

USDA Rural Development Celebrates Earth Day by Investing \$17.7 Million in Nine Kansas Water Quality Projects

As part of USDA's Earth Day celebration, USDA State Director Patty Clark announced on April 24 the agency's support for nine projects that will improve water and wastewater services for rural Kansans. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission, despite a time of significant budget uncertainty.

A USDA news release stated the following: "USDA Rural Development provides critical financing for rural Kansas communities looking to improve their water and wastewater infrastructure," said Clark. "Federal funds are being invested in rural Kansas communities so they have reliable, clean and abundant water at affordable rates for current and future generations."

As part of the announcement, USDA Rural Development is providing more than \$17.7 million to improve water quality and provide a safe and healthy environment for rural Kansans. USDA Community Programs Director, L.D. Kent Evans, made the announcement

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PWWSD 18 Chairman Richard Mulroy receives the Earth Day Plaque from USDA Rural Development Program Director Kent Evans.

of nine projects in Kansas that have received funding this year, while attending an Earth Day Event at Public Wholesale Water Supply District (PWWSD) No. 18 in Holton.

In July 2012, PWWSD No. 18 received a \$1.621 million loan from USDA Rural Development to update the district's filtration system at the water treatment plant. The old filtration system was expensive to maintain and unreliable. USDA funding assisted the district in installing a new filtration system that allows the plant to produce the quantity and quality of water needed. The new filtration system will allow the district to meet the current and future needs of the more than 3,000 Jackson County customers it serves.

Recipients of USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program funding for fiscal year 2013 include:

- ❖ **City of Colony** – \$777,000 loan: The city will repair and/or replace 13,250 linear feet of faulty sewer lines. The city also received \$500,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant program.
- ❖ **City of Leoti** – \$2.675 million loan, \$1,380,500 grant: The city will build a water treatment plant that will remove nitrates from the city's water supply.
- ❖ **City of Pleasanton** – \$3.728 million loan, \$835,000 grant: The city will replace 28,000 linear feet of water lines, install 45 fire hydrants, repair the spillway at east city lake, and rehabilitate the water treatment plant.
- ❖ **City of Rush Center** – \$794,000 loan, \$456,000 grant: The city will construct a new two cell non-discharging lagoon facility and

pump station, and will install approximately 7,200 linear feet of sewer main pipe. The city also received \$340,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant program.

- ❖ **City of Robinson** – \$797,000 loan: The city will repair 9,050 linear feet of sewer collection lines, 85 feet of manholes, and 73 service connections. This is the final phase of the city's sewer improvement project. Additional funding of \$444,000 was provided from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant program.
- ❖ **City of Troy** – \$3.13 million loan: The city will repair and/or replace 41,115 linear feet of sewer collection lines, 1,250 feet of manholes, and 120 service connections. Funding will replace the city's entire sewage collection system. The city also received \$500,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant program.
- ❖ **City of Uniontown** – \$489,000 loan, \$111,000 grant: The city will replace 24,000 linear feet of water distribution line, 14,100 linear feet of water service line, 16 fire hydrants, 160 meters and telemetry controls. Additional funding of \$500,000 was

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- ❖ **City of Windom** – \$296,000 loan, \$278,500 grant: The city will replace the 70,600 linear feet of water transmission line between the city of McPherson and city of Windom. The project also received \$260,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant program.
- ❖ **Pottawatomie County RWD No. 3** – \$1.9 million loan: The project funding will be used to construct a

chlorination building, install 58,000 linear feet of pipe, and build a 50,000 gallon elevated water tower.

Earth Day is observed annually in April to raise awareness about the role each person can play to protect vital natural resources and safeguard the environment. Since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, the event has expanded to include participation by citizens and governments in more than 195 countries.

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USDA has made a concerted effort to deliver results for the American people, even as USDA implements sequestration – the across-the-board budget reductions mandated under terms of the Budget Control Act. USDA has already undertaken historic efforts since 2009 to save more than \$700 million in taxpayer funds through targeted, common-sense budget reductions. These reductions have put

USDA in a better position to carry out its mission, while implementing sequester budget reductions in a fair manner that causes as little disruption as possible.

Cities and rural water districts may contact USDA at 785-271-2700 or check out their Web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/KS



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