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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES EARTH DAY WITH OFFICIALS AT LAKE TISHOMINGO

Anita “Janie” Dunning, State Director of USDA Rural Development, hosted an Earth Day celebration with the Public Water Supply District No. 13 officials on Wednesday, April 21, 2010. The event was held to celebrate Earth Day and acknowledge the efforts of the local officials towards bringing a new sewage collection and treatment system to the area. When construction is completed, the central sewer system will provide service to 238 residents which will greatly improve the health and sanitary conditions at this lake community. USDA Rural Development partnered with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to provide the funding for this project. Official bid opening for the new sewer project is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup>.

“It is fitting that we mark Earth Day by celebrating a new waste collection and treatment facility that is essential to the continued health and safety of the people living in the area and the preservation of the pristine streams that run through Jefferson County,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I commend the hard work of the many community and local leaders whose efforts made this project a reality.”

“The efforts of Missouri communities to clean up sewage and sanitation while celebrating Earth Day is encouraging for future generations of Missourians” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m pleased to hear that USDA Rural Development will be hosting celebrations at Lake Tishomingo to honor our Earth and the efforts of Missourians who continue to protect our planet.”

“The safe transfer of household water is important to growing communities,” said Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3). “Soon residents of the Lake Tishomingo subdivision will have a sewer system they can count on to keep their drinking water safe. I thank all those involved in making this a reality for this community including the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.”



Pictured from left to right: John Hindrichs, PWSD #13; Donna Martin, Area Specialist; USDA Rural Development, Farmington; Terry Luetkemeyer, Area Director, USDA Rural Development, Farmington; Rich Hirsch, PWSD #13; Charlie Lents, Belew Creek Watershed Management (and resident); Bob Johnson, Resident; Janie Dunning, State Director, USDA Rural Development, Missouri State Office; Gail Lents, Resident; Frank Taylor, Taylor Engineering; Marilyn Meyer, PWSD #13; Janet Hensel, Resident; Rick Lippitt, PWSD #13; Bob Burns, Representative from Sen. Claire McCaskill’s office; Mary Leiweke, PWSD #13 Public Relations Committee; Tim Robbs, Taylor Engineering; Janet Hirsch, Lake Tishomingo Property Owner’s Association

**“The Lake Tishomingo Property Owners have been very concerned about maintaining the beauty and water quality of our lake. It has taken a very long time to get this project ready for construction. Our meetings began in 2004 with a small committee of residents. We have benefited through the whole process by the encouragement and guidance given to us by the USDA Rural Development Office. Their generous loan was the key to our success with the project. We are very grateful for their support and look forward to continue cooperation on this very important new sewer system. Our thanks to USDA and Department of Natural Resources for the funding to improve our lake community,”** stated Marilyn Meyer, President of the PWSD No. 13 of Jefferson County.

**“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of a community in providing essential services,”** said Dunning. **“This project mirrors USDA, Rural Development’s mission of being committed to the future of rural communities. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable sewer system.”** Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for funding these projects.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or can contact Donna Martin at the Area Office at the Farmington, MO by calling 573-756-6413, Ext. 5.

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