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NEWS RELEASE

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THE VILLAGE OF COSBY CELEBRATES EARTH DAY

An Earth Day celebration was held at the Village of Cosby's new wastewater treatment site on April 22, 2009. This project is an excellent example of partnership, as funding was provided from USDA Rural Development, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Community Development Block Grant program. USDA Rural Development is providing \$400,000 in loans and \$718,400 in grants funding for the project. The Department of Natural Resources provided a loan in the amount of \$100,000 and a grant in the amount of \$82,600; Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided funds in the amount of a \$295,000 grant for the project. The combined funds are being used to construct a new central wastewater collection and treatment system to serve Cosby's 55 residents. These improvements should contribute to a safer and healthier environment for the citizens as well as make the community more attractive to homeowners and potential businesses.

"Celebrating Earth Day is a time to stop and think about how important it is to take good care of our planet," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. "It's important to protect our water sources while also making sure that Missourians have access to clean, safe water, and this project plays a role in that effort."

Pryor Schottel, Jr, Chairman of the Council of the Village of Cosby stated, "We would like to thank Dusty Burton, Bartlett & West Engineers; Barbara Ross of USDA; Cassie White of Mo-Kan Regional Council, and Kissick Construction, with a special thanks to Bruce Hattig of Bartlett & West and Chris Fierros, of MAP for all the help in getting us started."

"This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe disposal system," said Neal Miller, Area Director from USDA Rural Development. "This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. The partnership in this project extends beyond the funding, into the day-to-day operation of the facility. PWSD # 2 of Andrew County has been an active participant in this project and will process billing and payments for the Cosby sewer system. 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." Miller added, "Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Bruce Hattig of Bartlett & West, Inc. of St. Joseph, MO is the project engineer. Chris Fierros, with the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. has provided technical assistance to the Village of Cosby for the project. Cassie White, Mo-Kan Regional Planning Commission, has served as administrator for the CDBG funds. Terry Campbell, PWSD #2 of Andrew County manager, and has worked closely with the Village of Cosby and Kissick Construction during the past several months.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Funds for this project were provided through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental program. This program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contacting Barbara A. Ross, at the Saint Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, Saint Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling 816.364.3767, extension 4.

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