

Edmonson County Water District's 40th Anniversary Celebration

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The setting was an unseasonably warm day for October 17 as the Edmonson County Water District's maintenance building reflected physical elements and remnants of yesteryear 1967. A water pail with dipper, hand pumps, and system maps from four decades flanked the walls and floor of the manmade stage area of the garage. The garage doors were thrown open to view both the Water District office out front and to the rear a russet wooded scene with a natural waterfall. As more than 270 people pressed into the shade of the building, Ken Slone, USDA—Rural Development State Director, kicked off the celebration with the presentation of a \$2,158,000 check for a new water system improvements project. As the keynote speaker, Mr. Slone congratulated the Edmonson County Water District (ECWD) for celebrating its anniversary in as fine a manner as the District has conducted business for forty years with great relationships and good food.

It was late 1966 when the North Edmonson and South Edmonson Water Districts were formed. By March 1967, the North and South Districts were consolidated. The forward thinking political leaders of the time recognized that consolidation would enhance the possibility of obtaining funds to build the water system while improving the overall management and operation of the system. The first customers (473) received water service from the District by spring 1971. Since Edmonson County Water District's incorporation, the customer base has grown to 9,600 within Edmonson, Hart, Grayson, Warren, and Butler counties.

Special acknowledgements were made to USDA—Rural Development, the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority, Community Action Kentucky's Rural Community Assistance Program staff and congressional members instrumental in securing the financing of capital improvements projects in recent years. Former and current board members alike were recognized for their service as well as Nelson Sanders and his wife, Pauletta. Mr. Sanders has been on the job 24/7, 365 days a year for thirty-seven years serving as the General Manager.

A barbeque lunch with dessert and drinks was provided to all guests including the District's customers, federal, state, and local officials, contractors, suppliers, and district staff. The Edmonson County Water District gave away door prizes provided by the District and the District's suppliers. All attendees received tokens of appreciation to commemorate this special occasion. This kind of customer appreciation demonstrates the District's commitment to *"serve our most precious resource in a more efficient manner"* as Mr. Slone referenced in his keynote address.

