

A Publication of the Bluegrass Area Development District

BLUEGRASS

A D D - V A N T A G E

HASSALL RECEIVES VISIONARY AWARD

Don Hassall was awarded the Bluegrass ADD Visionary Award at the 2010 Annual Meeting held on January 29. This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated leadership and innovation in the pursuit of a vision for the Bluegrass Region. In announcing the award, ADD Executive Director Lenny Stoltz noted that Mr. Hassall was responsible for more than \$2 billion in water and wastewater system improvements to public utilities in the Bluegrass Region since his career began at the ADD in 1972. His first project then was to analyze all water and wastewater utilities in the 17-county region and project their future infrastructure needs. This study resulted in the publication of the 646-page Water and Sewer Plan for the Bluegrass ADD.



Don Hassall receives Visionary Award

Through Mr. Hassall's efforts to implement this plan, Mr. Stoltz also noted, the Bluegrass Area now has public water service available to 99.7 percent of its citizens and wastewater service available to almost 72 percent. Mr. Hassall was also credited with having overseen the writing of more than 132 successful HUD Community Development Block Grants worth more than \$65 million and has successfully overseen more than 625 Kentucky Infrastructure Authority grants to the region, totaling more than \$125 million.

Congratulations to Don!

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NEW ADD OFFICERS ELECTED

Also at the Annual Meeting, the following were elected as officers of the ADD for the coming year:

Chair – Judge/Executive Larry Tincher (Nicholas County)

Vice Chair – Mayor Connie Lawson (Richmond)

Secretary – Judge/Executive Donnie Foley (Bourbon County)

Treasurer – Mayor Edwinna Baker (Lawrenceburg)

The outgoing officers were also presented with awards in recognition of their service. Congratulations go to the new officers.

ADD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHOSEN

The Bluegrass ADD's Executive Committee (formerly known as the Executive Board until recent by-law amendments) has also been selected recently. One member of the full Board of Directors from each county is selected for this body. (The four officers of the Board are automatically on the Executive Committee.) Following are those who will serve for the coming year's term:

Anderson County	Mayor Edwinna Baker (Treasurer)
Bourbon County	Judge/Executive Donnie Foley (Secretary)
Boyle County	Judge/Executive Harold McKinney
Clark County	Mr. Dodd Dixon
Estill County	Mr. John Shepherd
Fayette County	Mayor Jim Newberry
Franklin County	Mrs. Linda Magee
Garrard County	Judge/Executive John Wilson
Harrison County	Mayor Jack Keith
Jessamine County	Mr. Ben Brown
Lincoln County	Judge/Executive Bill Demrow
Madison County	Mayor Connie Lawson (Vice Chair)
Mercer County	Mr. Phil Crump
Nicholas County	Judge/Executive Larry Tincher (Chair)
Powell County	Mr. James Caudill
Scott County	Mr. John Fitch
Woodford County	Mr. Floyd Greene

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS OF \$3000 ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Bluegrass PRIDE believes that environmental education is a life-long learning process that encourages superior stewardship of the natural environment. One of the main goals of environmental education is to create environmentally literate citizens who are prepared to make wise resource decisions. This concept is especially important when taught at the local level, where students are able to better appreciate the impacts of their activities on the immediate world around them. Therefore, conservation and preservation of Kentucky's precious natural resources crucially depends on the effectiveness of the environmental education process.

Through a partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Bluegrass PRIDE (PRIDE) will provide resources, in the form of Environmental Education Grants, to aid in the development of quality environmental education opportunities here in the Commonwealth. These grants will be available to teachers from public and private school systems, educational institutions applying as a school, or non-formal educators from recognized organizations such as Conservation Districts and the Cooperative Extension Service. Incorporated non-profits and government agencies involved in the promotion of environmental education may also apply. Other groups interested in environmental education not eligible to apply are encouraged to form a partnership with an eligible applicant.

In order to obtain one of these grants, a cost-share by the applicant is required. This amount will be determined by the county where the project will take place. Projects performed in Clark, Garrard, Madison or Montgomery County will require a 50% match of the total cost of the project. Those performed in Estill, Lincoln or Powell County will require a 20% match.

PRIDE is excited to present this opportunity and encourages all interested parties to apply.

2010-2011 Environmental Education Grants

At a Glance

- Purpose: To provide resources to schools to foster environmental programs
- Eligible Applicants: Schools, teachers, nonprofit education groups
- Grant Amount: Up to \$3,000 / One award of up to \$10,000
- Timeline: Applications available: March 1 / Due: May 7 / Awarded: July 19

- Duration: 9 month period of performance - Ends April 18, 2011
- Examples of Potential Grant Funded Projects:
 - Establishment or expansion of outdoor classrooms
 - Water quality testing activities and supplies
 - Computer-based environmental education programs and activities
 - Wildlife and aquatic habitat restoration or protection projects
 - Purchasing environmental educational models or materials

Please direct any questions to PRIDE's Grants Administrator, Gene Slusher, at gene@bgPRIDE.org or (866)-222-1648.

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS SOLICITED

Beginning in March 2010, the Bluegrass ADD will begin to work on federal appropriations requests on behalf of cities, counties, and non-profit organizations for FY 2012. ADD staff will send and promote these requests on behalf of the beneficiaries, as they move forward in the appropriation process. The ADD stands ready to assist in the preparation and endorsement of community and regional requests for FY 2012.

In the past year, the ADD has sponsored appropriation requests to Representative Ben Chandler and Senators Mitch McConnell and Jim Bunning for upgrades at the Blue Grass Army Depot. The requests were for funding for a consolidated shipping center and for robotic welding capabilities. Both projects would help to improve the efficiency and workload capacities of the Depot.

The deadline for applications for the FY 2012 budget will occur in February of 2011.

For further information, please contact Kyle Scott at the ADD office (kscott@bgadd.org).

FORMER PARIS MAYOR DON KISER HONORED IN BOURBON COUNTY

Paris is home to the Extension Center of the Maysville Community and Technical College. In honor of Mayor Kiser, the Center was recently renamed the Donald W. Kiser Paris Extension Center. Mayor Kiser was an exceptional leader, and his sudden passing last year was a shock to the Paris/Bourbon County community.

In dedicating the new sign identifying the Extension Center,

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College President Ed Story said, "We owe our thanks to Mayor Kiser because we would not be here today if it were not for his vision and commitment to bring the college here." Three years ago, the Center opened with just four classes being offered. This fall, 39 classes are scheduled.

Story said he was impressed with Kiser's foresight, vision, and belief in the value of education. "He told me that he wanted the college to be located in downtown Paris because there were many students living in the area who could walk to the college, and it would be the only way they could ever get a college education." Paris' current mayor, Mike Thornton, said that the Extension Center was "a big step forward in community education and improved the quality of life in the community."

The Extension Center occupies space in the Paris Municipal Center, which was formerly the old Paris City Hospital.

CITIZEN DIRECTORS ELECTED TO ADD BOARD

Also at the ADD's Annual Meeting, approximately one-third of the citizen members of the Board of Directors were chosen for staggered terms. Those elected or re-elected for an additional term were:

Anderson County	Mr. Bob Thompson
Boyle County	Mr. John Forsyth
Estill County	Mr. Eugene Bush Mr. John Shepherd
Garrard County	Mr. Glenn Ross
Harrison County	Ms. Bonnie Teater
Jessamine County	Mr. Ben Brown
Lincoln County	Mr. Dan Barnett
Madison County	Ms. Sandra Powell
Mercer County	Mr. Phil Crump
Nicholas County	Mr. Gerald Watkins
Woodford County	Mr. Floyd Greene
At-Large	Mr. Luther Deaton
At-Large	Mr. Dan Brewer
At-Large	Mr. George Campbell

ADD COMMITTEE HEADS NAMED

With the approval of the Executive Committee, the Chair of the ADD Board has named the following persons to serve as committee chairs and vice chairs for the coming year:

Development Advisory Committee

Chair: Judge/Executive John Wilson
Vice-Chair: Mayor Fred Siegelman

Human Services Advisory Committee

Chair: Judge/Executive Alex Barnett
Vice-Chair: Mayor Don Rinthen

Natural Resources & Environmental Protection Advisory Committee

Chair: Mayor Edwinna Baker
Vice-Chair: Judge/Executive Milward Dedman

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Chair: Mayor Jim Newberry
Vice-Chair: Judge/Executive Donnie Foley

Tourism, Recreation and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee

Chair: Judge/Executive Harold McKinney
Vice-Chair: Mayor Gippy Graham

Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council

Chair: Judge/Executive Henry Branham
Vice-Chair: Judge/Executive John Coyle

Regional Citizen Corps Council

Chair: Jack Donovan
Vice-Chair: Keith Scroggins

Character Council

Chair: Mayor Edwinna Baker
Vice-Chair: Hon. Dodd Dixon

Water Planning (409) Council

Chair: Mayor Ed Burtner
Vice-Chair: Judge/Executive Harold McKinney

Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living Council

Chair: Mayor Hugh Coomer
Vice-Chair: Judge/Executive William Demrow

Workforce Investment Board

Liaisons: Judges/Executive Larry Tincher and John Wilson

NEW MAYOR NAMED IN SADIEVILLE

Sadieville Mayor Rob Wagoner recently resigned, citing health reasons. The Sadieville City Commission appointed one of its own, Mayor Pro-Tem Claude Christensen, to fill the rest of the unexpired term which runs through the end of calendar 2010.

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Thanks for his tireless efforts on behalf of the city and best wishes go to Rob Wagoner, and congratulations to Mayor Christensen.

HARRODSBURG TO RECEIVE \$1.3 MILLION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

In mid-February, Congressman Ben Chandler was in Harrodsburg bringing news of a Congressional appropriation of \$1.3 million to facilitate the city's efforts to improve its wastewater treatment plant. The grant requires matching funds, but it will assist the city as it plans to make modifications to its treatment facilities so that it will be able to meet new and tougher water quality standards. The grant will permit the removal of the rotating biological contactors at the treatment plant since that type of process has been determined to be "failed technology" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Upon receiving the glad news from Congressman Chandler, Harrodsburg Mayor Lonnie Campbell said, "This upgrade will keep the City of Harrodsburg in compliance with state and federal regulations and will also keep sewer rates down for our customers."

WINCHESTER RECEIVES COMMITMENT OF LOAN FUNDS FOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

Winchester finds itself between the proverbial rock and a hard place as it faces the need for numerous water and wastewater projects in the next decade. The Consent Decree into which the city has entered with the US Environmental Protection Agency is driving the need for wastewater improvements. Winchester has been given a laundry list of wastewater projects to undertake and has a limited time in which to start and finish the projects.

As the city and its utilities commission search for the money to implement these projects, they look first for federal and state grant funds. Beyond that, Winchester is looking for loans with the most favorable interest rates. In early February came news that the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority has approved a \$36.6 million loan to be applied to Winchester's list of wastewater projects. Repayment is to be over a 20-year period at 2.2 percent.

Under the Consent Decree with EPA, Winchester is required to eliminate 27 sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The construction of a new wastewater treatment plant south and west of the city is the most costly project on the city's list. City officials plan to build the new treatment plant in the Lower Howards Creek Watershed where 13 of the original list of 27 sewer overflows occur. The treatment plant will be designed to treat 2 million gallons per day (MGD) with a peak hydraulic capacity of 10 MGD.

AREA COUNTY CLERKS RECEIVE GRANTS

The Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives has recently awarded grants to the offices of three Bluegrass Area County Clerks for the preservation and maintenance of local records. Such grants are often used to microfilm certain permanent records, but are sometimes used for digital imaging and for the purchase of equipment that may be needed to access and preserve the records. Bluegrass Area recipients of the grants in this cycle are:

Mercer County Clerk	\$29,562
Powell County Clerk	\$10,000
Scott County Clerk	\$7,078

For more information on the Local Records Program, contact Jerry Carlton at the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, 502/564-8300.

BURGIN RECEIVES PROMISE OF FEDERAL MONEY TO IMPROVE ITS WATER SYSTEM

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell visited the City of Burgin in mid-February to present a facsimile check for \$340,000. The federal grant to the city will be used to improve the community's water distribution system. The grant came from a federal appropriation with a 60/40 match provision. The city will have to come up with about \$284,000 so that the federal grant will not exceed 60 percent of project cost. The city will likely approach USDA's Rural Development with a funding request for most of the required matching money.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

IRVINE/ESTILL COUNTY REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CONTRACT SIGNED

On Monday, March 1, Irvine's Mayor Farmer officially signed the contract to begin construction on the Irvine/Estill County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The joint county/city project began in concept nearly six years ago. It has required a determined effort on the part of Irvine, Estill County, the Estill County Water District, and six different funding agencies to bring the concept of the regional plant to reality.

Irvine and Estill County have doggedly worked every funding angle possible to ensure that the project was cost effective and to minimize the financial impact to the rate payers. Their efforts resulted in a project that is consists of 65 percent grant money, with the remainder of the project costs coming from a low-interest loan.

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The sources of funds included in the project (Contracts 1 and 2) are:

1.	KIA grant 272N-2007	\$900,000
2.	KIA grant 126N-2008	\$900,000
3.	RD Loan	\$4,999,000
4.	RD Grant	\$2,143,714
5.	CDBG grant	\$2,000,000
6.	EDA grant	\$1,500,000
7.	Congressional approp.(EPA)	\$1,310,000
8.	EPA earmark	\$25,000
9.	ARC grant	\$650,000
	TOTAL:	\$14,427,174

The Notice to Proceed will be issued on March 31, with actual work commencing in early April.



Irvine Mayor Ernest Lee Farmer (center) executes the construction contract. Photo courtesy Citizen-Voice and Times

A third contract will be signed in six months which will connect additional Estill County customers who currently have no sewer service or who have failing septic tanks.

Once complete, the regional plant will replace the failing Estill County WWTP and the failing City of Irvine WWTP. Wastewater from the Estill County customers will be pumped under the Kentucky River to the new regional treatment plant which will be located at the

same site as the existing Irvine WWTP. Currently Irvine and Estill County are under sewer sanctions which prevent the extension or increase of service to new or existing customers. Completing this project will put both the city and county back in compliance, allowing them to increase service, protect the environment and increase economic development opportunities.

For more information on this project, please contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

STIMULUS FUNDS AWARDED IN KENTUCKY

Nationally, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated funding of \$2,236,728,655 in 2009 for Transportation Enhancement Programs. Funds disbursed to date total \$407,888,690, with 4,202 jobs created as a result.

In Kentucky Stimulus news, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) allocated \$10,437,000 for 2009. The funds from this program were designed to assist entities that were not eligible to receive funding under Department of Energy programs. Projects eligible for these funds included energy retrofits, renewable energy projects and energy audits.

The ADD has assisted several local governments with applications for the program. The following projects were submitted in January, 2010:

- Clark County Window Replacement \$125,000
- Winchester Senior Citizen Center Retrofit \$56,802
- City of Millersburg/City Hall/Community Center \$125,000
- City of Clay City Retrofit \$84,000
- Anderson County Courthouse Retrofit \$91,476
- Bourbon County Legion Hall Renovation \$55,114
- Harrison County Fiscal Court Window and Furnace Project \$115,500

The total amount of funding in Kentucky (after administrative costs were removed) is \$6,612,880, with 93 jobs created to date. Award announcements were expected to be released during March.

For further information, see: www.Recovery.gov; Land Air & Water, Winter, 2010 p. 10, 15

BLUEGRASS PRIDE ANNOUNCES OVER \$100,000 IN FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Bluegrass PRIDE (Personal Responsibility In a Desirable Environment) and Congressman Ben Chandler announced \$101,450 in grant funding for six environmental improvement projects in Central Kentucky.

Made possible through an appropriation from Congressman Chandler through the Appalachian Regional Commission, the grants were awarded to the following projects:

- Wetlands restoration and an outdoor classroom on the grounds of Estill County Middle School (\$20,000)

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- Cleanup of Herrington Lake within Garrard County (\$20,000)
- Sunset Drive Low-Impact Development Streetscape Project in the City of Richmond (\$20,000)
- Installation of 42 “occupancy sensors” in buildings owned by the City of Winchester (\$1,500)
- A 2.7 mile walking/nature trail in the City of Lancaster (\$20,000)
- Restoration of St. Asaph’s Spring at Fort Logan (\$19,950)



Photo courtesy Bluegrass PRIDE

“Bluegrass PRIDE is proud to work with Congressman Ben Chandler and the Appalachian Regional Commission to provide funding for these projects. These communities are making extraordinary commitments to restoring, improving and enhancing their environmental quality and PRIDE is looking forward to partnering with

them in that pursuit,” said Amy Sohner, executive director of Bluegrass PRIDE.

“I am so happy to see the funding we announced a few months ago with Bluegrass PRIDE making its way into the hands of these counties today,” Congressman Chandler said. “The projects include cleaning up Herrington Lake, developing new ways to address flooding, restoring wetlands, and rediscovering pieces of a town’s natural history. All of the projects awarded today will keep Central Kentucky beautiful, but will also teach us new ways to address issues in our communities, help the region create jobs, and spark economic development. I can’t wait to see the results.”

The community grant program is designed to support governments and non-profit groups as they develop innovative programs that will result in safer, cleaner, healthier waterways for the shared ARC/PRIDE counties.

Bluegrass PRIDE provides resources and education to empower Central Kentuckians to foster positive environmental change in their communities. For more information, please visit www.bgPRIDE.org.

DOWNTOWN STANFORD RECEIVES ARC GRANT

The City of Stanford will receive a \$10,000 ARC grant to develop a downtown strategic plan in order to help the city gain knowledge that will help attract and retain merchants in the area. It has been challenging for downtown merchants to be successful in recent years, and Stanford is looking forward to getting a much-needed boost from this grant.

GOVERNOR'S ROAD PLAN CONTAINS \$173 MILLION FOR FAYETTE COUNTY

No new road projects were included in Governor Beshear's plan for Kentucky roads and highways, but the list includes finishing some high cost projects. The plan is subject to legislative oversight, but a project listed in the Governor's plan is considered better than a project unlisted. Significant transportation-related projects for Fayette County include:

- \$50.3 million to extend Newtown Pike from Versailles Road to South Limestone in fiscal years 2011 and 2012
- \$23.9 million to extend Citation Boulevard from the Norfolk Southern Railway to Leestown Road at Alexandria Drive in fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012
- \$18.8 million to widen Leestown Road to four lanes from outside New Circle Road to Masterson Station Park in fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012
- \$14.7 million to widen Clays Mill Road from New Circle Road to Twain Ridge Drive in 2010, 2011, and 2012
- \$14.2 million to purchase rights of way and relocate utilities for the future widening of Georgetown Road from Spurr Road north to near Iron Works Road
- \$6.1 million to redevelop Southend Park Neighborhood along the Newtown Pike extension in fiscal year 2011
- \$5 million to build the Legacy Trail bike and pedestrian path from the North Lexington YMCA to the Kentucky Horse Park
- \$4.6 million for bridge painting on New Circle Road in fiscal year 2012
- \$3.2 million to widen Liberty Road and Todds Road from near Andover Forest Drive to I-75 in fiscal year 2011
- \$3 million to purchase rights of way and construct a sound barrier along the Newtown Pike extension from Versailles Road to South Broadway in fiscal year 2010

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- \$2.95 million to purchase rights of way, relocate utilities, and widen Harrodsburg Road from Alexandria Drive to Corporate Drive in fiscal year 2010 and 2011
- ten other projects, each expected to cost less than \$1.0 million.

BERRY SEEKS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR WASTEWATER SYSTEM UPGRADES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Berry Mayor Kenneth Abner has known for a long time that the remaining useful life of the city's wastewater collection and treatment system was growing shorter and shorter. With a 2007 appropriation from the General Assembly, channeled through the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, the city hired an engineering firm to prepare a report on the wastewater system deficiencies together with estimates of cost. The plan was completed and delivered in December, 2009.

With the wastewater plan in hand, the city then began to explore sources of funding. The initial project to be identified would cost a bit more than \$400,000, according to the engineer's estimate. The ADD has been seeking to assist the city in the development of a financial package. Complicating the effort is the fact that Berry is so small and has only 105 sewer customers. Since an average sewer customer already pays \$43.00 a month for sewer service, there is little if any ability to debt finance any part of the project and still keep the sewer bill at an affordable level.

One possibility would be a HUD Community Development Block Grant. Since Berry has the highest percentage of low or moderate income people of any Bluegrass Area city, it has already established eligibility to compete for HUD grant dollars in Program Year 2010. The window for new HUD Block Grant applications is expected to open in late April or early May of this year. Since HUD Block Grants are usually capped at 50 percent of the eligible costs, the city will be required to look elsewhere for funds to match a HUD Block Grant. Several different avenues are being pursued. The ADD has been involved in the effort to define a project and to develop a viable financial package that would permit Berry to undertake its needed wastewater upgrades and improvements.

For more information, contact Don Hassall at the ADD.

BOURBON AND NICHOLAS COUNTIES DEVELOPING A REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY

Although it has not been finalized yet, it is getting close to that. In an effort to save on the daily cost of housing prisoners, Nicholas County continues in negotiations with Bourbon County to share the Bourbon County jail. Nicholas County is presently utilizing the jail of another county, but the per diem cost for each inmate would be less under the proposed arrangement with Bourbon County. Bourbon County would benefit by better utilization of the existing jail space.

If a regional jail authority is approved, the two counties could hire a jail administrator and would not utilize the services of an elected jailer. The Bourbon County Fiscal Court has already given the go-ahead on the regional jail concept. As of press time, the Nicholas County Fiscal Court had yet to vote on the matter.

KENTUCKY-AMERICAN WATER PUSHES WATER SUPPLY PROJECT TOWARD COMPLETION

Construction on the Kentucky-American Water Company's new water supply source, treatment plant, and finished water transmission line is nearing completion. The new 20 million gallons per day water treatment plant, located in Owen County immediately north of the Franklin/Owen line, is wrapping up. All 31 miles of the 36-inch diameter transmission line from Owen County (crossing through Franklin County and Scott County and into north central Fayette County) are installed. The booster pumping station in Franklin County is 95 percent complete, and the water treatment plant is at the 75 percent completion stage.

Plans call for the total project to be complete and in service by late summer 2010—well in advance of the start of the FEI World Equestrian Games that will bring to Central Kentucky thousands of visitors from around the world. The project cost was \$162 million, and the new facilities are expected to meet the needs of the customers of the water company through 2030.

CLAY CITY EXTENDS CONTRACT TO REHAB SANITARY SEWERS

Last September, construction began in Clay City on a \$522,000 project aimed at preventing extraneous rainwater, surface water or groundwater from entering the sewer system. Not only does this inflow incur additional treatment costs in constructing treatment facilities to accommodate the extra flows, but also in pumping and other operational costs. Keeping these waters out of the sewer system is increasingly important in light of plans for a regional wastewater treatment plant in cooperation with the City of Stanton.

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Recently, Clay City extended its current sewer rehabilitation effort to cover still additional tasks. When the current sewer rehab contract concludes, the city plans a second phase of sewer rehabilitation

For more information, contact Clay City Mayor James Caudill.

DON'T FORGET THE FUTURE!

During this budget season, opportunities abound on how to spend the limited revenues entrusted to us by our citizens.

Just in this issue of the ADD-Vantage, you will read articles about how neighboring city and county officials have leveraged local revenues with those of the State and Federal government to deliver much needed products and services. The magic that makes this effort successful stems from the seed monies that are set aside to create the vision, write the grants and fund the match.

So as you build your community's budget, please remember to set aside funds for Planning and the related activities that will help implement a vision for the future with a superior return on investment.

For further information, please contact Dal Harper at 859-269-8021 or Dharper@bgadd.org.

KENTUCKY-AMERICAN WATER ASKS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR SIGNIFICANT RATE INCREASE

With its \$162 million water supply/treatment/transmission project nearing completion, the Kentucky-American Water Company (KAWC) has filed a petition with the Public Service Commission (PSC). The petition asks for an increase in rates to allow the company to receive—through additional revenues from its water customers—the income to pay for its significant investment in water infrastructure. According to the company, the new construction project should enable KAWC to meet the growing water needs of Fayette County and parts of Bourbon, Scott, Clark, Harrison, Woodford, and Jessamine Counties as well.

The increase, if approved in its entirety by the PSC, would boost the monthly bill by about \$9.50 per month to the average residential water customer. Historically, however, the PSC has seldom granted Kentucky American the full increase it requests.

If water customers feel that their Kentucky-American bill is growing by leaps and bounds, they could well be right. It has only been nine months since KAWC implemented its last rate increase. On top of that, the water company collects, as a part of its bill, charges for others. On January 1, the water company added a monthly charge of \$4.32 to the bill each residential

customer. Charges for non-residential customers are higher, sometimes significantly higher, depending upon the amount of impervious service on an individual customer's tract of land. That charge goes to Urban County Government as a new fee called the Water Management fee, to pay for storm water, storm sewer, and other drainage projects. This fee was initiated because of a Consent Decree into which Lexington is entering with the US Environmental Protection Agency concerning environmental violations over the years.

Further, Lexington's sewer user charge is another separate line item on the water bill. This charge, formerly at a rather low level, has been increased twice in the last 21 months. The increasing sewer user charge also resulted from Lexington's Consent Decree with EPA. Additional income so derived is being used to improve the city's wastewater system, which includes the elimination of sewer overflows and bypasses.

LEGISLATORS RECEIVE TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

In preparation for the 2010 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the 29 State Senators and Representatives representing Bluegrass ADD counties received convenient pocket-size booklets for the High Priority Transportation Projects in the ADD.

Due to fiscal constraints and the current KYTC Six-Year Highway Plan being underfunded, it is critical that legislators be aware of grassroots priorities as determined by local officials, the Regional Transportation Committee, and the MPO. This is another step in the effort to plan and support projects on a regional basis.

The booklet contains the High Priority projects by county, the Top 20 Bluegrass Area Regional Projects (Non-MPO counties) and Top 20 MPO Projects (in Fayette and Jessamine Counties).

For additional information, contact Bruce Duncan at the ADD.

KRCC-TV IS ON THE AIR

The Bluegrass Area Development District, in partnership with the Kentucky Regional Cable Coalition (KRCC) has officially begun airing KRCC-TV on several Time Warner Cable systems on channel 306 or channel 188, depending on location.

The station is available on the following cable systems - Winchester, Mt. Sterling, Camargo, Jeffersonville, Owingsville, Morehead, Cynthiana, Flemingsburg, Stamping Ground, Georgetown, Woodford County and Versailles.

The station will primarily focus on local government and education, but it will also offer programming from other stations of this type. All school districts within the Bluegrass Area are

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encouraged to take advantage of this as a way to show educational materials, sporting events and performances.

All programming is carried out from the ADD office in Lexington and remotely administered to the station's equipment located in Winchester. Any inquiries about airing video should go through Tab Patterson, Electronic Media Manager at the Bluegrass ADD. KRCC can provide up to two loaner cameras for video recording events. All content must be submitted in DVD form.

JAIL ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS

Over the last month the Bluegrass ADD has sponsored a series of roundtable discussions for County Judges concerning jails and the challenges they present. The goal of these meetings was twofold. First, they were held to afford the Judges the opportunity to discuss solutions they had successfully employed to control jail costs in the hopes that it might give others some ideas. Secondly, ADD staff wanted to try to get a sense of what policy actions needed to be taken to help alleviate the drain of County resources.

Some of the cost-saving actions discussed included institutional food service for the jails, managed health care for inmates, and the use of temporary employees in the jails to help keep the cost of fringe benefits down.

The issues counties are facing with regard to jails are many and there are no easy answers to the problems. It was agreed that most counties are financially responsible for the proper administration of the jails, yet they have very little control over the external factors. It was felt there was a disconnect between the Administrative Office of the Courts and jails when it came to the timing of when county prisoners became state prisoners (when the State started to pay for them). Under the current system, felons remain county prisoners until such time as they are sentenced. Then they become the responsibility of the state. Because of the numerous delaying tactics in the courts, many prisoners may remain in county custody (and at county expense) for several months. There are currently no provisions for the state to reimburse the county for the time served, and there are no provisions providing for a timely trial. Thus, the county is saddled with the cost of housing and caring for a prisoner without any power to positively affect the process in the interim.

The relationship between the Department of Corrections and counties was also a major source of discontent. State prisoners are moved around by the Department of Corrections to such an extent that counties cannot realistically plan for their population from one day to the next. Additionally, a more stringent regulatory environment coupled with the movement of State prisoners and

the uneven administration of codes has made the landscape even more frustrating and costly.

For more information, contact Bob Casher or Kyle Scott at the ADD office.

REGIONAL AND COUNTY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE UNDERWAY

The Bluegrass ADD planning staff will be spearheading an effort to update the regional and county-specific Hazard Mitigation Plans. The current plans which were adopted in 2005 will be valid until December, 2011.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a resource and guide for local decision-making regarding implementation of hazard mitigation policies, actions, and projects for each local community. Additionally, the purpose of this Hazard Mitigation Plan is to provide local government officials with:

1. Basic information about various natural hazards
2. Historical information with calculated Risk and Vulnerability Assessments regarding damages caused in the area by previous hazards, the areas vulnerable and the potential costs of future hazard events
3. A plan or guide as to how local jurisdictions could approach mitigating, or reducing, future hazard losses.

Lastly the Plan will enable forty-seven Bluegrass ADD jurisdictions (16 counties and 31 incorporated cities) to become eligible for disaster relief funding.

For more information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan contact Dal Harper (dharper@bgadd.org) or Kyle Scott (kscott@bgadd.org).

TRANSPORTATION DESIGN WEBCAST HOSTED BY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The Bluegrass Regional Planning Council was host to a viewing of a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) National Dialog webcast in early February. Invitations to the event were offered to planning commissioners and board of adjustment members as well as planning staff throughout the Bluegrass Area. The webcast, sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Center for Transportation and the Environment (CTE), discussed a design and decision-making process for transportation projects known as CSS. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet participated in the national pilot program which introduced this process nationwide.

The CSS process was developed to encourage a flexible

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approach to transportation design that involves community stakeholders throughout the process, from determining needs to final design. The intention is to produce projects that respond more directly to the community's transportation needs and preserve and enhance natural and community resources.

The day-long webcast included four sessions with discussions of case studies from communities across the country including Clearwater, Florida; Bel Air, Maryland; and Charlotte, North Carolina. These cities used CSS techniques to develop and design plans ranging from traffic calming projects to street design guidelines.

For more information on CSS, visit the Context Sensitive Solutions website at www.contextsensitivesolutions.org.

INTER-UTILITY MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS

The ADD staff for the Bluegrass Water Management Council are conducting a series of multi-county meetings to enhance the planning process among regional utility providers. The Bluegrass Water Management Council identified planning areas at its January 29 meeting. These planning areas were designated as:

- Estill-Powell
- Bourbon-Harrison-Nicholas
- Anderson-Mercer
- Franklin-Scott-Woodford
- Fayette-Jessamine
- Clark-Madison.

The focus of the utility meetings is to discuss utility plans, projects and problems. These three themes focus the discussion on water and wastewater related topics which in depth cover the following issues:

- Capital Improvement plans
- Maintenance and management of aging infrastructure
- Mapping updates
- Opportunities for connectivity and regionalization
- Permit compliance issues
- Project profile reviews from KIA database
- Rate issues, adequacy
- Serving unserved and underserved areas
- Water treatment, distribution and storage adequacy
- Wastewater treatment and collection

Meetings remaining for this year are the Franklin-Scott-Woodford meeting on March 25 at the Frankfort Plant Board Clubhouse, the Fayette-Jessamine meeting on April 1 in the Bluegrass ADD Library, and the Clark-Madison meeting on April 29 at the Emergency Operations Center in Richmond.

For more information on these meetings or on the Bluegrass Water Management Council, please contact David Duttlinger at the ADD.

ADD STAFF PROVIDE TRAINING TO UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MARTIN SCHOOL STUDENTS

What better way to provide practical experience in addition to educational curriculum than for practitioners to present to current students on topics dealt with in the workplace? That's exactly what two employees of the Department for Community and Economic Development at the Bluegrass ADD have had the opportunity to do. David Duttlinger and Ashley Anderson have recently taken time to share practical experience and expertise with current Martin School students. Both Duttlinger and Anderson obtained their Masters in Public Administration degree at the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy and Administration. Graduate professors have invited both to serve on separate occasions as guest speakers to classes comprised of graduate students interested in working in public service.

Duttlinger's presentation focused on evidence-based decision making and the role that research plays in formulating public policies and disseminating credible information. He focused his presentation on the ADD's role in providing relevant research for the cities and counties it serves, striving to use research in the right contexts and knowledge of important current events in different areas.

Anderson presented on the importance of internships and working in the public sector as well as sharing information on grant writing and administration and pertinent personnel topics and services provided to cities and counties in the region. One presentation focused on different grant funding agencies and the complexity of grant requirements and the ADD's role in administration of these funding sources. Her other class highlighted the importance of personnel work in cities and counties, new legislation affecting employers and employees, and different types of personnel and human resource tools and updates offered by the ADD. The students were very interested in the presentations as indicated by their numerous questions and correspondence after the sessions seeking further information. These teaching opportunities were a great experience for both the Bluegrass ADD employees and students in public administration.

ADD SEEKS TO KEEP WATER AND SEWER RATES AND OTHER RELATED INFORMATION IN REAL TIME

It is a daunting task, but the ADD is seeking to keep track of the increasingly rapid pace of water and sewer rate changes of utilities in the 17-county region. When news of a rate increase reaches the ADD, the new information is tabulated and included in the appropriate tabulation(s) that the ADD then posts on its website. Types of information listed there include:

- Water charges for medium and large size cities
- Water charges for small cities
- Water charges for non-municipal water districts and water associations
- Numbers of water customers by utility
- Wholesale water rates that larger utilities charge smaller utilities
- Water tap-on fees
- Average daily purchase volumes for utilities that purchase treated water from another utility
- Sewer user charges for medium and large cities
- Sewer user charges for small cities and sanitation districts
- Numbers of sewer customers by utility
- Sewer tap-on fees
- Water treatment plant water production information for the most recent seven years
- Wastewater treatment plant recorded flows for the most recent seven years
- Estimates of water-unserved populations by county
- Estimates of public sewer-unsewered populations
- Current estimates of city population
- Current estimates of county populations
- Fire protection ratings by fire district
- Local tax rates

These types of information may be accessed by utilizing the ADD's website at <http://www.bgadd.org/RateBookUpdates.htm>

LINCOLN AND GARRARD COUNTIES COOPERATING ON STILL MORE PROJECTS

Already a model for joint action better to serve their citizens, Lincoln County and Garrard County are exploring the possibility of still other ventures. The two Bluegrass counties are already

cooperating in Logan-Hubble Park along their common county line. More recently, they established and continue to operate a joint 911 dispatch center.

With skyrocketing jail costs plaguing virtually all Kentucky counties, the two counties are in talks that could result the building of one new jail. And their cooperation does not stop there. Separate discussions are underway about sharing the services of a single solid waste coordinator. Chris Thomason is Garrard County's solid waste coordinator. He has achieved some outstanding successes in the area of solid waste recycling, illegal dump clean-ups, and working with local schools. Now, Lincoln County is considering utilizing Mr. Thomason's services as well since its own solid waste coordinator is departing.

FRANKFORT COPES WITH SEPARATING STORM FROM SANITARY SEWERS

It used to be a very common practice. Cities would construct sewers that would carry raw sewage and storm water within the same pipe. Such sewer systems are called "combined sewers." Now, however, combined sewers are an anathema. In bygone days, combined sewers—usually quite large pipes—were built with a small interior wall separating the pipe into two sections. The smaller section of the pipe would carry sewage to a treatment facility, while the larger pipe section would carry stormwater runoff to the river. Of course, during many rain events the sewage and the stormwater would become one flow, virtually all of which ended up in the river.

The City of Frankfort is operating under an agreement with the Kentucky Division of Water to end the discharge of raw sewage to the Kentucky River.

There are several solutions for eliminating combined sewers. Some could involve larger pumping stations, larger treatment works, more storage volume in wastewater storage basins, and/or the installation of new separate sewers that would carry only sanitary sewage. Newer areas of Frankfort already have separate sewer systems, but the combined sewers in the oldest parts of the city constitute a very serious and a very expensive problem.

Plans call for the city to complete the task of renovating such sewers by 2018. Estimates of the cost to improve the city's sewer infrastructure are placed at between \$50 and \$70 million over the next 10 to 15 years. Frankfort's sewer user charges are already the highest in the region, and little rate relief is in sight.

HUSTONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT SEEKING TO RAISE FUNDS

The fire department in this Lincoln County city is fund-raising in its efforts to replace its aged fire station, which is in “pretty bad shape” according to local officials. “One of the walls has slid off its foundation, and we’re afraid it’s going to collapse one of these days,” said Hustonville Fire Chief Stanley Shepperson. “We just need a new station.” The fire station was originally built in 1947. The building originally housed the City Hall and even a small jail.

Shepperson estimated the cost of a new fire station at \$250,000. City government is in no financial position to help out, so the chief and his firefighters have held a chili supper at a local church. Other fund-raising events are planned.

ILLEGAL DUMP CLEANUP UNDERWAY IN GARRARD COUNTY

Under the leadership of Garrard County Judge/Executive John Wilson and Solid Waste Coordinator Chris Thomason, work is underway to clean up a significant illegal dump near the Buckeye community in northeastern Garrard County. The county is using an \$86,000 grant from Bluegrass PRIDE to undertake the work.

The illegal dump in question even has a name; it is called the Old Monahan Farm Dump. The mountainous pile of trash includes piles of wood, appliances, plastic, glass, metal, and household garbage—just about anything you could think of. The dump exists against the base of a 20-foot cliff and stretches almost to the top. The location is only about a dozen yards from a creek and less than a half-mile from the Kentucky River. Estimates of the volume of waste materials to be removed run to about 600 cubic yards.

HELP IS ON THE WAY IN ANDERSON COUNTY

Anderson County and the City of Lawrenceburg now have a Reverse 911 system up and running. This kind of system is designed to make phone calls to landlines in the case of county/citywide emergencies. Residents can register their home phone numbers and when an emergency arises, such as a chemical spill or boil water advisory, they are notified of the situation via recorded messages. The system was previously tested in the area with an 82 percent success rate.

The city and county have access to business and residential landlines, but not to cell phone numbers. In order for those numbers to be notified, users will have to register them. Numbers can be registered online at www.lawrenceburgky.org by

following the instructions given there. Cell phone users without internet access can register their numbers via postal mail at 205 E. Woodford St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

IT'S GARRARD COUNTY! TOURISM VIDEO RELEASED

The residents of Garrard County are proud of where they live and want to share their enthusiasm with everyone. They also want to share something else that seems to be confusing for the unknowing population - the pronunciation of the county name. There appears to be a discrepancy in the preferred manner the residents of Garrard pronounce their name. The county has released a tourism video that not only seeks to attract visitors to the area, but also to inform them of the county name when they arrive. Various groups throughout the county - including Governor Beshear - are featured in the 90-second video exclaiming "It's Garrard County!" The video was produced by a local high school student and the community had a great time with the filming. It was uploaded on the YouTube website October 30, and has been viewed by over 6,000. The video can be seen at www.youtube.com

PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS CONCEPT SHOWS BENEFITS FOR FAYETTE COUNTY

Lexington-Fayette County has long adhered to the concept of an Urban Services Area zone. Properties within the boundaries of the zone are for planned urbanization while properties outside the boundary are intended to remain in non-urban uses. To lose the Urban Services Area concept would be to encourage or otherwise permit sprawl development. Long ago, the decision was made that rural areas in Fayette County are important to all, because they constitute and define a part of the county that is far too valuable to lose. Over the years, Lexington has managed growth better than most.

One way that the urban county has been able to adhere to that concept and to quell the call for an ever larger Urban Services Zone is to encourage rural landowners to sell the rights to develop their property. The practice is called the Purchase of Development Rights (or PDR for short).

About ten years ago, it became clear that unless more was done, Lexington could eventually lose the rural landscape that makes Lexington unique. The Urban County Council created the PDR program in 2000. The goal of the program was to permanently protect 50,000 acres of the most sensitive land with voluntary conservation easements by 2020. Already, some 24,126 acres have been protected and it seems likely that 25,000 acres will be so protected later this year. Landowners have either

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donated conservation easements or sold them for an average of \$2,500 per acre. Such land restrictions lower property taxes for landowners because the cash value of their land is less if it cannot be developed in urban uses.

Thus far, the PDR program has cost \$57.6 million, of which about 55 percent has come from state or federal grants. This year's local government budget for the PDR program is about \$1.1 million, about \$4 for every Fayette County resident.

FRANKFORT GRAPPLES WITH NEW GARBAGE COLLECTION FEE

In an effort to raise revenues for the municipal garbage service, the Frankfort City Commission last year instituted a \$60 annual garbage charge. Thus far, the charge has brought in about \$520,000 in revenues as compared to the \$600,000 annual revenue stream that was initially projected. Some citizens are holding out and have not paid the fee. In recent months, the city has taken measures to collect the fee by sending bills and letters to those who have failed to pay. More recently, the city has hired a private collection agency in an effort to improve its fee collection rate.

HEALTHY COUNTY RANKINGS RELEASED

Using a number of parameters, counties have recently been ranked across the Commonwealth in terms of their healthiness. Bluegrass counties ranked very well, as twelve area counties ranked among the top 40 percent of all counties. Those twelve are listed below, along with their rankings among Kentucky's 120 counties.

County	Statewide Ranking	County	Statewide Ranking
Scott	4	Boyle	29
Anderson	5	Madison	34
Woodford	6	Garrard	36
Franklin	8	Mercer	39
Fayette	10	Bourbon	43
Jessamine	16	Harrison	47

Source: www.countyhealthrankings.org

LINCOLN COUNTY FISCAL COURT REJECTS PLANS FOR CHICKEN PROCESSING PLANT

It has not been long since Lincoln County was without a countywide planning and zoning process. The relatively new planning commission recently reviewed plans for a chicken processing plant proposed for a 6.6-acre tract on a farm near Crab Orchard, and rejected it. The planning commission had ruled that the proposed facility would be out of character with the surrounding farmland.

Since actions such as this are only recommendations to the Lincoln County Fiscal Court, the Court recently reviewed the matter and upheld the recommendation made by the planning commission.

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MEETING CALL

Board of Directors 4/28
6:00 p.m.

Executive Board 5/26
7:00 p.m.

Aging Council 4/14 & 5/12
10:00 a.m.

Development Advisory Committee 4/20
10:00 a.m. (location TBA)

Homeland Security Council 4/21
1:00 p.m.

Human Services Committee 4/8
10:00 a.m. (Frankfort)
(@Blue Grass Community Action)

Natural Resources & Environmental
Protection Advisory Committee 4/14
3:15 p.m.

Regional Planning Council 5/5
4:00 p.m.

Regional Transportation Committee 5/10
1:30 p.m.

Tourism, Historic Preservation &
Recreation Advisory Committee 5/11
10:00 a.m.

ALL meeting dates/times are subject to change.

Chair
Judge Larry Tincher

Vice-Chair
Mayor Connie Lawson

Secretary
Judge Donnie Foley

Treasurer
Mayor Edwinna Baker

Executive Director
Lenny P. Stoltz II



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