

USDA



Rural Development

Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES SOUTHWEST CITY WITH \$850,000 FOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, presented a mock check in the amount of \$850,000 to Mayor Ryan McKee on September 18, 2007, in a ceremony held at city hall. The \$500,000 loan and \$350,000 grant funds represent that portion of the project funded by Rural Development to be used towards upgrading the existing wastewater collection system and pumping station, constructing a new treatment plant, and purchasing operating equipment for the system. The project will replace the current lagoon system and serve additional customers in this rural community population of 1,672.



Pictured Left to Right: Front Row (behind check): Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of Rural Development; Patsy Vinson, City Clerk; Tim Rickabaugh, Rural Development Area Director; Ryan McKee, Mayor; Second Row: Bruce Hively, Rural Development Area Specialist; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for Congressman Blunt; Ray West, Project Engineer from Hood-Rich, Inc.; Bill Bouldin, councilman

“It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities, like Southwest City, not only to encourage economic growth but also to safeguard its citizens,” said U.S. Senator “Kit” Bond. “I thank USDA for their partnership and their commitment to the betterment of our communities. These are the type of federal-local partnerships I like to see.”

“Rural Development grants and loans bring federal dollars back home to Missouri while still maintaining fiscal responsibility,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “This grant and loan will help Southwest City update their infrastructure for future generations.”

Congressman Roy Blunt said, "Partnering with the USDA to make grants and loans available to small towns and cities is a crucial step toward ensuring our communities have the infrastructure and support they need to sustain themselves into the future. I'm pleased to see these funds being used by residents of McDonald County to make vital improvements to their wastewater facilities, in the process positioning its communities for future growth and economic development in the Elk River Basin."

Mayor Ryan McKee expressed his appreciation, “Today, the City of Southwest City will reach a milestone, probably the single biggest hurdle the City will cross in my life time. The list of people that have worked very hard to reach this goal is long and full. Major projects, such as this one, would not be possible without help. Without the USDA and the other funding agencies, a small town like Southwest City could never get an up-to-date system like the one we will be turning on early next year. I would like to express a very special thank you to all of those at the USDA, the funding agencies, past elected officials, the current council, and the good people of Southwest City for making this project happen.”

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe waste disposal system,” said Branum. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable system.”

Branum added, “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.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to brucehively@mo.usda.gov.

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