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NEWS RELEASE

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$5,110,000 TO SCOTT COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

In conjunction with the national celebration of Earth Day, Greg Branum, State Director for USDA Rural Development in Missouri, presented Scott County Public Water Supply District No. 4 with a mock check in the amount of \$5,110,000 representing the funding provided by Rural Development to construct a complete water distribution system in the southern part of Scott County.

"Water infrastructure in rural areas is essential to our communities and the quality of life of the Americans who live in them. Two public schools and 600 households will benefit from this investment in Scott County's Public Water Supply District. I appreciate the fact that Rural Development has identified a substantial opportunity to invest in our Southern Missouri communities, and I am thankful for the support of USDA Rural Development from my colleagues in the Missouri delegation in Congress," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe water distribution system," said Mr. Branum. "I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that the cities, schools and many rural households will benefit from a dependable water system."



Pictured: Joel Evans, Phil Lyon, Phyllis Minner, Rural Development, Chris Grojean, John Chittenden, Hope Kilburn, Dennis Meier, Martin Priggel, Greg Branum, Rural Development State Director, & Pam Anglin, Area Director

The new water district encompasses roughly the entire county of Scott, with the project being completed in phases. The first phase will be in the southern half of the county and will consist of construction of water distribution lines and an interconnection with the City of Sikeston. The District will purchase water from the City of Sikeston at a rate which makes it more economically feasible than producing its own water.

The District presently has 598 signed residential user agreements for Phase I, plus Kelly Public Schools and Scott County Central School. The two school districts currently operate their own wells and treatment systems for their facilities. With the new system, the school districts will be able to provide safe drinking water daily to more than 1500 children. Furthermore, through interconnection with the communities of the county, the district will be able to sell, buy, and provide water in emergency situations, increasing the county's homeland security capacity. Upon completion of all phases, the new water district will assure potable water for approximately 10,800 rural residents.

Additionally, areas of the county that may not have been viable for new residential or commercial development because of lack of utilities will now be candidates for county growth. Development spreading south from Cape Girardeau and north from Sikeston will be enhanced, improving opportunity and quality of life for all.

Branum added, "Great appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. Economic development, the creation of jobs and funding essential services mirror the Agency's mission and President Bush's initiative of increasing economic opportunity in rural communities and improving the quality of life of rural residents."

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by visiting the USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/ or contact Kathy A. Cagle, Rural Development Manager at 573-624-5939, extension 4.

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