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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$8,530.00 LOAN & GRANT FUNDS TO BLACKWATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Greg C. Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, announced funding of \$8,530.00 to the Blackwater Preservation Society. Rural Development made a community facility loan for \$3,840.00 and a community facility economic impact initiative grant of \$4,690.00. The funds will be used to purchase an early warning siren which the preservation society will lease to the City of Blackwater. A mock check representing the funding was presented to the Blackwater Preservation Society during a celebration held February 14th at the Blackwater City Hall.



“Today’s announcement is great news for this community. This new early warning siren will help protect Blackwater residents,” said Senator Kit Bond. “I will continue to work with the USDA and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Missouri communities.”

Congressman Sam Graves said “As a farmer and member of the House Agriculture Committee, I know the importance of these dollars to rural Missouri. My office has worked closely with the USDA Rural Development on this project and I congratulate the recipients. I am proud to have supported the important work of the USDA and I look forward to partnering on many more projects to benefit Northwest Missourians.

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, “USDA Rural Development is happy to be able to assist the City with this early warning siren,” Other officials attending from USDA were Jan Bonnes, Rural Development Manager, Columbia.

Representing the City of Blackwater were Mayor Pro-tem Linda Topel, Bonnie Rapp, Treasurer for the Blackwater Preservation Society and Jim Atkinson, City Clerk for Blackwater.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs, you may visit the web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo or contact the local office at 601 business loop 70 West, Parkade Plaza, Suite 213 E, Columbia, Mo. 65203 or calling 573-875-5540 ext. 4.

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