

EXTENDING WATER TO MARSHALL COUNTY

In 2006 Marshall County Board of Public Utilities board of directors, Chairman, Rocky Bowden, Bill Blalock, Sam Smith, Mike Waggoner, and Joe B. Brandon had a vision to supply as many people as possible in Marshall County with water. The Countywide Waterline Project, as it would later be called, started as a 57-mile project with a projected cost of \$10 million. The money needed to fund the project would be made up of grants and loans from the USDA Rural Development to the utility.

MCBPU accepted equipment bids, purchased equipment, and hired a 4 man construction crew in August 2007. The roads in Phase I of the project were Delina, Brown Shop, Fishing Ford, Finley Beech, John Barnes, Coffee Branch, Round Hill, Sam Simpson, and Liberty Valley. The pump station on Fishing Ford Road was also upgraded. Approximately 21.5 miles of waterline were installed in Phase I of the project.

Construction then moved to Wade Brown Road upgrading the waterline to an 8" line. After finishing Wade Brown Road, the crew and equipment moved north to install the waterlines on Sawgrass Lane, Egypt, Smiley, and Crutcher Roads. A new 300,000-gallon elevated storage tank was also erected on New Hwy. 99 in the Chapel Woods Subdivision replacing the 110,000-gallon ground storage tank. Bids were also taken at this time to contract the waterline to be installed on Harber Road, Ball Lane, Pyles Road and Hwy 99. This completed the 57-mile waterline project. The money that the utility saved installing the waterlines themselves allowed additional roads to be added to the project.

The construction crew then moved to the Mooresville area and installed the waterline on Mooresville Road to Lynnville Highway. Davidson Road and Bryant Road were also included in this phase of the project. Once completed, the construction crew moved back north to install the waterlines in the Holts Corner area. Smiley, Sweeney, and Blackwell Roads were completed. The tank was upgraded from a 150,000 gallon ground storage tank to a 300,000 gallon ground storage tank. A loan/grant from USDA Rural Development also made the installation of this project possible. A fire line will be installed to the Genesco plant and is currently under construction.

During the construction phase of the 57-mile project, MCBPU was awarded a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This project would allow waterlines to be installed in the Milltown area, Reynolds Road, Anderson Lane, and Wilson School Road. Bids were received and a private contractor installed the line.

The Clay Hill community was awarded a loan/grant to have a waterline installed. This included Warner, Batton, Hopkins Bridge, and Riverview Roads. This project was also bid and installed by a contractor.

In the fall of 2013, MCBPU was awarded another Community Development Block Grant. The roads that will have waterlines installed will be Hazelwood, Creekview, and Pate. We will take bids on the project later this summer after all the easements have been signed.

The money that the utility has saved installing waterlines has enabled us to add additional roads to the project. Currently, the waterline on Powell Lane is under construction to connect to the existing line and continue to Highway 31A. Hallmark Drive will also be included. Caney Springs Road will be the next phase of the project with Bear Creek, Whitsell, and Demastus Roads receiving waterlines as well.

Hiring our own construction crew, purchasing equipment, and installing the waterlines ourselves has enabled MCBPU to save money and install more lines throughout the county. We have installed approximately 68 miles of waterline and saved approximately \$4 million. The present Board of Directors, Chairman, Rocky Bowden, Mickey King, Ray Wakefield, Nathan Johnson, and Matt Collins have been very reactive to the growth in the county and plan to continue to encourage and expand with our rapid growth.