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**REGISTRATIONS FOR WATER BOARD MEMBER TRAINING
EXCEEDS PARTNERSHIP'S EXPECTATIONS**

More than 120 Water Officials Sign Up for Training that Begins Monday

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, FEB. ##, 2008 – With more than 120 water board members from the region's 83 water districts registered, the training segment of the Water Partnership for Northwest Missouri's water plan has already exceeded expectations.

Water Partnership members had hoped the training, which is being conducted by the University of Missouri Extension in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, would draw 80-100 participants. As of Tuesday, 122 registrations had been received for the training, which kicks off Monday in Maryville.

Bringing training to local public water board members on issues of managerial, technical and financial capacity was one of several goals adopted by the Water Partnership last year. The centerpiece of the partnership's goal of securing a sustainable water source for the region is a multi-county water pipeline that would serve a 12-county area.

Monday's training session will cover board legal requirements, improving efficiency, keeping good personnel, and minimizing liability. This second session, following later in the month, will cover board responsibilities for compliance and emergency preparedness. The final session in March will provide methods for making sound financial decisions and where many systems can reduce costs. Board members who are unable to attend the first session in Maryville have the option to take it on February 12 in St. Joseph and February 13 in Cameron.

For more information on the courses and how to register, contact Jerri Dearmont at the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments at (660) 582-5121 or jerri@nwmorcog.org or visit our website at www.water.nwmorcog.org.

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