

Infrastructure in Russell County  
New growth ushers in new directions in service  
Press Release June 2008

The Russell County Planning Commission received an extensive education and a possible solution to wastewater infrastructure in rural areas of the county.

Environmental Engineer Dr. Kevin White, who is a professor and chairman of the department of civil engineering at the University of South Alabama presented Decentralized Sewage Package Systems to the board and fielded questions concerning viability of those systems in areas that are rapidly developing in Russell County. Fort Mitchell, in District 5; Ladonia, in District 2 have seen consistent and exceptional growth in the last two to three years. Subdivisions in these locations contain 50 to 250 homes on septic systems and are served by the Russell County and Fort Mitchell Water and Sewer Authorities. Several neighborhoods are experiencing Phase II construction with housing continuing to add roof tops on rural acres. Plans and development for commercial and industrial interests are also considerations near the Fort Benning entrance on Hwy. 165 and throughout the county. The impact of the base realignment and closure procedure directed by the U.S. Department of Defense will bring up to 30,000 people into the area by 2011 and is a strengthening argument to offer infrastructure alternatives. Enhanced public service utilities coupled with country living drives a convincing vehicle for newcomers in real estate and commerce.

Decentralized systems offer that alternative and would be maintained by the district authority.

“Because of this opportunity we will be able to provide water and sewer for the subdivisions that are and are going to be developed,” said District 2 Commissioner Gordon Cox, when the idea of “mini” systems first broke about a year ago. “We have got to show Fort Benning that we are able to provide water and sewage.”

The planning commission appointed a committee to investigate and study the systems, which, according to White, have seen a great deal of success in other expanding communities. On the committee are: Russell County Mapper/ Appraiser J.W. Brannen, Fort Mitchell Water Authority Director David Ellis, Russell County Water and Sewer Authority Director Roger Conner and Planning Commissioner Bill Friend.