



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SENATOR SHOEMYER ANNOUNCES CDBG GRANT FOR MONROE COUNTY WATER PROJECT

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today announced that the Monroe County Water Systems Improvement Project has received a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant. The money will be used to upgrade water distribution systems in Monroe County.

Nancy Riechmann, Director of the Monroe County Water District, says the grant money will help the water district purchase an elevated water storage tank with a 100,000-gallon capacity. Reichmann says installing an elevated storage tank in Clay Township will increase water pressure for customers while helping to keep contaminants out of the system. She says the CDBG grant money also will help purchase a new pump station and 20-25 miles of new water mains.

“This project is part of a five-year plan approved by the Department of Natural Resources a year ago,” Riechmann said. “Our goal is to provide consistent and appropriate water pressure in all areas of our system.”

Riechmann says the water distribution system was constructed in the 1970’s and many of the old water storage tanks are not tall enough to meet today’s demands. She says the improvements will increase the water district’s ability to handle demands placed on the water system, such as when tourists flock to Mark Twain Lake.

Sen. Shoemyer says the Monroe County Commission and the Monroe County Water District have worked together to make this important project come to fruition.

“We have an old water distribution system that was appropriate for the area when it was built 30 years ago, but it can no longer keep up with the demands placed upon it,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “I think folks in Monroe County and parts of Audrain and Montgomery counties will notice the improvements once the project is completed.”

Sen. Shoemyer also credits Rep. Paul Quinn, D-Monroe City, for working to secure funding for the project.

“I’m glad we’ve been able to come with the money to pay for this project,” Rep. Quinn said. “The county commissioners, water district officials and others put together a good plan for improving our water system, and I thank them all for their hard work.”

Riechmann says the total cost of the water systems improvement project is approximately \$1.4 million. She says the \$500,000 CDBG grant will allow the water district to move forward with the project by soliciting bids.

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