

SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMISSION PLACES ½ CENT SALES TAX ON BALLOT TO START EAST LOCUST CREEK RESERVOIR

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Milan, MO- On Tuesday, January 26th, the Sullivan County Commission voted to place a ½ cent retail sales tax on the April 6th ballot. The ½ cent sales tax will produce approximately \$225, 000 per year to service a bond or loan for the purpose of purchasing land on which to construct the East Locust Creek Reservoir. The total land needed to construct is approximately 5,800 acres, with approximately 2,200 surface acres of water.

The Reservoir is designed to address an acute water shortage in north central Missouri, as well as to provide for flood prevention/mitigation, recreational opportunities and economic development. The Reservoir, to be owned and operated by the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission, will cost approximately \$49 million to construct. The Commission has forged a plan to provide the local share, \$22 million, of the total cost. The ½ cent sales tax is a first and critical component of constructing the Reservoir.

Bobby Williams, Chairman of the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission said, “The Water Commission is thrilled and appreciative of the outstanding leadership shown by the County Commission. They recognized the wholesale benefits of the Reservoir and the fact that this Reservoir will never be constructed without their help.” He added, “The Water Commission has developed a good plan and will do its part to make the dream of the Reservoir, a reality.”

Brad Scott, General Manager of the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission said, “The County Commission’s action provides the citizens of Sullivan County an opportunity to have a say in the future of the Region. This Reservoir is critical to meeting the basic water needs of the area while providing vast economic development opportunity.” He added, “This Reservoir will fundamentally change the economy of north central

Missouri for decades providing for industrial and commercial expansion and thousands of jobs.”

The Reservoir construction is being overseen by the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service who will provide a majority share of the funds for the construction.

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