



NEWS RELEASE

PWSD#2 of Stone County Receives \$2,000,000 Loan for Well and Distribution Lines

Bruce Hively, Rural Development Specialist, USDA Rural Development, presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Public Water Supply District #2 of Stone County during a ceremony on September 2, 2004, held at the District's Office. Water and Waste Disposal Direct Loan funds will be used to drill a deep well, construct a water storage facility, and install distribution lines to approximately 1,180 residents, uniting several small developments and their systems into a centralized system.

President Judy Lemen stated, "The District will provide a plentiful and high quality supply of water for area residents with its state approved water supply. The large diameter distribution lines and elevated water storage tank will provide for improved fire protection. The safeguards for technical, managerial and financial capacity which have been established in the state code ensure that the system is operated and maintained to high standards now and in the future.

We are so pleased with the rapid forward movement of our project. The public support has been phenomenal, with a 79% approval rate for formation of the District in November 2002 and a 93% approval rate for the issuance of bonds in November 2003. Before November 2004, we expect construction to be underway".

Lemen further stated, "Our progress would not have been possible without our actively involved Board of Directors, the services of our Engineer, Dave Krehbiel of Krehbiel Engineering, Inc., the assistance of Bruce Hively at USDA Rural Development, and Department of Natural Resources' staff as well as a number of local property owners who have made donations to get the District off to a good start".

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Roy Blunt have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects."

"Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work making this project a reality, said Branum. "This project mirrors President Bush's initiative and exemplify the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities".



Attendees pictured (left to right): Charli Jo Ledgerwood, Administrator; Judy Lemen, President of the Board; Nathan Correll, Senator Talent's Field Representative; Stacy Burks, Senator Bond's District Director; Steve McIntosh, Congressman Blunt's Field Representative; Jerry Finley, USDA Rural Development Manager for Area 5.

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, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to bruce.hively@mo.usda.gov.

#

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410