

USDA



Rural Development

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NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$3,367,000 IN FUNDS TO THE CITY OF ROGERSVILLE

To celebrate Earth Day, Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development was joined by representatives from the federal elected officials to present a Mock Check to the City of Rogersville for \$3,367,000 on April 23, 2007. The Water and Wastewater Loan funds will assist to expand the capacity of the sewer plant and extend the sewer service to hookup several new housing subdivisions and commercial developments plus help meet the future needs of Rogersville. The population has grown from 987 citizens in the 1990 census to 1508 in the 2000 census. Providing sanitary sewer systems will not only benefit the City but also contribute to a clean environment for the residents in the watershed area and those downstream.



Front Row: Tim Rickabaugh, Rural Development Area Director; John Bledsoe, representative of Congressman Blunt's office, Jack Cole, Mayor; Melissa Richardson representative of Congressman Skelton's office; Nancy Edson, City Administrator, Leroy Roderick, alderman; and Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director
Back Row: Mark Dethrow, Rural Development; Jack Kearbey, Rural Development; Austin Owens, representative of Senator Bond's office, and Dale Reaves, Alderman

"It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities, like Rogersville, not only to encourage economic growth but also to safeguard the environment," said Senator Kit Bond. "Our health and that of the environment and economy depends on clean water. "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."

Senator McCaskill said, "I'm proud the federal government is investing in rural development in Missouri with USDA Water and Waste Loans. This loan will allow Rogersville to update and expand its sewer system and make sure it's citizens have clean water as the community continues to grow."

"I am pleased that USDA has awarded the City of Rogersville with critical financial backing for the expansion of its sewer system," said Representative Ike Skelton. "Through the years, I have seen firsthand how our national investment in rural development has yielded positive results for Missouri. In the days ahead, we must redouble our efforts on behalf of rural America, ensuring small town leaders have access to the capital they need."

"Rogersville is another of those Ozarks communities experiencing robust growth and new business expansion as the newest census estimates have indicated. The sewer treatment expansion program in Rogersville is a necessary step to accommodate that continued growth. Protecting the environment and working to provide opportunities for our families should go hand in hand. I am delighted to see Rogersville community leaders and the USDA working together to meet these vital goals," said Congressman Blunt.

"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 waste disposal system. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of rural projects.

Jack Cole, Mayor of Rogersville, said, "Working together with our state and federal officials, the Citizens of Rogersville will enjoy the benefits of low interest rate loan. This treatment plant will be using some of the latest technologies and will allow the city to more than triple in size before we will need the next expansion. This step is the culmination of many months of hard work for individuals at all levels of government and we are so grateful for the dedication of everyone involved."

Additional information on this project or other USDA Rural Development programs is available by visiting the agency website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or by contacting Mike Monger, Rural Development Manager, 1242 Deadra Dr, Lebanon MO, 65536, by calling 417-532-5741 extension 4, or by email to mike.monger@mo.usda.gov

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