

The Oldham Era

Water district launches \$15.4 million upgrade

By Laura Hagan, Staff writer, The Oldham Era

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The Oldham County Water District hosted a ground breaking ceremony Friday at the John Black Community Center in Buckner. OCWD commissioners, representatives from the state rural development office, county officials, engineers and contractors celebrated the start of the district's water systems improvement project.

Commissioner Mel Milburn said the \$15.4 million project has been six years in the making. According to a press release from the district, improvements through the project include constructing two raw-water supply wells and installing four miles of high-service transmission main. Upgrades to the existing water treatment plant will also be made, bringing capacity from 6.5 to 13 million gallons per day.

The project is funded by a \$13.2 million loan from Rural Development, available through the national Recovery and Reinvestment Act. An additional \$2.2 million was funded through state tobacco grants.

Judge-Executive Duane Murner said those who started the district would be pleased to see the work accomplished.

Milburn said Friday the expansion is currently one of the largest of a water district in the state. He said commissioners are happy to be able to continue providing service to the districts 8,000 customers.

"This is not the end of the project," he said. "It's the end of the beginning."