

# THE KIRPC NEWS

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## EDA AWARDS WHITE COUNTY \$2.4M FOR WOLCOTT CORRIDOR PROJECT

The Wolcott Corridor project will provide infrastructure improvements to property located west of the Town of Wolcott in White County near the intersection of Interstate 65 and US Highway 24.

The scope of the work will include the extension of water and wastewater utilities to 89 acres of property that is ideally located for development. The extension of utilities will enable the county to develop a shovel ready industrial park at the site.

Two of the main constraints to economic development identified in the KIRPC CEDS include inadequate infrastructure and a lack of

shovel ready industrial sites. This project will address 3 of the long term goals identified in the CEDS; namely, achievement of higher levels of employment, provision of adequate community utilities, and the creation of a sufficient number of industrial sites.

The project will be led by the White County Board of Commissioners and the Town of Wolcott, and these jurisdictions will direct the efforts of the White County Economic Development Office that oversees economic development in the county.

This investment will capitalize on many of the project site's com-

petitive strengths. Due to its location and the transportation modes available, this area is deemed to have considerable potential for development. The I-65 corridor between Chicago and Indianapolis is the fastest growing freight corridor in the US and an ideal location for transportation and logistics companies.

With the project extending water and sewer utilities to the site, 89 acres are suitable for development. It is estimated that within 5 years of project completion, 100 jobs will be created along with \$50-75M in private investment will occur.

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## MONTICELLO RECEIVES FUNDING FOR WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

On September 24, 2010, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced that the City of Monticello was awarded a grant totaling \$1 million under their Disaster Recovery Appropriations Program. The city contributed an additional \$200,000 in matching funds making the total project cost \$1.2 million.

The OCRA program was developed to assist communities that had suffered from the devastating flooding in 2008 and 2009, and was specifically designed to aid in economic development recovery.

The project will entail replacing the lift station at the Bryan Station wastewater treatment plant located in the east central portion of the downtown area. The city has six combined sewer overflow outlets, but Bryan is the only lift station, so this project will benefit the

entire city. The project will include adding a new Triplex Submersible Pump Station with a capacity of 2.5 mgd, as well as a new wet well, new pump, new controls, new valve unit, 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 need for the project arises from the fact that the treatment plant receives large amounts of rain water from the combined sewers during wet weather events from sewers that lead to the Bryan lift station. This 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 also

forces the treatment plant to treat millions of gallons unnecessarily. According to Joe Mowrer, Monticello wastewater superintendent, "the Bryan lift station is obsolete, undersized, and has passed its useful life." Mayor Jason Thompson added "the city is home to several successful manufacturing facilities, but the detriment to the city is that the capacity at the plant and the flows through the lift station cause a hindrance to expansions."

Numerous letters were written by residents in the affected area that ultimately went a long way to convince the OCRA scoring committee to award the grant to the city.

The city anticipates starting the project in early summer 2011.

## KIRPC ACQUIRES FUNDING FOR FOWLER'S WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

*"These upgrades to the wastewater system are crucial to attracting new residents and businesses to the Fowler area."*

*Kelly Kepner,  
Benton County Economic  
Development Director*

*"The wastewater grant is a great opportunity for our community. With these improvements, we can add new connections to our wastewater system without hindering future growth."*

*John Ward  
Remington Town Manager*

*"If the town was not in compliance with IDEM requisites within two years, IDEM would require an entirely new mechanical system at a cost of over \$3 million, with the result being that sewer rates would have increased by over \$100 per month"*

*Charles VanVoorst,  
Town Council President*

On September 24, 2010, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced that the Town of Fowler was awarded a Disaster Recovery grant in the amount of \$925,770 in order for critical improvements to the town's wastewater system can be made.

The town will also contribute \$100,000 as their local match for the project.

Problems with the wastewater system have resulted in numerous complaints from residents. Several of the complaints have been for sewage backups in basements and residents having trouble flushing toilets. Most incidences are caused by the system being overloaded during rain events. The project will now improve the ability

of the system to handle rain events and help prevent these backups from occurring.

Since 2002, the town has had at least 9 incidences of noncompliance or overflows. These incidences resulted in toxins or sewage being released to the environment which is a safety concern for the community.

The Disaster Recovery grants are directed towards assisting communities in their economic development efforts as a result of the severe flooding in 2008 and 2009.

The completion of this project fits nicely into the recovery plans for Fowler as it relates to long term economic recovery and growth.

This project will assist the residents recovery also. With continued backups of sewage in basements, families must spend extra money to clean and fix their homes—money that many times is not available. Flooding also hurts property values and makes selling homes in town very difficult and lowers personal wealth.

The town government will also see an economic benefit from the completion of the project. Increased property values in town will also provide additional tax revenue for the town to help fund future projects and services for the residents. Additional residents moving to town will also increase revenues for the town.

## THE TOWN OF REMINGTON RECEIVES A DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT FROM OCRA

The Town of Remington was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$1M dollars to fund a wastewater improvements project. KIRPC applied for the grant to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs on behalf of the town.

After an inspection of the sewer lines in the town during the design phase of the study, the project will entail re-lining approximately 9,100 linear feet of sewer pipes. In addition, the

Project will involve several improvements at the wastewater treatment plant; namely, modifications to the splitter box, a rehabilitation of the disinfection system, and the construction of a new 10,000 gallon chlorine contact tank.

This project was deemed critical insofar as the wastewater treatment plant exceeded its peak design flow in 22 of the past 46 months, covering 2006 through October, 2009. This placed the

town in a position of getting an Early Warning Sewer Ban from IDEM.

The town is immediately located just west of a major interchange along Interstate 65 that is on the brink of major development. Upgrading the overworked system became necessary to facilitate further, smarter growth at this interchange as well as in Remington's core area and at its two industrial parks.

## REYNOLDS TO EMPLOY NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

The Town of Reynolds has recently been awarded a Disaster Recovery Grant from the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs. The total project cost will be \$1,625,149. Off-setting this is a grant award from OCRA in the amount of \$506,149 and a grant from USDA-RD for \$731,000.

AlgaeWheel Technologies built a pilot wastewater treatment facility in Reynolds to provide IDEM with data gathered from the testing of

raw sewage and effluent samples to prove that the innovative technology worked, and to subsequently obtain approval from IDEM for the construction of future Algae Wheels on municipal treatment plants throughout Indiana.

The Town of Reynolds previously operated a waste stabilization pond treatment facility. With the potential for future regulations that will make it difficult for this type of treatment to meet effluent quality

standards, the town is planning to abandon the waste stabilization pond and utilize the Algae Wheel as its method of wastewater treatment.

The grant award will allow the town to increase their capacity from 90,000 gallons/day to 150,000 gallons/day by constructing an additional Algae Wheel facility similar to the current plant.

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## KIRPC UTILIZES INDOT FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The 2011 INDOT Rural Planning Organization grant year marks a first for KIRPC. In addition to continuing to use RPO funds for traffic counts in other counties (Benton, Newton, and Warren Counties), KIRPC will be working with Starke and Jasper counties to develop transportation plans.

KIRPC will hold meetings with each county's economic development Director and Commissioner President to layout goals for the planning process and to determine who will be key players in the process. These key players will include city and town CEO's, county government officers, county highway superintendents, and planning officials. In Starke County, a representative of the North Judson owned Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad will be welcomed to the table. Other com-

munity and business leaders likely will contribute to the plans as deemed appropriate.

Transportation planning for these counties will be carried out with two primary objectives: ensuring that the county transportation system is safe, effective, and well-maintained; and ensuring that the county transportation system encourages sound economic growth. Additionally, the planning process will incorporate relevant aspects of the KIRPC 2010 CEDS to guarantee that they are aligned with existing visions for development.

Included in the final plans will be recommendations for safety and maintenance improvements, goals for prioritizing transportation projects so as best to serve economic growth needs, plans for further developing the transportation sys-

tem in a way that encourages intra-county and regional cooperation, and a project wish list.

KIRPC plans to work with its remaining member counties in subsequent years to develop transportation plans as new traffic counting data become available. Ideally, these plans not only will be embraced by member counties, but can be updated every few years as development occurs, the economic climate changes, and new data become available, so that KIRPC counties can remain competitive and grow appropriately.

The effort to pull the initial planning together for Starke and Jasper County will be led by Nathan P. Origer, Community Development Planner for KIRPC.

*"This initiative serves as another example as to how our member counties are working together regionally."*

*Nathan P. Origer,*

*KIRPC Community  
Development Planner*

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## LT. GOVERNOR SKILLMAN AWARDS A GRANT FOR WHITE COUNTY ECONOMIC STRATEGY STUDY

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman has awarded White County with a \$48.6k planning grant the county will use to fund a comprehensive economic development planning study. These federal dollars are from the Community Development Block Grant program and was acquired for the county by KIRPC. Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs administers the grants.

The comprehensive economic

development plan will assess the county's economic conditions and identify strategies the county can implement to create a more favorable environment for business. The plan will consider workforce and economic development issues, targeted industry sectors, real estate development and redevelopment, business retention and expansion, small business development, and implementation and performance measures

for the plan. The completed plan will help align economic development efforts in the county and provide direction for future initiatives.

Lt. Governor Skillman added "these studies are costly for rural communities, but the state will continue to support communities that have a vision for improving the quality of life for Hoosiers."

*"These planning studies are often the first step for communities that want to pursue new economic development opportunities"*

*Lt. Governor Becky Skillman*

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## KIRPC SECURES DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING FOR STAR CITY WASTEWATER PROJECT

Last December, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs announced the awarding of a Disaster Recovery Wastewater grant for the community of Star City. The total project cost will be \$3,835,253, with the funding coming from \$587,253 from OCRA, \$1,705,000 from a grant from USDA-Rural Development, as well as a loan from USDA-Rural Development in the amount of \$1,543,000.

The proposed project will con-

struct a sanitary sewer collection system for the unincorporated community of Star City in Pulaski County. The system will be owned and operated by the Star City Regional Sewer District which has recently been formed. Once collected, the sewage will be piped from Star City to the Winamac wastewater treatment plant on the south side of the Town of Winamac where it will be treated.

The issue of sanitary waste disposal has been an issue in

Star City for many years, and in 2002, the town was notified by IDEM that raw sewage had been found in two out of three legal drains inspected in the Star City area.

The primary benefits of the proposed project will be the protection of the public's health and the environment. The proposed project will eliminate many private septic systems which are causing contamination in local water bodies.

*"This project is essential for many reasons. First and foremost, tiles from Star City drain with no treatment into Mud Creek and eventually into the Tippecanoe River. Secondly, many of the lot sizes are too restrictive to have the correct type of septic system"*

*Terri Hanson,  
Director of Environmental Health,  
Pulaski County*

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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.

## **KENTLAND IS AWARDED DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING FOR NEW WATER TOWER**

The Town of Kentland was awarded a grant in the amount of \$704,000 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs under their Disaster Recovery Appropriations Program for the construction of a new water tower.

The town contributed an additional \$176,000 as the local match for the project, making the total project cost \$880,000.

The project will construct a new 250,000 gallon elevated storage tank to help in the economic revitalization of the community by allowing for more growth in jobs for the town.

Kentland is recovering from difficult economic times. The largest employer in Kentland closed in 2005 and moved their operations to Mexico, which led to the loss of over 300 jobs in the community.

Fortunately, Ice River Springs Water Co., has located in the community and anticipates increasing employment from 12 to 50 people in the next 4-5 years. Along with this, however, is the

projected increase of 200,000 gallons per day to the average daily demand for the water utility.

Presently, Kentland has one 250,000 elevated storage tank, and currently the average daily pumped from the well fields has exceeded the existing storage capacity within the distribution system. Once the Ice River Springs facility reaches its project capacity, the average daily production and demand for the town's well field would increase to approximately 435,000 gallons per day! Therein is the problem. Exceeding the capacity of the system storage creates a number of problems. Typically, the system should run off of the storage towers that provides the system pressure by their height. When demand exceeds the storage capacity, water is delivered by high service pumps that increases stress and pressures on the water main pipes.

All of this has led to numerous resident and business complaints relative to water pres-

sure issues, boil water occurrences, and occasional discolored water.

The wastewater superintendent indicated that the town has grown from one industrial park to three in the past 40 years, and the town currently cannot provide equal water pressure and supply volume and fire protection to all industrial businesses and homes. Dave Smart, town board president stated "the town would be in real trouble in terms of capacity of the water supply for its residents if the new water tower was not constructed. Without this grant, water rates would have to be raised significantly."

The Newton County Economic Director has stated that the lack of water capacity has stifled economic growth in the Kentland area, and the addition of the second tower will open doors to future investments.

Lastly, Ice River Springs Water Co., is pleased that the town will be able to ensure that they can rely on a constant volume and pressure in order that they can maintain their production process without interruptions.