



# NEWS RELEASE

## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS THE CITY OF HAYTI BY PROVIDING STIMULUS FUNDS FOR SEVERAL IMPORTANT PROJECTS**

Greg Batson, Area Director for USDA Rural Development, along with local Rural Development staff, hosted two events in the City of Hayti on Wednesday, March 17, 2010. The first event was a ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the new water treatment plant slated for completion in December, 2010. The second event was held at the Hayti Fire Station, where Mr. Batson presented a certificate to Mayor Bobby Watkins representing \$357,500 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds awarded to Hayti for street improvements, a fire truck and a police vehicle.



“It’s crucial that Missouri communities are able to get the equipment they need for the important services they provide to Missourians,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m pleased to hear that these funds will go towards new equipment and operations that will help the City of Hayti provide its citizens with the best, from the fire and police departments to street improvements and a new water treatment plant.”

The City of Hayti passed a \$3.25 Million bond issue in 2008 to fund a new water treatment plant to solve the water production problem and provide a safe, clean facility. The new plant will provide adequate water supply for the entire City and new water mains will be installed to improve water pressure problems. Mayor Bobby Watkins said, “As we embark into this new decade, it is nice to know we have a great support staff at Rural Development and Bootheel Regional. Without the help and guidance to prepare the grants and funding, this entire Water Project would have never taken place. From myself, the Board of Aldermen, and the Citizens of the City of Hayti, I would like to give our deepest and most sincere thank you to both agencies for all your efforts.”



some much over-due street repair. This will be a good start on getting our streets up to par,” said Mayor Watkins.

Hayti was also awarded ARRA funds to complete street improvements throughout the city, replace a vehicle for the City’s Police Department as well as a fund a replacement fire truck for the Fire Department. “Again, thank you to Phyllis Minner and Tresia Webb with Rural Development for their timeless efforts in acquiring funding for cities like ours. We received \$107,500 to go towards the purchase of a new police car and a fire truck. This will help both departments protect our citizens for years to come. We were also awarded \$250,000 for

“These projects mirror USDA Rural Development’s mission and are an important part of President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiative and the commitment to the future of rural communities. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators Kit Bond and Claire McCaskill plus U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services for rural Missouri,” said Missouri State Director Anita J. “Janie” Dunning.

Anyone seeking more information on Rural Development programs may visit the Missouri Rural Development home page at [www.rurdev.gov/mo](http://www.rurdev.gov/mo). You may also contact your local Rural Development Area Office at 18450 Ridgeview Lane, Dexter, MO 63841 or by telephone at (573) 624-5939, ext. 4.

More information about USDA’s Recovery Act efforts is available at [www.usda.gov/recovery](http://www.usda.gov/recovery). More information about the Federal government’s efforts on the Recovery Act is available at [www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).