Following the ceremony, those involved in the presentations planted a tree outside of the Community Center to commemorate National Earth Day.
 ~ Courier Photos





GRANT AWARDED--Curtis Anderson (left), Administrator for USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Programs presented a water and waste disposal grant in the amount of \$450,000 grant to Mike Selvage, Sr. (right) Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Chairman.

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77-49-91

BDM Part Of Nearly \$2 Million Project To Begin This Year

Britton Journal
Britton, SD
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451396



BDM Rural Water, the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe, and USDA Rural Development celebrated Earth Day last week Wednesday with the announcement of federal funding for water and environmental projects totaling \$1,456,000.

BDM Rural Water was awarded a USDA Rural Development water and waste disposal direct loan of \$370,000, and a Native American Set-Aside grant of \$636,000. The federal funds will be leveraged with Environmental Protection Agency funds in the amount of \$894,100 for a total project cost of \$1,900,100.

"The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970," said Curtis Anderson, Deputy Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Utilities Programs. "It was held to bring to the forefront environmental issues. Thirty-eight

years later, we are still celebrating Earth Day. The proposed projects of the BDM Rural Water System and Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe support positive environmental efforts for safe, sanitary water and sewer systems to the users of Sisseton and surrounding areas."

"We've been working on the project for over three years, and it finally all came together," said BDM Manager David Wade. "It's a very

good package for us. We'll start it this fall and it should be complete in the fall of 2009."

BDM Rural Water will construct additional water storage reservoirs within the six existing reservoirs of the water system. The additional water storage will help meet increased water demand placed on the system by the increased number of users.

The project will increase water storage by 1.2 million gallons for a

total of 1.8 million gallons at the six water storage sites. This will enable BDM to meet increased demand and peak flows for several years into the future.

"We call it a system capacity upgrade, and we will be building new concrete underground storage tanks and upgrading our treatment plant with a new 400,000-gallon storage tank," said Wade.

Wade said that recent expansions in Roberts County are driving the project. He said plans call for an additional 500-600 homes around Agency Village and in Roberts County in the near future. Projects on tap for this summer include 44 new homes in the Long Hollow area northwest of Sisseton. Another 50 homes are planned in the Barker Hill project two miles north of Agency

(Continued on Back Page)



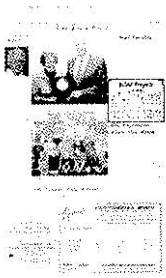
BDM Rural Water received word last week that it will receive funding for nearly a \$2 million project. Officials at the announcement of federal funding from left to right are Senator Tim Johnson's represen-

tative Tanya Peterson, BDM Manager David Wade, Curtis Anderson of the United States Department of Agriculture, and Judy Vrchota of Senator John Thune's staff.





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BDM Project

(Continued from Page 1)

Village. In addition, 11 new homes are being built in the new Lake Traverse District Center.

"We will serve them all," said Wade. "A lot is happening close to us."

BDM also plans to add the city of Hecla to its system this summer. Wade said that Hecla will be served this summer from the treatment plant, and next summer a new storage and pumping station will be built just north of Hecla.

Bids for the Hecla project will be opened on Tuesday. The project will be completed this summer and

include 25 households plus the town of Hecla. Hecla has battled drinking water issues for a number of years.

In addition, BDM has an internal expansion project planned for this summer that will add about 50 users. Those new users have previously used wells as their water source.

The new projects are just the latest in a continued pattern of growth for BDM Rural Water. Wade said that the system has grown from 1,250 users five years ago to 1,922, and BDM has added over 1,000 users in the past 10 years.

Viewfield residents receive funding for rural water

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development staff participated in a ceremony for the Viewfield Rural Water Association Inc. where South Dakota Area Director Tim Potts and Specialist Nancy Clarke presented a rural utilities direct water loan in the amount of \$1,330,000 for construction of a rural water system.

"This rural water system project will provide a safe and sanitary water system to the 52 users of the Viewfield community and surrounding areas. I commend all those involved for their efforts in providing an abundant, safe water supply for the residents of this area," said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. "USDA Rural Development is committed to providing investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents."

Viewfield Rural Water Association is a newly formed association in southern Meade County, north of New Underwood. The residents of the Viewfield area have been experiencing water deficiency issues, including but not limited to water shortage and safe drinking water.

The overall project will consist of drilling two deep-aquifer wells, 275,000 gallon storage tank, laying water lines, installation of water taps, meter pits, and meters. This project is being

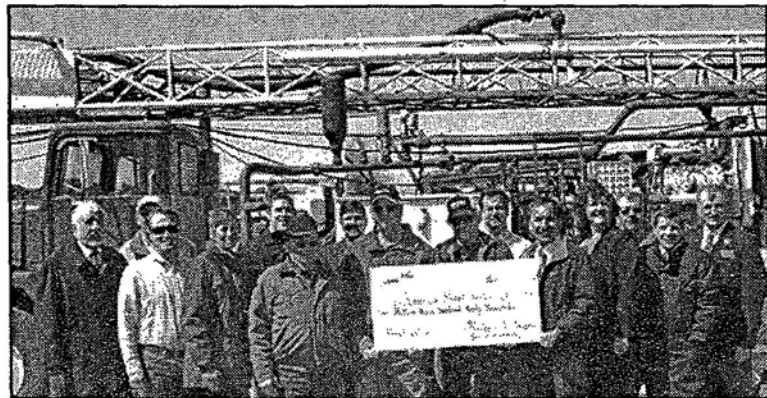
designed and constructed to meet the existing needs of users and provide for community development and sustainability to the Viewfield area. The federal funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$342,500, a SD- DENR Consolidated Community Grant in the amount of \$350,000, and \$720,000 from the USDA-NRCS EQIP cost-share program for conservation practices and livestock usage, for a total project cost of \$2,692,000. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation will contract for drilling the second deep-aquifer well.

"The Viewfield area has been in a continued drought since 2000, and the moisture situation for 2008 is uncertain," said Larry Gossard, president of Viewfield Rural Water Association Inc. "Planning of the rural water system began in September 2006, and construction will begin in earnest this month and completion is expected by September. We want to thank the association members for their participation and support of the project, our engineering consultants from Renner & Associates, and the four funding agencies mentioned above," stated Gossard.

In South Dakota, Rural Development provides valuable loan and grant programs, loan guarantees and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in

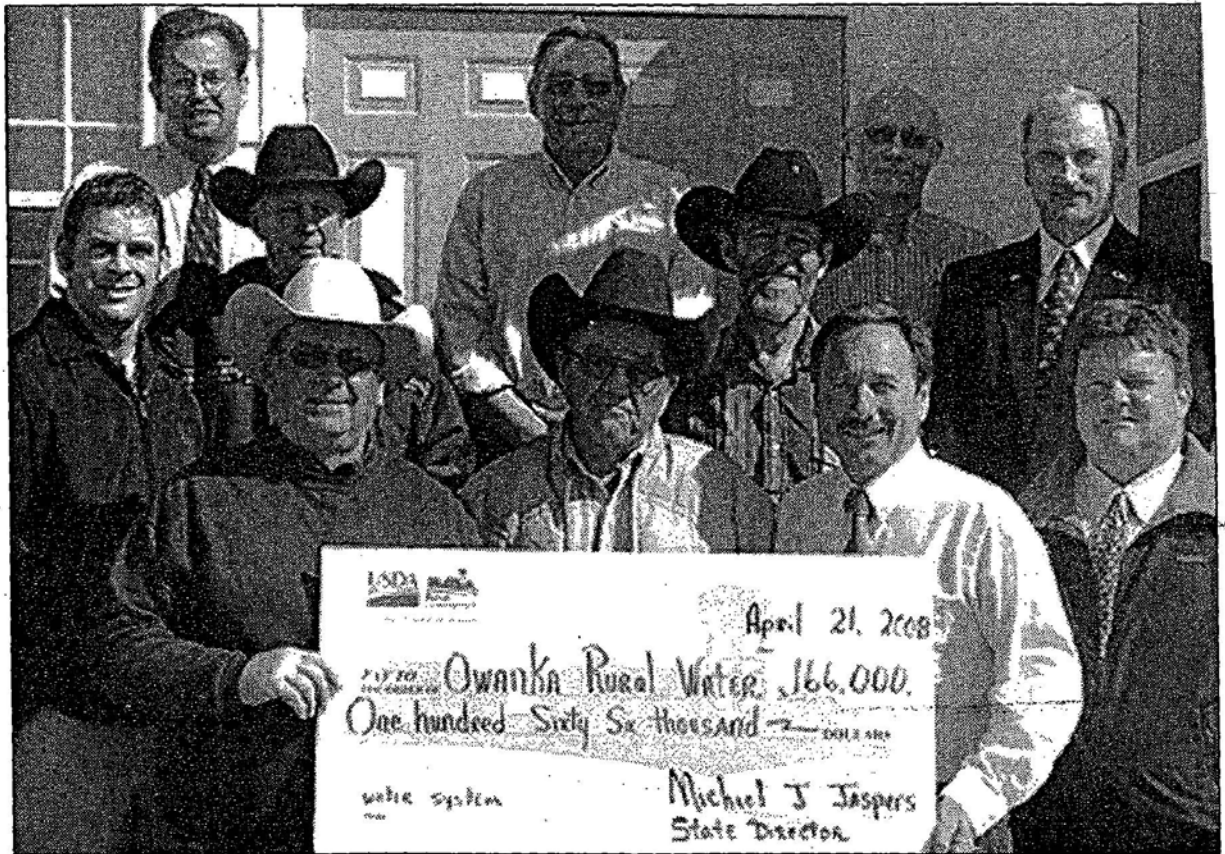
homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Rural Development invested more than \$259 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the past 10 years in South Dakota's economy.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



More water ... Front row from left to right, Paul Ghirk, the Technical Advisor/Viewfield Rural Water member, Jay Larsen of Midwest Assistance Program (MAP), Tate Lantz, District Conservationist of Natural Resources Conservation District, Pam Cox, Secretary for Viewfield Rural Water Association, Inc., Jesse Ewing of Senator John Thune's staff, Charles Larsen, Board of Director for Viewfield Rural Water Association, Mitch Kertzman of Renner & Associates, Wayne McPherson, board member for Viewfield Rural Water Association, Larry Gossard, board president for Viewfield Rural Water Association, Inc., Darrell Shoemaker of Senator Tim Johnson's staff, Rural Development Area Director Tim Potts, Rural Development Specialist Nancy Clarke, Steve Quissell an engineer with Natural Resources Conservation District, Bill Grant of Dacotah Bank and Nick Jackson of South Dakota Rural Water Circuit Rider.

The New Underwood Post
May 1, 2008



Owanka Rural Water receives \$166,000 loan

Special to the Courant

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development South Dakota Rural Development Area Director Tim Potts and Specialist David Adrian today presented a ceremonial check representing loan funds of \$166,000 to the Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc. for construction of a new rural water system.

"This rural water system project will provide potable water to area homes to alleviate severe water shortages that are currently occurring in the area," said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. "This project is a great example of what can happen when State and Federal agencies can cooperate and come together to make a project like this happen in a short time. USDA Rural Development is committed to providing investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents."

The Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc. was recently formed as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of South Dakota to provide water service to the area adjacent to Owanka, SD. This project is nec-

essary to provide an adequate supply of water for the families residing in the Owanka area. Many members of the corporation currently have to haul water for household use. Some of the area's stock dams and dugouts are dried up or very low due to the persistent drought conditions that have existed in the area for the past several years. These federal funds will be used for the construction of a rural water system to include a new well, pumps, pumphouse, distribution lines, and a water storage reservoir. Rural Development's funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$30,000 and a State Consolidated Water Assistance Planning Grant in the amount of \$270,000, Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding in the amount of \$431,292, and funding from the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$678,000. Total project cost is \$1,575,292.

"Quality and quantity of water have been problems in our community for many years. Thanks to Rural Development, Midwest Assistance, NRCS, BOR, DENR, and our State Senators, we will have quality drinking water for

both the people in the community and our livestock," said Marvin Williams, Chairman of the Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc.

In South Dakota, Rural Development provides valuable loan and grant programs, loan guarantees and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Rural Development invested more than \$259 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the past 10 years in South Dakota's economy.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.



TENNESSEE

(Copper Basin)

The News Observer

\$800,000 celebration



News Observer photo/Cynthia Maude
U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp chatted with Copper Basin Elementary first graders Sydney Taylor, left, and Virginia Chambers at Copperhill City Hall Tuesday. Copperhill received an \$800,000 check during the visit. For the full story, see page A10.

A10 • Friday, April 25, 2008

LOCAL

The News Observer



News Observer photo/Cynthia Maude

The city of Copperhill received \$800,000 in federal money to update its wastewater treatment plant on April 21, the day before Earth Day. Celebrating the occasion were Copper Basin Elementary School first graders, from left, front, Kaitlyn Burger, Cierra Hinrichs, Jeffrey Barnes, Sydney Taylor, Shane Norris, Faith Jack, Virginia Chambers, Connor Wright, Alison Taylor, back, Copperhill Council member Hal Williamson, Vice Mayor Mike Williams, council member David Herring, Mayor Herb Hood, U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp, U.S. Sen. and former governor Lamar Alexander, Rural Development State Director Mary Ruth Tackett and Copper Basin Elementary School Principal Jared Bigham.

Copperhill gets \$800,000

BY CYNTHIA MAUDE
STAFF WRITER

What happened at Copperhill City Hall on Monday afternoon was more than a money giveaway, complete with a former governor, a U.S. congressman and local school children.

The announcement that Copperhill will receive \$800,000 in federal money to upgrade the city's wastewater treatment plant made by U.S. Sen. La-

mar Alexander, U.S. Rep. Zach Wamp and Rural Development State Director Mary Ruth Tackett ensures a cleaner, safer Ocoee River and will help promote the area's economic growth, Wamp said.

Before presenting the ceremonial check, Wamp called Mayor Herb Hood "a warrior. This is not the first time he's tried to fund the wastewater plant," he said. GRANT, A13

The News Observer

LOCAL

Friday, April 25, 2008 • A13

Grant: Copperhill receives needed funds

Continued from page A10
plant. He didn't give up. He and the council should be commended — you found a way to make it happen."

The \$500,000 Rural Development community facilities low-interest loan and grant of \$300,000 will pay for improvements to the wastewater plant.

This funding, added to a \$200,000 Community Development Block Grant obtained earlier by the city, means that \$1 million will be invested in clean wastewater for Copperhill and the Ocoee River, Tackett said.

The upgrades that can now be made to the plant and the addition of a new holding basin will finally bring the facility into compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act and the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act.

"The project will alleviate potential sewer-related health and safety hazards in the Ocoee River and provide adequate capacity for the facility to continue supplying wastewater for McCaysville," she said.

The announcement came on April 21 — the day before Earth

Day — and Tackett said the delegation had come to celebrate Earth Day with the people of Copperhill. The funding "will provide a healthy environment for young people," she said.

"I hope you'll remember this day," she told nine first graders from Copper Basin Elementary School at the ceremony. The children were recognized for their prize-winning Earth Day posters that are on display in city hall.

Before leaving, the delegation planted a Korean Dogwood tree in front of city hall. Alexander compared the Cop-

perhill of 30 years ago — when the hills were barren and the area was struggling to recover from the environmental damage of copper mining and smelting — to today.

"There are dogwoods, tourists on the Ocoee, new shops on Main Street, two trains in each direction with visitors. Copperhill is moving in the right direction. You've got a lot to celebrate," Alexander said.

The ceremony will likely be long remembered by those attendees who are city employees and have worked for years to keep the city's wastewater treatment plant operational and have applied a number of times for grants to repair the plant.



News Observer photo/Cynthia Maude

U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander congratulated Copper Basin Elementary first graders who won the Earth Day poster contest. Virginia Chambers, from left, is shown with Alison Taylor shaking Alexander's hand and Connor Wright. Beside them are Shane Norris and Jeffrey Barnes. Behind is Principal Jared Bigham.

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Reader 0070 Wed, Apr 23, 2008

Benton, TN
Benton Polk County News/Citizen Advance
Circulation 3,249

133

April 23, 2008, Polk County News, Page 13



Local and federal officials, along with poster contest winners from Copper Basin Elementary, celebrate Earth Day with plaques for the children, an \$800,000 award to Copperhill and a tree planting. Children receiving plaques were (not in order) Jeffery Barnes, Faith Jack, Shayne Norris, Kaitlyn Burger, Alison Taylor, Conner Wright, Virginia Chambers, Cierrea Hinrichs, and Sydni Taylor. In back, Copperhill council members Hal Williamson, Mike Williams and David Herring; Mayor Herb Hood; Congressman Zach Wamp, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, Rural Development Director Mary Ruth Hackett, and CBES principal Jared Bigham.

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1331



Copperhill Mayor Herb Hood, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, Congressman Zach Wamp and Rural Development Director Mary Ruth Tackett plant a Korean Dogwood tree across from Copperhill City Hall in honor of Earth Day.

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Reader 0070 Wed, Apr 23, 2008

Benton, TN
Benton Polk County News/Citizen Advance
Circulation 3,249

NUMBER 17



Congressman Zach Wamp enjoyed talking to Copper Basin youngsters prior to Earth Day festivities in Copperhill. Wamp and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander presented grant money to Copperhill and Ducktown. (See more inside.)

Copperhill gets \$800,000 to fix wastewater plant

The funding package for improving Copperhill's wastewater treatment is finally complete.

In celebration of Earth Day 2008, U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander, U.S. Representative Zach Wamp and USDA Rural Development State Director Mary Ruth Tackett joined Copperhill Mayor Herbert Hood, other city officials and students from Copper Basin Elementary in Copperhill Tuesday. The city received a federal investment of \$800,000 to complete the funding package for needed improvements to its wastewater treatment plant. Federal officials also planted a tree across from City Hall and presented plaques

to students for their winning posters.

"Earth Day is a good time to focus our energy and attentions on what we can do to take care of the blessing we have in our great American outdoors, Alexander said, adding the funds will ensure that the treatment plant complies with state and federal clean water laws in order to avoid potential health and safety hazards in the Ocoee River. The upgrading will also provide adequate capacity for the plant to continue supplying waste treatment for McCaysville.

Displays in city hall recounted Copperhill's long road of recovery from environmental damage from 100 years of copper mining and

smelting. Since the reclamation effort began in the 1930s, millions of trees have been planted and the effort has been accelerated by the work being done by Glenn Springs Holdings. "We are reminded on Earth Day that natural treasures like the Ocoee are worthy of our attention and stewardship to protect and improve for future generations," Wamp said, emphasizing that it is possible for humans to co-exist with the natural environment.

Chattanooga Times Free Press 4/28/08 Alexander Lauds Addition Of 382 Acres To Chattanooga Park

posted April 21, 2008

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tn.), taking part Monday morning in the dedication of almost 400 acres of additional land to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, called on Congress to highlight Earth Day by supporting legislation that would reduce fuel costs while supporting conservation of the Great American Outdoors.

“We can take action to lower fuel prices while building new city parks,” said Alexander, chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. “In 2006, Congress passed my legislation that dedicated one-eighth of the conservation royalties raised by certain new offshore drilling to our great outdoors so we could increase our energy supply while leaving more open spaces for future generations. This legislation allows us to replicate the sort of conservation we’ve been able to achieve with the Chattanooga park all across America, while helping to reign in gas prices.”

As a long time conservationist and member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Alexander was an original cosponsor of S. 3711, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which became law in December 2006. This legislation took 12.5 percent of royalties received as a consequence of producing oil and natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelf and sent them to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Since then, Congress has appropriated these funds for local projects.

Congress established the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1964 to meet America’s needs for outdoor recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat conservation and open space. During its first 40 years, LWCF provided more than 40,000 grants to state and local governments, and LWCF sites can be found in 94 percent of America’s counties.

Alexander participated in an event to celebrate the conservation of Lookout Mountain battlefield lands in Wauhatchie as part of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, which has received funding from LWCF.

He also joined Rep. Zach Wamp (R-Tn.), USDA Rural Development State Director Mary Ruth Tackett, Mayor Herbert Hood, local leaders, and students from Copper Basin Elementary School to announce a federal investment of \$800,000 to complete funding for a new safe, reliable wastewater treatment system for families and businesses in Copperhill and southeast Polk County in Tennessee. The celebration included an Earth Day tree-planting.

“Egypt has the pyramids, Italy has its art, and the United States has the Great American Outdoors,” Alexander said. “I grew up surrounded by the beauty of our outdoors in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Future generations won’t be as lucky, however, if we don’t take action to preserve our wilderness. Conserving our natural resources must be a priority if we want to ensure that the Great American Outdoors is still there for our children and grandchildren.”

WEST VIRGINIA

**(Mason County Public Service District,
Lavalette Public Service District)**



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Federal Building • 75 High Street • Suite 320 • Morgantown, WV 26505-7500
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Weldon Freeman (202) 690-1384

USDA CELEBRATES EARTH DAY 2008 BY AWARDING \$164 MILLION FOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2008 – Marking the 38th anniversary of Earth Day, Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced today that 48 communities in 30 states have been selected to receive more than \$164 million in loans and grants for infrastructure improvements to help the environment.

“Earth Day is a great time to make these loans and grants that will help finance much-needed improvements to water, sewer and infrastructure systems,” Schafer said. “Strategic investments such as the ones announced today also help improve the economy and quality of life in our rural communities.”

West Virginia State Director Rick Rice is proud to announce there are two awardees in The Mountain State. Mason County Public Service District was awarded a \$3,781,000 Loan and \$1,919,000 Grant while Wayne County’s Lavalette Public Service District was awarded a \$2,165,000 Loan and \$1,656,000 Grant.

Rice added, “Mason County PSD funds will be utilized for a water system extension project to roughly 273 new customers in various areas of Mason County, WV. Lavalette PSD funding will also be utilized for a water system extension project to approximately 177 new customers in the Crockett and Millers Fork areas of Wayne County, WV.”

Lavalette PSD is planning a kickoff celebration for their project on April 30, 2008, at 11 AM at the Crockett – Booten United Methodist Church, Lavalette, WV. Several Federal, State and County officials are scheduled to attend where House Speaker Richard Thompson is scheduled to be the Master of Ceremonies. “The public, and especially the residents of the proposed new service area, are invited and encouraged to attend the celebration of this long awaited and much needed extension of public water service,” stated Darrell Wellman, General Manager, Lavalette Public Service District.

Another example, USDA Rural Development awarded Threshold Services, Inc. in Kodiak, Alaska, a \$348,000 loan and \$41,750 grant to buy and renovate a building that will be used as a recycling facility on Kodiak Island. In addition to managing the facility, Threshold will provide jobs and job training opportunities for residents with physical and developmental disabilities.

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”
To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.,
Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

The city of Brush, Colo., has been selected to receive nearly \$8 million in loans and grants to replace an outdated, 1965 wastewater treatment plant. The new plant will serve 5,117 residents. The town of Luray, Va. was selected to receive a \$5 million loan to make improvements to the town's existing water system by installing a new membrane filtration water treatment plant, storage tank and pump station. The town's water system serves approximately 2,100 residential and 300 commercial users.

A complete list of loan and grant recipients is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> . Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the loan or grant agreement.

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22 to raise awareness about the role citizens, businesses and communities can play in protecting the environment. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the event has expanded to include participation by citizens and governments in more than in 175 countries.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested nearly \$91 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> .

WEBSTER SPRINGS

USDA Rural Development Celebrates Earth Day Everyday!

Morgantown, WV—April 21, 2008: State Director Rick E. Rice proclaims that the West Virginia United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development and Earth Day go hand-in-hand by each celebrating and striving to resolve environmental issues and concerns. On April 22nd the world will once again promote environmental awareness and consciousness with its annual commemoration of Earth Day. USDA Rural Development offices continue to show their support of this indispensable cause by establishing environmental programs and initiatives through its community programs making Earth Day a year round event and priority.

Fiscal Year 2008 is only half over and so far the USDA utilities programs has obligated over \$13.8 Million Dollars in loans and grants in WV counties for instrumental environmental projects such as cleaner drinking water, waterline expansion, and waste water collection and drainage facility improvements.

Rice commented, "These funds will help alleviate the growing demand for more efficient water supply, better pressure, increased fire protection, and greater public health benefits."

Earth Day is not just a one-day-a-year occurrence, but it is a daily mission for the USDA Rural Development offices and staff. Cleaner water, sanitary sewer systems, and solid waste and storm drainage facilities are instrumental puzzle pieces in the de-

velopment of a healthier West Virginia and Earth. Because of immense dedication and collaboration between USDA Rural Development and rural entities, a higher standard of living has been accomplished while the environmental hopes and dreams of communities have become realities.

Rural Development serves as the lead Federal entity for rural development needs and administers program assistance through its housing programs, business programs, and utilities programs. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)

Further information on USDA Rural Development may be obtained by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. In West Virginia, call 1-800-295-8228 to be put in touch with the appropriate personnel serving your county. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202.720.2600 (voice and TDD).

HOME PAGE

Rahall announces funding package for Crockett-Millers Fork water project

Apr 25, 2008 @ 01:48 PM

Herald-Dispatch.com

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) has announced that a \$3,821,000 rural development funding package, consisting of a \$2,165,000 loan and a \$1,656,000 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has been awarded to the Lavalette Public Service District (LPSD) for continued waterline extensions to the Crockett-Millers Fork Water Project in northeastern Wayne County.

“I am pleased to announce another success in our efforts to improve southern West Virginia’s water infrastructure, one that will greatly benefit the residents of Wayne County,” Rahall said in a prepared release. “With this second installment of funding, Lavalette and Wayne County officials will be able to build upon the great strides they have already made in improving the water services provided to residents in the area.”

The funding will allow the LPSD to extend waterline and service to approximately 177 households along county routes 17, 22, and 24 near the communities of Booton and Crockett.

Point Pleasant Register

POINT PLEASANT, WV

NEWS

PSD receives \$5.7 million in funding

Print Page

By Hope Roush

Published:
Thursday, April 24, 2008 5:14 PM CDT

POINT PLEASANT - In celebration of Earth Day earlier this week, the United States Department of Agriculture awarded 48 communities in 30 states more than \$164 million in loans and grants for infrastructure improvements to help the environment.

And Mason County is reaping the benefits.

The Mason County Public Service District was awarded a \$3,781,000 loan and \$1,919,000 grant. The funds will be utilized for a water system extension project, which will go to roughly 273 new customers in various areas of the county.

According to a news release, agriculture secretary Ed Schafer said Earth Day is a great time to make loans and grants that will help finance much needed improvements to water, sewer and infrastructure systems. He added that investments such as the grants also help improve the economy and quality of life in rural communities.

Randy Grinstead, general manager of the Mason County PSD, described the amount of grant money as being very good for the county.

"That amount of grant money is good. They were very good to Mason County. We typically do not see that large of a percentage here," Grinstead said.

He added that the loan and grant money will be used for the Conglomo II Water Extension project.

"(The money) will be used in 16 or 17 different communities in the county," Grinstead said.

Improving the county and life for residents is what Grinstead believes the money will do.

"(The money) will help the quality of life. A lot of these people depend on rain water throughout the year. During dry seasons, like the past few summers here, people have had to haul water to their homes," he said.

He added that having to haul water from other places is not only an inconvenience and time consuming, but also costly. With the money in place to improve water systems, residents will not be as inconvenienced, Grinstead said.

In addition, with improved water systems, the area will be more profitable, according to Grinstead.

"When we have improved water (systems) in the past, suddenly real estate was more valuable and easier to sell," he said. "The principal purpose is to improve people's state of living."





WISCONSIN

(Lake Holcombe Sanitary District)

Holcombe's sewer project gets help

Wednesday, April 23, 2008; Posted: 09:21 AM

HOLCOMBE, [Apr 23, 2008](#) (The Leader-Telegram - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- -- Sue Larson, a rural development specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, told a group of 15 Holcombe students Tuesday about the importance of upgrading the aging wastewater treatment plant in the area.

"It's appropriate on Earth Day, as you are thinking about the environment, to talk about clean drinking water," Larson said.

The USDA Rural Development office presented the Lake Holcombe Sanitary District with a check Tuesday to help pay for the \$2.4 million project to replace the existing system. About \$1.6 million of the money is in grant dollars, Larson said.

"That's almost unheard of for a sewer project in Wisconsin," she said.

Frank Frassetto, state director of the USDA Rural Development office, said upgrades to the sanitary system will benefit residents and the environment.

"We need to find a way to make the smallest human footprint as possible," Frassetto said. "Lake Holcombe Sanitary District was selected for Earth Day recognition because of the impact it will have toward a cleaner environment and better quality of life for area residents when the project is completed."

USDA Rural Development is supplying \$1.535 million toward the project, with another \$954,000 coming from federal dollars that U.S. Rep. David Obey, D-Wausau, obtained for the area last year.

Jeff Anders, sanitary district president, said the current facility was built in 1979.

"Almost from the time it was built, there were problems," he said.

In the 13 years Anders has been on the board, the system was overloaded all but one year, he said.

"Right now, we have a stabilization pond system," Anders said. "It seeps into the ground when we finish treating it. We are showing some contamination in the ground around the treatment facility."

The fear is that contamination from the sanitation plant could affect private wells and drinking water in the area, he said.

The present system can handle 25,000 gallons of water daily. The upgraded facility will be able to process 70,000 gallons of water daily. Long-term, it will be able to handle 100,000 gallons a day, Anders said.

"We'll have almost three times the capacity we do now," Anders said.

The system has 120 users.

"The largest, of course, is the school," Anders said. "We don't have any industrial users and a few [commercial](#) users."

The geographic size of the sanitary district will expand with the planned facility upgrade, allowing any new businesses along Highway 27 to be part of the system, Anders said.