



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the General Counsel
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-1400

October 23, 2020

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Sara Creighton
Christine Monahan
Counsel for Plaintiffs
American Oversight
1030 15th St. NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

**RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request 2019-FPAC-BC-06023-F
Amended Final Response**

Dear Mses. Creighton and Monahan:

This correspondence and the accompanying records constitute the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Departmental FOIA Office's (DFO) amended final response for FOIA request **2019-FPAC-BC-06023-F**. The final response provided on August 16, 2020 incorrectly cited the number of responsive records as 541 pages. Please be advised that the correct number of responsive records is 167 pages.

This correspondence also responds to the matter of *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-03259, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The pending Complaint in the above-referenced matter is based on USDA's alleged failure to comply with the applicable time-limit provisions of the FOIA in response to American Oversight's request for the following:

All email communications (including email messages, email attachments, and calendar invitations) between (1) Rural Development Georgia State Director Joyce White or Farm Service Agency Georgia Executive Director Tas Smith and (2) any of the following individuals or entities:

- i. Any personal email accounts attributed to Secretary Sonny Perdue;
- ii. Anyone communicating from an email address ending in perdue.pro;
- iii. Perdue, Inc., including anyone with an email address ending in perdueinc.com;
- iv. Perdue Partners, including anyone with an email address ending in perduepartners.com;
- v. Perdue Management Holdings LLC;
- vi. Perdue Business Holdings, Inc., including Robert Tuggle and anyone with an email address ending in dltj.com;
- vii. Senator David Perdue or anyone from his office, including the Senator and anyone with an email ending in perdue.senate.gov or perduesenate.com; or

viii. AGrowStar, including anyone with an email address ending in agrowstar.com. Please provide all responsive records from April 24, 2017, through the date the search is conducted.

Search Efforts

A search for responsive records was conducted by the Client Experience Center (CEC). The CEC provides comprehensive, fee-for-service information technology (IT) associated operations, security, and technical support services to USDA end users. The CEC also implements and manages enterprise IT solutions for users Department-wide.

A manual review of the search results was performed to identify responsive records and eliminate duplicates. Today's release is a total of 167 pages of responsive records, which are Bates Numbered 000001 to 000167.

The DFO has determined that certain information within the records should be withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4), (5) and (6) (FOIA Exemptions 4, 5 and 6). Below is an explanation of the information withheld.

Application of 5 U.S.C §552(b)(4) "FOIA Exemption 4"

Exemption 4 of the FOIA protects "trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). The exemption covers two distinct categories of information in federal agency records, (1) trade secrets, and (2) information that is (a) commercial or financial, and (b) obtained from a person, and (c) privileged or confidential. The Supreme Court recently addressed the definition of "confidential." *See Food Marketing Institute v. Argus Leader Media*, 139 S. Ct. 2356 (2019) ("At least where commercial or financial information is both customarily and actually treated as private by its owner and provided to the government under an assurance of privacy, the information is 'confidential' within the meaning of Exemption 4."). The DFO has determined to withhold portions of emails under Exemption 4.

As an initial matter, the DFO has determined that the information marked as Exemption 4 meets the threshold because it is information obtained from a company seeking benefits to a USDA program, specifically, the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP). The information is commercial as it relates to a company's inquiry into its eligibility for LIP. Finally, it is confidential information as it is customarily and actually treated as private or closely held.

Application of 5 U.S.C §552(b)(5) "FOIA Exemption 5"

FOIA Exemption 5 protects from disclosure those "inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(5). This language is construed to protect records that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context, including through the deliberative process privilege. As an initial matter, the information withheld meets the threshold requirement of

Exemption 5 because it is contained in internal emails sent between federal employees. Where possible, the DFO has determined to make discretionary releases of information that falls within the protection of Exemption 5.

To fall within the deliberative process privilege, the records must be both pre-decisional and deliberative; the records must precede the adoption of an agency policy and include the opinions, recommendations, or deliberations on a legal or policy matter. In this instance, the DFO is withholding potential policy questions and concerns prepared by an advisor for consideration by a supervisor. These items are pre-decisional in that they all are antecedent to any final agency decision. These items are also deliberative in that they reflect the evolving, back-and-forth process that is so integral to the Executive Branch decision-making process

If predecisional, deliberative communications were to be routinely released to the public, Executive Branch employees would be much more cautious in their discussions with each other, and in candidly discussing and providing all pertinent information and viewpoints in a timely manner to agency decision-makers. This lack of candor would seriously impair the Department's ability to engage in forthright, internal discussions necessary for efficient and proper agency decision-making.

Application of 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) "FOIA Exemption 6"

FOIA Exemption 6 permits the government to withhold information regarding individuals in "personnel, medical and similar files" when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy and where such privacy interests outweigh any public interest that would be advanced by disclosure. For purposes of the FOIA, the public interest is advanced when disclosure of the requested information educates the public about the activities of the government.

Portions of the records are withheld under FOIA Exemption 6, including unpublished email addresses and telephone numbers, alias email accounts, social events unrelated to USDA business, information about families, information related to personal appointments and travel, and information detailing where federal employees rested overnight. The DFO is also withholding the alias email account of Secretary Perdue. All this information qualifies as "similar files" because it is information that applies to and identifies particular individuals.

Release of the unpublished telephone numbers and email addresses could subject individuals to unwarranted or unsolicited communications. Accordingly, there is a strong privacy interest in this information. In addition, individuals have a strong privacy interest in information social events unrelated to USDA business, information about families, information related to personal appointments and travel, and information detailing where federal employees rested overnight. Release of this information would not shed light on agency activities; therefore, there is no public interest in release.

With regard to the Secretary's alias email accounts, the agency has a significant interest in ensuring that its officials have the capacity to safely perform a full range of official functions,

including emergency operations, continuity of operations, and devolution planning and execution. These functions could not be accomplished if public email-writing campaigns impeded communications to the email accounts from which officials operate in emergency situations. In the event of emergency, not only are alias accounts necessary for safe and efficient emergency operations, but also so that family members can reach otherwise unavailable officials. While the existence of such alias email accounts and certain content of emails released therefrom may shed light on agency functions, the actual email addresses do not in and of themselves advance a public interest—particularly when balanced against the critical interest of agency officials in maintaining safe and responsible communication with critical business contacts including those in The White House, during emergency situations and situations presenting potential national security threats. With that said, in response to records requests, it is the agency's policy to process and release responsive documents derived from searches of all agency email accounts (including alias email accounts) to the extent not otherwise exempt or prohibited by law. Furthermore, we note that the disclosure of officials' primary official email accounts serves as the most appropriate point of contact for the public and poses the least amount of risk or threat in emergency operations.

Because there is a strong privacy interest in this information and no outweighing public interest to be advanced by disclosure, Exemption 6 authorizes the DFO to withhold the information.

In light of the matter *American Oversight v. U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:19-cv-03259, currently pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, administrative appeal rights are not being provided in this response letter.

If you have any questions or concerns about this final response letter or the pending civil action, please contact Diana V. Valdivia, Assistant United States Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia at diana.valdivia@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,

Alexis R.
Graves

 Digitally signed by Alexis R. Graves
Date: 2020.10.22 19:00:47 -04'00'

Alexis R. Graves
Departmental FOIA Officer
Office of the General Counsel

Enclosure: Responsive Records (167 pages)

From: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA
To: (b) (6) Secretary Perdue
Subject: (b) (6) Recommendation Package
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:44:01 PM
Attachments: [image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
(b) (6) Recommendation Package.pdf Withheld in full under Exemption 6
Importance: High

Hi Mr. Secretary: Mr. Herman Cain would like to recommend (b) (6) for the State Director position in Arizona. He would like to speak with you about her if you are able to call him on his cell (b) (6). If not, he understands, but (b) (6) comes highly recommended by Herman. I have shared this package with Misty Giles and Lori Urban.

I hope you and Ms. Mary are great.

(b) (6)

I appreciate you more than you realize. Thank you for all you do.

JOYCE WHITE
 State Director
 USDA Rural Development
 355 East Hancock Ave Rm 300
 Athens, GA 30601
 Office (706)552-2585 Cell (b) (6)
 Fax: (855) 452-0956
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From: Lisa Reichert (b) (6)@hermancain.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:18 PM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <joyce.white@usda.gov>
Cc: (b) (6)@gmail.com>
Subject: (b) (6) Recommendation Package
Importance: High

Hi Joyce,

Thanks again for taking my call last week. (b) (6)

As promised, I have enclosed a package (b) (6), in hopes that you are able to get this information to Secretary Perdue. (b) (6)

From: [White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA](#)
To: mwooten@ga-agribusiness.org
Subject: FW:
Date: Monday, November 13, 2017 1:03:32 PM
Attachments: [SCAN9888_000.pdf](#)

I apologize that my RSVP is late, but I was waiting on my approval by the White House before I could list who I am representing. Bryan Tolar knows my situation (that I just moved over from Senator David Perdue to Secretary Sonny Perdue), but my position is a Presidential Appointee position, and I could not talk about it until I was approved.

(b) (6)



Thanks,

Joyce White
State Director, USDA
Cell (b) (6)

From: Taylor, Jacqueline - RD, Athens, GA
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2017 12:50 PM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>
Subject:

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From: [Davis, Karen - Athens, GA](#)
To: [Bush, Andy](#)
Cc: [White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA](#)
Subject: RE: (b) (4)
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018 8:47:33 AM
Attachments: [image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)
[image019.png](#)
[image020.png](#)
[image029.png](#)
[image030.png](#)
[image032.png](#)
[image033.png](#)

Andy,

We are going through the liquidation process [obtaining appraisals, etc.] right now and we are unaware whether we will recoup any of the loss BUT we are trying. It is just a long process because of everything that happened with the Lender and even the Borrower.

Thank you for understanding.

Karen
 Karen L. Davis
 Director, Business and Cooperative Programs
 USDA Rural Development
 355 East Hancock Ave Rm 305
 Athens, GA 30601
 Phone: (706) 552-2559 Fax: (855) 452-0958
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From: Bush, Andy <Andy.Bush@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 29, 2018 10:47 AM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: Davis, Karen - Athens, GA <Karen.Davis@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: RE: (b) (4)

Thank you so much for this level of explanation. I'm sorry I haven't responded until now. We're still in the midst of the August district work period and we've been on the road a lot.

I didn't realize this loan and the fraud this company committed was so large, and obviously has been thoroughly investigated and reported. This gentleman was unfortunately one of many people/subcontractors who were taken advantage of by these bad actors. As I said before, we were making no judgements or second guessing the work of USDA (b) (4)

Once again, we appreciate all that USDA Rural Development and your staff do for our district and for Georgia. Please let us know if we can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Andy

Andy Bush

District Director

Office of Congressman Drew Ferguson (GA-03)

Mobile (b) (6)

District Office (770) 683-2033

Fax (770) 683-2042

andy.bush@mail.house.gov



From: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 4:54 PM

To: Bush, Andy <Andy.Bush@mail.house.gov>

Cc: Davis, Karen - Athens, GA <Karen.Davis@ga.usda.gov>

Subject: FW: (b) (4)

Andy: I spoke to our Business and Industry Program Director, Karen Davis. She gave me the following information and please know she has fought fearlessly to try and recoup any dollars we could. This is not the way USDA wants to do business. Karen referred this case to our attorneys in our National Office in DC, but they or we don't see any way to recoup.

I can assure you USJDA loans go through a thorough screening and approval process. When Congressman Ferguson was Mayor of West Point, USDA Rural Development put over \$16 million into water treatment facilities, a fire house, a ladder fire truck and parking lot to help lure Kia into West Point. We worked with Mayor Ferguson on that project. That is one of our success stories and it has been repeated numerous times across Georgia and why we exist – to help rural areas develop economically and bring jobs to rural Georgia. However, this loan did not prove to be what was talked about and presented to USDA. It was fraudulent.

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4)

(b) (4) The Lender was responsible for monitoring and servicing the loan. Although we know the Lender failed, we don't know how much of the loss occurred because of the Lender or the Borrowers/Guarantors. Some of the owners, (b) (4), continue to talk with the Agency to try and resolve this defaulted loan but there is no known viable solution decided upon at this time.

Ted McGavran contacted our office and we forwarded that information on to our National Office in order to see if there was any additional actions that should be taken on this loan. Based on investigation already completed, National Office has not been able to determine any additional action that can be taken at this time.

(b) (4)

Personally, I think her question was a fair question.

I worked as State Director for Senator David Perdue before being appointed to the White House in this position, so I know you are trying to help constituents. I understand, and I hope we have answered your questions. There is no good answer.

Thank you,

JOYCE WHITE

State Director

USDA Rural Development

355 East Hancock Ave Rm 300

Athens, GA 30601

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Fax: (855) 452-0956

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From: [White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA](#)
To: [Jessica Perdue](#)
Subject: Loan Issue- (b) (4) h
Date: Monday, April 1, 2019 11:57:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)

Hey Jessica! (b) (6)

I wanted you to know that I have been drilling down on the loan issue with (b) (4) loan. I can see from this e-mail stream that this loan process took far too long. I really have a difficult time understanding why things move so slow and part I blame on the regs and processes that are too bureaucratic and then I also have to look at the performance of the staff to see if they are lagging.

I think maybe a little of both happened here and then the government shut down was the icing on the cake.

Last week, our Area Director (David Mull) called (b) (4) to inquire, and (b) (4) said he was pleased. He only mentioned that the shutdown caused delay and he was not happy with that, but he was happy with our Ft. Valley staff person (Ben Tyus) and happy overall. With that, our Area Director, did not know how to respond because he could not determine there was a problem or what the issue might be. Will you please let me know what you are hearing? This is definitely the type of thing I want to correct if I can on my end.

Hugs to you and yours,

JOYCE WHITE
 State Director
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From: Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2019 3:20 PM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Loan Issue- Can you direct this?

Thanks Joyce. Appreciate you looking into this for us and closing the loop w Jessica.

From: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA
Sent: Saturday, March 23, 2019 11:38:55 PM
To: Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC
Subject: Re: Loan Issue- Can you direct this?

Hi Misty. Our Area Director called (b) (4) on Friday and (b) (4) stated he was happy with where he is in the process and happy with Ben Tyus who has been helping him. I plan to call Jessica Perdue to make sure I'm not missing something here. I know her very well. (b) (4) did say the shutdown slowed down this process but he understood there was nothing that could be done about that. I will continue to dig. Joyce

From: "Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Misty.Giles@osec.usda.gov>
Date: Friday, March 22, 2019 at 11:34:40 AM
To: "White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA" <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>
Cc: "Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC" <Hailey.Ghee@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Loan Issue- Can you direct this?

Joyce,

Happy Friday! I'm not sure if this is on your radar or not given the ties to the boss. Could you take a look at the attached and see if you know what is going on here and let me know? Copying Hailey too in case you two need to connect to download about her phone call first.

Thanks!
 MAG



Misty Ann Giles

Acting Chief of Staff
 Rural Development
 United States Department of Agriculture
 Office: 202-720-2413
 Cell: (b) (6)

From: Ghee, Hailey -
 OSEC, Washington, DC
Sent: Thursday, March
 21, 2019 1:39 PM

To: Giles, Misty - OSEC, Washington, DC <Misty.Giles@osec.usda.gov>
Cc: Miller, Jannine - OSEC, Washington, DC <Jannine.Miller@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: Loan Issue- Can you direct this?

I just spoke with Jannine. (b) (6)
 (b) (6). Let me know if you need any other guidance. Happy to hop on the phone with Jessica.
 Thanks!

Hailey Ghee

Special Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office: 202-205-9982
Cell: (b) (6)

From: Jessica Perdue (b) (6) @perdue.pro>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Ghee, Hailey - OSEC, Washington, DC <Hailey.Ghee@osec.usda.gov>
Subject: Loan Issue- Can you direct this?

Hi ma'am!

If you could get this to the folks that can get some answers, I would appreciate it. (b) (4) has been unable to see this loan over the finish line and had some very odd "excuses" from the Fort Valley (Peach County) loan officer. (b) (6)

(b) (4)

Thanks,
Jessica

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tyus**, Benjamin - RD, Fort Valley, GA
<Benjamin.Tyus@ga.usda.gov>
Date: Wed, Nov 21, 2018, 2:42 PM
Subject: Certificate of Eligibility and Attachment
To: (b) (4), (b) (6) @gmail.com
(b) (4), (b) (6) @gmail.com>

Hello (b) (4)

Here are the Certificate of Eligibility and its attachment that mentioned to you in our phone conversation earlier today. Let me know if you have any questions.

Ben Tyus

Benjamin H. Tyus | Area Specialist

Rural Development
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1030 Peach Parkway | Fort Valley, Georgia
31030
Phone: 478-827-0016 ext. 4 | Fax: 866-567-
5757

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(b) (4)

DE&Attachment.pdf>

From: [White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA](#)
To: [Seaver, Andrew \(Perdue\)](#)
Subject: RE: Tallulah River/Tate City Road & Union Co Gun Club
Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 9:37:31 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hey Andrew: I called Betty Jewett, the Forest Service Supervisor for this area. She said this issue has been going on for a long time. She admitted that the road isn't kept up as well as they would like but they do not have the funds to do more (b) (6) She said the weather plays a role in continuing to make the road rough – rains and before the rains, the snow. She also said this road runs alongside the Tallulah River and that can add to the road's less than desirable condition.

Bottom line is that I did not get very far with her. She knows the issue and knows the commissioners by name. She let me know I wasn't telling her anything new. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

I asked how many people are impacted, and she said about 60 homes are along this road.

GUN RANGE

Add to this, I asked how we were coming along on the gun range project in Union Co. She said she gave it to someone below her to watch and keep up with. She also said that the property they chose will not work and the Forest Service will be looking for other property to suggest to them. She had not conveyed this to Sheriff Mason or Commissioner Lamar Paris I don't think because the Sheriff and the President of the gun club had both called me to ask if I'd heard anything. So after talking to Betty, I did call the Sheriff and told him what she had told me. He was not happy. (b) (6)

(b) (6) When I asked how many people are NOT for it, she had no answer.

(b) (6) You can always elevate the road issue to the DC level if you want. I'll continue to handle the gun club issue.

JOYCE WHITE

State Director

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From: Seaver, Andrew (Perdue) [mailto:Andrew_Seaver@perdue.senate.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 8:34 AM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Tallulah River/Tate City Road

Hey Joyce, Great seeing you on Friday !! Here is the letter from commissioner Bradshaw detailing the issues w/forest service rd. Thanks for the help!! And hope you had a great weekend!! Best,
Andrew

Regional Representative
Office of United States Senator David A Perdue (R-GA)

(b) (6)

Sent from iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6) <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Date: April 25, 2018 at 11:44:08 AM EDT
To: "'Seaver, Andrew \\\(Perdue\\)'<Andrew_Seaver@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: Tallulah River/Tate City Road

Please find a letter Commissioner Bradshaw has written to Senator Perdue concerning the Forest Service owned Road in the Tate City Community. Please let the commissioner know if the senator needs any further information or has any questions.

His cell number is (b) (6)

Thank you for your help with this matter.

Thank you,

Andrea Anderson

Finance Director

Towns County

(b) (6)

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From: [Hayes Jennifer \(Perdue\)](#)
To: [Ross Katherine - RD Sandersville GA](#); [White Joyce - RD Athens GA](#)
Subject: RE: URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT RURAL WATER NEEDS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE
Date: Thursday, August 2, 2018 1:26:02 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)
[image015.png](#)
[image016.png](#)
[image017.png](#)

Thank you so much!! You are the best!!!

From: Ross, Katherine - RD, Sandersville, GA [mailto:katherine.ross@ga.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 02, 2018 1:24 PM
To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>; Hayes, Jennifer (Perdue) <Jennifer_Hayes@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT RURAL WATER NEEDS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE

Jennifer,

I am very familiar with the good folks in Lincoln County and in the City of Lincolnton. We are currently completing a sewer project with the city. We obligated funds for a county project in March. This project was a water project that provided additional service to areas of the county. Do you think this is the project the County needed? If they have something else, I will be glad to talk to them. In fact, I will reach out to them just to be sure.

Thank you for your support of our programs.

Kathy
Kathy L. Ross
Area Director, Sandersville Area Office
Acting, Community Programs Director
Rural Development
United States Department of Agriculture
1222 S. Harris Street
Sandersville, GA. 31082
Phone: 478/247-1150
Fax: 855/789-1158
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From: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA
Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 1:09 PM
To: Hayes, Jennifer (Perdue) <Jennifer_Hayes@perdue.senate.gov>; Ross, Katherine - RD, Sandersville, GA <katherine.ross@ga.usda.gov>
Subject: FW: URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT RURAL WATER NEEDS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE

Looks like they are eligible!

I am adding our Program Director/Area Director (Kathy Ross) just to make sure they are eligible, and Kathy will be the one to get the project started if they decide to proceed. Kathy is delightful to work with. She is really short staffed currently, but she'll do all she can to bring their project into fruition should they decide to go forward.

Below is a website that allows you to plug in an address to determine eligibility. All of our loans are different though and have different population criteria. Some funds can be loaned to communities of 20,000 or less and some loans can go to communities with populations of 50,000 or less. They vary depending on what the loans is for.

These loan dollars for water and waste just happens to have a low population cap of 10,000.

Thanks for answering with a potential project.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs>

JOYCE WHITE

State Director

USDA Rural Development

355 East Hancock Ave Rm 300

Athens, GA 30601

Office (706)552-2585 Cell (b) (6)

Fax: (855) 452-0956

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Stay Connected with USDA:



From: Taylor, Jacqueline - RD, Athens, GA

Sent: Thursday, August 2, 2018 12:45 PM

To: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA <Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov>

Subject: RE: URGENT MESSAGE ABOUT RURAL WATER NEEDS AND FUNDING AVAILABLE

I checked for the county seat which is Lincolnton and they are eligible!

Also I included a link for the Water & Environmental page on our website for additional information.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/water-environmental-programs>

From: [Fry, Ben \(Perdue\)](#)
To: [White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA](#)
Subject: RE: USDA Agency Briefing in Georgia
Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 4:24:49 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Joyce,

I am so sorry! I completely dropped the ball on responding to you yesterday. I'm going to try and make it. Will RSVP now. Andrew is planning to attend as well.

Sounds like there are lots of great things going on- I'm getting all kinds of great USDA Rural Development announcements for projects here in Georgia.

Look forward to seeing you and appreciate all the help you and your team have given us.

See you Friday!

Thanks,

Ben

From: White, Joyce - RD, Athens, GA [mailto:Joyce.White@ga.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:23 AM
To: Fry, Ben (Perdue) <Ben_Fry@perdue.senate.gov>
Subject: RE: USDA Agency Briefing in Georgia

Hey Ben: It is not necessary that you attend. I feel like you know what USDA Rural Development does, and you and I have a close enough working relationship, that you can always call me if you have any question and vice versa.

I have worked with Andrew Seaver. He's sent a couple of items my way to see if we could help. He might want to attend since he is Athens' based.

I have also worked some with Chris Perkins. He is good about dropping in on small towns in rural areas, meeting with Mayors and City Managers and then letting me know if there is a need in that area where Rural Development might be able to help. We are currently working with Milner on developing their downtown area.

Just know we have loans and grants for sewer, water projects, entrepreneurs working to start a business in a rural area, business development loans and industry loans that would build a larger company or business. We have loans for multi-family housing and for single family housing. All are very low-interest loans that can be paid over an extended period of time.