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USDA gives

From Reports

Yuma's new hospital project definitely is gaining momentum.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development pledged \$24.5 million toward the project during a ceremonial check presentation last Thursday, October 13, in Fort Morgan.

"It's a good feeling," Yuma Hospital District Board of Directors President Gene Wagner said. "...Things have gone so slowly for the last three years, but now that it gets going it just kind of steamrolls you. There's a lot of good things happening in Yuma, or are about to happen, so the timing is good."

The ceremony took place following the Rural Economic Development Summit that was spearheaded by state Representative Cory Gardner of Yuma. It was hosted by Agriculture Undersecretary for Rural Development Allan Johnson, U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard and Congresswoman Marilyn

Board selects building firm

The Yuma Hospital District Board of Directors completed its construction team with the hiring of a construction manager/general contractor, earlier this month.

The action came during a special meeting earlier this month during which the board interviewed three finalists. Board members then voted to hire Adolf & Peterson Construction of Aurora. The other finalists were FCI Constructors of Longmont, and Mortenson, whose Colorado office is in Denver. FCI is in the final minor stages of completing the Morris Elementary School project, and also did the renovations at Yuma High School and Yuma Middle School as part of a \$9 million project made possible by a voter-approved bond issue.

— Tony Rayl

to Yuma hospital project



Yuma District Hospital

Yuma, Colorado

Courtesy of Davis Partnership

Above is a conceptual drawing of the exterior of the new Yuma hospital. USDA Rural Development has pledged \$24.5 million in a direct loan and loan guarantee toward the project.

Musgrave. All three of the dignitaries stuck around for the loan and grants presentations, as did Gardner and state Senator Greg Brophy of Wray. (Also receiving funding was a wind farm project in eastern Yuma County.)

"A modern hospital is essential to any rural community and this hospital will serve the residents of Yuma and Washington counties for decades to come," Johnson said. "This project further the Bush Administration's commitment to

provide rural Americans with access to primary and preventive health care services."

Wagner said Alan Spidel of the bonding firm Lancaster Pollard Mortgage Company told him the \$24.5 million is the most ever pledged by the

USDA to a Critical Access Hospital project.

"It's groundbreaking," Wagner said. Of the long time it has taken to get to this point, he said, "It has been a long

See Hospital on pg. 3

Groundbreaking probably in June

Hospital from pg. 1

time, but you need to make sure you have all your ducks in a row. That's a lot of money."

Under the Community Facilities Program, USDA Rural Development will provide a \$7 million direct loan and a \$17.5 million loan guarantee for the project. Guaranteed community facilities loans are available to develop essential community facilities in areas and towns of up to 50,000 in population. Under the program, YHD will receive \$7 million directly from the USDA in the form of a loan, and the USDA will guarantee up to \$17.5 million in loans the district will have to get from private institutions. The district also will need to get grants, as well as pledges from the local community.

"This will be the largest Community Facility project funded in Colorado," said Joe Hostetler, acting state director for USDA Rural Development. "This hospital will greatly enhance the delivery of health care in northeastern Colorado."

A new 12-bed critical access hospital will be constructed to serve the Yuma Hospital District, which covers western Yuma County and also services the eastern portion of Washington County. The current hospital, licensed for 22 beds, was built in 1949 and underwent a major renovation and



The USDA Rural Development's check presentation to Yuma Hospital District drew quite a crowd (l-r) — Mike Bailey of Rural Development, Joe Hostetler, acting state director, state Rep. Cory Gardner (behind Hostetler), U.S. Sen. Wayne Allard, USDA Deputy Secretary Allan Johnson, Yuma Mayor Joe Harper, YHD's Lyndia Loppe, Cathy Wolff, and Elaine Nieslanik, YHD Board President Gene Wagner, Alan Spidel of Lancaster Pollard, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, YHD Board member Shelly Powell, Cheryl Scofield of Rural Development in Yuma County, and state Sen. Greg Brophy.

Courtesy Photo

expansion project in 1996. However, the renovation and expansion led to an increase in business, which has resulted in the need for more space for outpatient services, patient rooms, growth in individual departments, surgical patient preparation and recovery, and building systems updates.

Approximately half of the

repayment funds for the project will come from Medicare payments as a critical access hospital.

The likely exterior of the building can be seen in a drawing accompanying this article. However, the interior design is far from being completed. Representatives of Davis Partnership were to be in town this

week for more meetings with staff concerning the interior layout. Construction manager/general contractor Adolf & Peterson, and owner's representative R.H. Engineering also will participate in the design process.

Groundbreaking for the new hospital is tentatively set for June 2006.