

THE KIRPC NEWS

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THE CITY OF RENSSELAER ACQUIRES GRANT FOR STORM WATER PROJECT

Late in December, 2010, the City of Rensselaer was awarded a CDBG Community Focus Fund grant for their Melville Street area storm water project in the amount of \$600,000. KIRPC had applied for the grant on behalf of the city in September, 2010.

This project will rehabilitate the storm water system on the east side of the city to reduce rain event flooding that has affected homes and businesses for years.

Specifically, the project will entail constructing new storm sewers one block west of Melville Street and areas east of Melville Street where needed to serve pro-

blem areas. New storm sewer lines will be installed along several roads that intersect the east and west sides of Melville Street. The intersecting streets are from east Steward Drive to east Vine Street. The storm sewers on the west side of Melville will extend one block. The focus on the addition of storm sewers to the Melville area will be important in that it will eliminate storm water flow into the combined sewer system.

This project will benefit over 25% of the residents in Rensselaer. Coupled with previous infrastructure projects already completed by the city, Rensselaer is



City officials, Rep Doug Gutwein, and KIRPC representatives accept the grant award from Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman.

maintaining a strategy to resolve the lingering storm drainage problems that have existed for 30 to 40 years.

MONTICELLO RECEIVES FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

In October, 2010, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs awarded the City of Monticello a \$1,000,000 Disaster Recovery grant to replace the lift station at the Bryan Station wastewater treatment plant located in the east central portion of the downtown area.

The project will include adding a new Triplex Submersible Pump Station with a capacity of 2.5 million gallons/day, as well as a new wet well, new pump, new controls, new valve vault, and an enclosure for the controls. Additionally, the city will construct a large 450,000 gallon holding tank for significant rain events on land adjacent to the treatment plant that the city holds an option to purchase.

The problems that led to the grant application by KIRPC centered around the receipt of large

amounts of rain water from the combined sewers during wet weather events from sewers that lead to the Bryan lift station. This in turn surcharges the sanitary sewers leading to the treatment plant, causing raw sewage backups in basements as well as combined sewer overflows throughout the city. This creates unsanitary and unhealthy conditions in the basements from one end of the city to the other, as well as for residents of upper Lake Freeman. This also forces the treatment plant to treat millions of gallons of rainwater that does not require treatment.

The unnecessary treatment of rain water will be significantly reduced with the construction of the wet weather holding tank/facility and lift station upgrade by allowing for the capture of the excess rain water, and releasing it to the plant

after the event. The release to the plant at a slower rate will reduce sewer surcharging, eliminate basement flooding, reduce combined sewer overflow events, and level loads at the treatment plant. The new lift station will utilize variable speed pumps to control the flows and aid in reducing surcharging to the sanitary sewers.

Mayor Jason Thompson said "the Bryan Lift Station is one of the largest projects that the city has been working on. The city is mandated to eliminate or significantly reduce our combined sewer overflows. The city is home to several manufacturing facilities, but the detriment to the city is that the capacity at the plant and flows through the lift station cause a hindrance to further expansions."

THE TOWN OF MONON RECEIVES \$450,366 TO REVITALIZE THEIR DOWNTOWN AREA

“This grant award is dedicated by the Town of Monon to its former Town Council President, Bryan Rinker, who passed away two months prior to the funding of the grant. This project was so important to Bryan.”

Monon Town Council

“The mission of IHCD A is to assure that everyone can have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable, good-quality housing in economically stable communities.”

Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority

“I’m happy as can be. It’s a tremendous relief to me to know we can move forward with a project like this. This impacts around 870 residents on the north end of town, so that is a substantial number of citizens of Delphi that will see improvement.”

*Randy Strasser,
Mayor of Delphi*

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs awarded the Town of Monon \$450,366 to revitalize a two block section in the downtown area.

While introducing the project at the awards ceremony, Mr. Gerry White from OCRA noted that the award is being dedicated by the town to Bryan Rinker, the past President of the Monon Town Council.

Last fall, **KIRPC** began putting together an application to enhance the downtown area with the intent of attracting additional businesses and consumers by eliminating blighted conditions. The area targeted for improvements runs along Market Street from 3rd Street to 5th Street. This is the heart of the historic downtown

area of the town, and the sidewalks and street lights in this area are in the poorest condition. This area also has the most vacancies of retail and office space.

The condition of many of the buildings in the downtown area has deteriorated over the years as evidenced by crumbling facades, broken or boarded windows, deteriorating infrastructure, growth of vegetation, and presence of litter in and around many downtown buildings.

The scope of work will include the replacement of sidewalks and curbs. Included in this replacement will be new ADA accessible curb ramps using raised detection strips. Also as part of the curb replacement, existing catch basins will be replaced with 12 new curb



Dave Scott from Monon and representatives from **KIRPC** receive the award from Lieutenant Governor Skillman

storm inlets which will help improve storm drainage from the street.

The downtown area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the project includes much of this historic district.

KIRPC SECURES HOUSING FUNDING FOR GOODLAND, REMINGTON AND WINAMAC

During the past several years, **KIRPC** has applied for funding from the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority to assist in home repairs to eligible homeowners in Goodland, Remington and Winamac.

To date, these three communities have received over \$444,500 for 25 residents to rehabilitate their homes at no cost to the homeowners. Each of the communities contributes 20% of the cost of the award,

and the balance is funded through the grant.

The mission of IHCD A is to assure that everyone can have the opportunity to live in safe, affordable good-quality housing in economically stable communities. IHCD A’s charge is to help communities build upon their assets to create places with ready access to opportunities and goods and services. They also promote, finance, and support a broad range of housing solutions, from temporary shelters

to homeownership. IHCD A’s work is done in partnership with developers, lenders, investors, and nonprofit organizations that use their financing to serve low-and-moderate income Hoosiers. The activities that are funded help families become more stable and put down roots. In turn, communities grow and prosper, broaden their tax base, create new jobs, and maximize local resources. The work is truly a vehicle for economic growth.

KIRPC AIDS DELPHI TO SECURE \$1.3M IN FUNDING TO FIX LEVEE PROBLEMS

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced on July 20, 2011 that the City of Delphi will receive more than \$1.3 million for improvements to a levee that the mayor said is reaching the end of its life cycle.

The grant will cover the majority of the \$1.5 million cost for the rehabilitation of the levee at Ind.18 and US 421, which will improve flood control and reduce

backflow into the city’s water system. Mayor Randy Strasser said the rest of the funding will come from the city’s general fund.

Strasser said the disrepair of the levee has adversely affected citizens and businesses and has often caused the cancellation of boat outings and other recreational draws.

Strasser said securing the grant has been one of his top priorities

since he took office in 2008. He said because of the poor condition of the levee, it could not be certified under new Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines.

In a statement, Skillman called community infrastructure “a key part in its economic success or failure. This makes the area a better place to live, work and do business.”

KIRPC HEAD START AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS ADDRESS PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

With childhood obesity on the rise, the emphasis nationwide is to "take the classroom outside" to engage children in more physical activity.

KIRPC Head Start Director Belinda Gutwein indicates that local partnerships will make it possible for spring 2011 playground improvements that will make the difference in physical play for **Head Start** children.

As the result of the federal review in November, 2010, the one "area of strength" listed in the final report was the partnerships with the community for playground improvements. The federal team noted the Newton Co. Community Foundation, the Newton Co. Commissioners, and the Northwest Solid Waste District and commended them for assisting **KIRPC Head Start** with funding

for playgrounds. The resurfacing of playgrounds using a poured carpet made from recycled tires will be the theme in Newton County this season at two locations.

KIRPC Head Start expresses gratitude to the Newton County Community Foundation for the \$5,000 donation toward the resurfacing of the Goodland **Head Start** playground. According to Linda Reiners, Executive Director of the foundation, and **KIRPC Head Start** Director, Belinda Gutwein, the partnership to see these improvements has been a very positive experience.

KIRPC Head Start also received a grant from the Northwest Solid Waste District for \$14,227.58 to complete the Goodland playground. **KIRPC Head Start** partnered with the Town of Goodland to receive this grant.

Head Start/Body Start from the National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play awarded \$5,000 toward resurfacing of the Goodland **Head Start** playground. This was the only one of 341 grants awarded nationwide in 2010.

At a second location in Newton County, the Newton County Commissioners have agreed to fund the playground resurfacing at the Generation Center. This generous improvement will make a positive difference for the children at the north end of the county.

Coupled with additional donations from other community partners, **KIRPC Head Start** expresses their appreciation for playground improvement funding totaling over \$46,000.

"KIRPC Head Start thanks all of our community partners for their donation for playground improvement funding totaling over \$46,000."

*Belinda Gutwein,
KIRPC Head Start
Director*

KIRPC GRANT AIMS AT DEVELOPMENT FOR THE NORTH AND WEST COUNTIES IN INDIANA

Efforts to boost private capital investment and job creation in the eight-county region covered by **KIRPC** north and west of Lafayette has received a federal financial shot in the arm.

The Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce has awarded nearly \$170,000 to the **Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission**.

Development and implementation of a comprehensive economic development strategy is an effort to diversify and strengthen a region's economy.

"As northwest Indiana works to recover from our nation's economic collapse, we have a need for smart federal investments that can help preserve and create jobs and revitalize our region's economy," said U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville, who

announced the federal funding.

"A quintessential example of those efforts, this award will help **KIRPC** develop a road map to economic success for several counties in northwest Indiana."

The planning commission serves Benton, Carroll, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Starke, Warren, and White counties. **KIRPC** can be contacted at 219-253-6658.

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*U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky
D-Merrillville*

AMBIA CHOSEN FOR STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT

On July 13, 2011, the Town of Ambia was officially awarded a CFF grant for storm water improvements in the amount of \$284,580 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

The town will install approximately 3,680 linear feet of storm sewers, including larger capacity pipes, new storm sewers, manholes, inlets, and related grading improvements. The proposed storm water collection and conveyance system improvements will provide benefits throughout the entire town by efficiently collecting

and conveying storm water runoff, reducing or eliminating the localized ponding of water during moderate to severe storm events, minimizing the likelihood of severe flooding events in low lying areas, replacing deteriorated portions of existing storm sewers and inlets, eliminating existing drainage bottlenecks, providing modern drainage infrastructure in areas where none currently exists, and installing storm drainage improvements that are maintainable and adaptable to future needs.



Drew Stephen, Town Council member from Ambia, along with representatives from **KIRPC**, accept the grant award from Lt. Governor Becky Skillman

"This award will be a lasting legacy as I return to Africa with my husband. The town desperately needed storm water flooding relief, and we are most grateful."

*Anne Kumeh,
Outgoing Town Council
President*

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SERVING TODAY AND TOMORROW

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KIRPC MISSION STATEMENT

KIRPC is a voluntary public partnership serving Benton, Carroll, Jasper, Newton, Pulaski, Starke, Warren and White Counties that provides assistance to local units of government to maximize community and economic development opportunities for the benefit of all citizens.

Representation/Governance

The **KIRPC** agency is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of appointees from each member county, city, and incorporated town within the region. At least two-thirds of the membership consists of locally elected officials. While **KIRPC** personnel work in cooperation and coordination with federal, state, and local agencies on behalf of the member units of government, they remain directly responsible to the governing board.

EARL PARK IS AWARDED \$600,000 DEVOTED TO A NEW WELL FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs recently presented the Town of Earl Park a CFF grant for \$600,000 to improve their water system. The grant was written and will be administered by **KIRPC**. The town will provide \$134,860 as the local match for the project that will come from a SRF loan.

The town has been planning for the project for several years. An original preliminary engineering report considered five alternatives for increasing water production for the town which included reconstructing the existing well, injecting the existing well with chlorine, new wells at the existing well site, purchasing water from the Town of Kentland, and finding a new well site. Due to cost considerations and quality concerns, finding a new well site was determined to be the best alternative.

Specifically, the project will include the addition of a new well to add water production; the construction of a water transmission line from the new well to the

current distribution system; the installation of a new pump needed to inject chlorine treatment into the water; the installation of a permanent generator to insure the system's operation is maintained during electrical outages, and miscellaneous site work, grading, access road, fencing, and electrical work needed for the well site.

For the past 10 years, the town has received complaints from customers regarding the quality of the water. Subsequent tests performed by IDEM revealed problems that rendered the water unsuitable for ordinary domestic consumption. As a result, many residents started seeing discoloration with their water. Others began seeing residue in the bottom of their glasses, while others complained regarding the low water pressure they were experiencing.

The town is looking for improvements in their fire fighting capabilities. The new well will improve water pressures



Earl Park town officials and Edwin Buswell from KIRPC accept the grant award from Lieutenant Gov. Becky Skillman

throughout the system. The well will also insure that the water system is reliable and that water will be available when needed for fire fighting.

The fire chief commented "in the last five years, we have had to depend upon surrounding Fire Departments for a water source, since our primary well has been down." Another resident stated that "a week ago, there was a fire at an apartment building and water had to be brought in due to low water pressure."