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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE CITY OF GIDEON PARTNER TO IMPROVE EXISTING WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented the City of Gideon with a Certificate of Appreciation on Friday, November 13, 2009. The City was awarded \$2.4 million dollars to correct serious deficiencies in the existing water distribution system that serves 454 residents and small businesses in the community. This project is one of the first Water and Waste projects in the nation funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

“Having access to clean water is one of the most basic human rights,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “I am pleased this federal funding will help the City of Gideon to make improvements to its water distribution system and further improve the residents’ quality of life.”

Gideon’s existing water distribution system has been plagued by problems for many years and has deteriorated to a point that monthly water outages are a common occurrence. The original system, made of ductile iron, was installed in the 1930’s and early 1940’s and has seen many added homes and line extensions that are now causing water pressure issues and water shortages. The City’s water system has been under intense scrutiny since the waterborne salmonella disease outbreak of 1993, which contaminated the City’s 100,000-gallon elevated tank. Many upgrades were performed at that time, and again in 1997 when contamination was again confirmed, but serious concerns still existed regarding the more than nine (9) miles of distribution lines. The City indicates that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of bands on the old lines to stop leaks. Another area of concern is the fact that the water system currently is not metered. The lack of metering and properly-operating controls has caused the system to provide an excessive amount of distribution to an ailing system.

“Water projects are extremely expensive investments in our rural counties, yet the services this project will provide to the City of Gideon are extremely important. It has taken a lot of hard work and



Back Row, Left to Right: Louis Beck III, Gideon Fire Dept; Wayne Faries, Schultz & Summers Engineering; Toby Jordan, Alderman; Kristi Nitsch, representing Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson; Stan Schultz, Schultz & Summers Engineering; Clark Thomas, Rural Development; Doug Hensley, City Employee; Greg Batson, Rural Development

Front Row, Left to Right: Tim Constant, City Employee; Slayton Boone, Cub Reporter; Phyllis Minner, Rural Development; Terry Swinger, State Representative; Christy Ferrell, representing Senator Claire McCaskill; Janie Dunning, Rural Development; Lee Downing, Mayor; Vickie Groves, City Clerk; Mamie Johnson, City Employee; Amanda Youngblood, City Employee; Sheila Calvert, KAJACS Construction

dedication by the community to accomplish this goal, but everyone in Gideon will really benefit from this \$2.4 million commitment of grant funds and loans from USDA Rural Development. Their support will make a project possible that would otherwise have been very difficult for any rural community to afford. I am very excited about the jobs and opportunities this project will create,” said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

Dunning said, “Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality. This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and is an important part of President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiative and the commitment to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri.”

With the funding provided to the City of Gideon by Rural Development, the existing distribution system will be completely redesigned. Approximately 80% of the water lines will be replaced with all new, metered service lines, providing the City with adequate pressure to service its customers. Improvements will also be made to the well house, chlorine feed system and a backup generator will be installed for emergency power.

Emphasized as part of President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project will create jobs locally for the contractor completing the repairs. In addition, the improvements create an opportunity for growth for the City of Gideon by providing a safe and adequate drinking water supply.

USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure that the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

More information about USDA’s Recovery Act efforts is available at www.usda.gov/recovery. More information about the Federal government’s efforts on the Recovery Act is available at www.recovery.gov.

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