



# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Barbara Ross, Area Specialist, St Joseph, Missouri 816-364-3767, extension 4

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTS \$6,000 MOCK CHECK TO THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director, USDA Rural Development, presented a \$6,000 Mock Check to the City of Fairfax. The \$6,000 will assist the city in paying engineering fees to study options and recommend solutions to the existing problems with the wastewater treatment facilities in Fairfax.

Fairfax residents approved issuance of \$3,000,000 water/sewer revenue bond in June, 2009; with overwhelming 151 "Yes" votes and only 30 "No" votes. These bonds will be used as security for future loans to improve both the water and wastewater systems within Fairfax. Mayor Alva Stoner said, "The City of Fairfax is making strides to improve the community

and help keep Fairfax up and going. We would not have been able to do this without the help of many people. We would like to thank Barb Ross, of USDA Rural Development, and Stephanie Ross, of Midwest Assistance Program, for getting us started on this project. The income survey guided by Stephanie Ross was a big success, with help from all the citizens of Fairfax. We would also like to thank Arnie Kreek and Tye Parsons, from Northwest Regional Council, for their promptness with our environmental report. We could not have gotten this far without our city engineer, Doug Schulte, Snyder and Associates, who has played a major role in this project. We also thank the politicians who were involved in appropriating funds for the grant."

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill stated, "Before we begin expensive projects, it is always a good idea to have a solid plan in place. I am pleased the city of Fairfax will be using these federal funds to help pay for a preliminary engineering report as a first step to making plans for the years to come."



Pictured left to right: Chad Higdon, field representative for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves; Arnie Kreek, economic development planner, Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments; Janie Dunning, USDA Rural Development State Director; Barbara Ross, USDA Rural Development area specialist; Alva Stoner, Mayor, City of Fairfax; Brook Balentine, field representative, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Mike Brownfield, resource development advisor for Midwest Assistance Program; Mike Thomson, Missouri House of Representatives.

“I appreciate the USDA Rural Development program for listening and understanding the needs of Northwest Missouri,” said U.S. Congressman Sam Graves. “It is important that we continue to improve the infrastructure in our rural communities like Fairfax.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Dunning. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

The City of Fairfax will be contributing \$2,000 towards the completion of the Preliminary Engineering Report. Doug Schulte with Snyder and Associates is the engineer.

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 funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contacting Barbara Ross at the St. Joseph Rural Development Area office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling 816-364-3767 (extension 4).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

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