



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS SIRENS FOR LURCERNE AND WORTHINGTON

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri USDA Rural Development State Director, announced Community Facility Grants in mock checks ceremonies September 22nd at the Old Soldiers Room in the Putnam County Courthouse, Unionville. Two checks, each in the amount of \$8,450 were presented to Nettie Lewis, President, of POWERS (Providing Outdoor Warning Emergency Response System, Inc.) for the purchase of outdoor emergency warning sirens for the communities of Lucerne and Worthington in Putnam County. The funds will be part of an \$11,310 project for purchase and installation of the sirens for each community.

“USDA Rural Development is pleased to provide this funding for the emergency warning sirens,” said Branum. “The installation of the sirens will provide a vital warning system for residents of Lucerne and Worthington. They will complement warning sirens purchased last year with Rural Development funding for the cities of Unionville, Powersville and Livonia and the community of Lake Thunderhead, and help to make all of Putnam County a safer place.”

Branum said the funds will be provided to POWERS which in turn will make the sirens available to Lucerne and Worthington. POWERS is a not-for-profit corporation created by the Sullivan County Commission and communities in Putnam County to provide assistance to County residents with emergency and other safety-related issues.

Difference between the \$8,450 Rural Development grant amounts and the total project cost will be in-kind contributions for poles and siren installation by the servicing electric utilities: North Central Electric Cooperative, Milan, for Lucerne; and Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Lancaster, for Worthington.

“Funding important projects like this by Rural Development mirrors President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” Branum added. “Special thanks are extended also to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Sam Graves for making available Federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential emergency warning sirens for residents of Putnam County.

Anyone seeking more information about the Rural Business Enterprise Grant and other Rural Development programs may visit Rural Development’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo>, or by contacting Danny L.



Pictured left to right: Dean Brookshier, St. Joseph Office Manager for Congressman Sam Graves of the 6th District Dave Clarkson, USDA/Rural Development, Chillicothe Local Office Joe Basco, Mayor of Lucerne, Greg Branum, State Director of USDA/Rural Development, Jay Hehir, Board Member of POWERS, Paul Wilmes, USDA/Rural Development, St. Joseph Area Office. Nettie Lewis, President of POWERS, Barbara Swiger, 911 Coordinator for Putnam County

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