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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AIDS PIKE CREEK COMMON SEWER DISTRICT WITH EXPANSION

On Monday, April 20, 2009, the Pike Creek Common Sewer District was presented with a \$1,423,800 mock check from Greg Batson, Area Director for USDA Rural Development. The funds will be used to aid in the expansion of the current Sewer District by constructing 3 new extensions. The check presentation was part of many Earth Day events held across Missouri. Earth Day is being celebrated across the Nation to acknowledge and unite communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing environmentally safe living conditions to rural residents.



Pictured from left to right: Bob Summers, Schultz & Summers Engineering; Christy Ferrell, District Director, Senator Claire McCaskill's Office; Kristi Nitsch, District Director, Congresswoman Jo Ann Emerson's Office; Henry Priest; John McDonough, Sewer District Board President; Cindy Wacker; Larry Wells, Sewer Board Vice President; Marissa Day, Sewer Board Clerk; Doug Smith, Sewer Board member; Corbit Barnet, Sewer Board member; Phyllis Minner, Rural Development Area Specialist; Greg Batson, Rural Development Area Director.

U.S. Senator Kit Bond said, "An adequate sewer system is critical to protecting the environment, the health of the community and ensuring a high quality of life for rural Missourians. Thank you to the local leaders and USDA rural development staff whose hard work made this project a reality."

"Water infrastructure is one of the most important and expensive needs of rural communities. These extensions to the Pike Creek system will extend a reliable part of this infrastructure to 145 new customers. I'm very glad USDA Rural Development can support this effort, and I appreciate their identification of a great opportunity to improve the public utility service in Southern Missouri," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The Pike Creek Common Sewer District was formed in 1997 by a group of citizens concerned about the failing on-site septic systems in Butler County. Phase I of the Sewer District was completed in 2001 and included a total of 637 connections to the collection system. Phase II construction wrapped up in early 2004 and consists of 1,075 customers. The current project, Phase III, will add an additional 145 homes to the treatment facility. The central collection and treatment of household wastewater has returned the area's neighborhoods to safe

environments for children and their domestic pets, without the past threats of hazardous waste emerging from failed septic systems.

The funding for the Water District is provided through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental programs. Funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts (Public Water Supply Districts and/or Sewer Districts) and non-profit corporations unable to obtain funds from conventional sources at reasonable rates and terms. This program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas, cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

"This is a great partnership when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe wastewater treatment facility," said Batson. "I would like to extend appreciation 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

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Dexter Rural Development Office at 573-624-5939, ext. 4, or by email at phyllis.minner@mo.usda.gov. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

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