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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Organization Faulkner County
Citizens Advisory Group

FCCAG BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS AT NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. CONCERNING THE EXXON PEGASUS PIPELINE RUPTURE AND RESPONSE.

Conway, AR, March 21, 2014–

Emily L. Harris, MPH; Wooster resident and Public Health Facilitator for the Faulkner County Citizens Advisory Group will be speaking about the Mayflower incident at the 2014 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. <http://thenejc.org/> Leaders from various sectors across the nation will engage in 3 days of free exchange of new ideas and new approaches to environmental justice. The program format will feature needs and challenges of communities, governments, municipalities, tribes, faith-based organizations, and others with an interest in environmental matters and environmental justice. It will highlight programs and collaborations that work, as well as initiatives that will not prove successful. Program speakers will feature representatives from Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, community groups, business and industry, public interest groups, academia, and other entities. This interactive forum produces positive results through innovation and collaboration.

Ms. Harris' presentation is titled "CATCH 22- The Mayflower Arkansas Pegasus Pipeline Rupture and Response March 29, 2013-Community Based Environmental Activism at Risk." The basis of her discussion is focused on the opportunity to improve the response to community based disasters of this sort through utilization of specially trained emergency response teams that would supplement local efforts to ensure all aspects of community/ecosystem health are protected. The current system is ineffective and nationwide citizen environmental advocacy groups face many hardships including legal prosecution while striving to protect and inform their communities. Her presentation reports:

"The Mayflower Arkansas community finds certain truths to be self-evident. We would expect that the elected officials, regulatory agencies and policy makers would acknowledge these same truths. 1) Lives have been affected. 2) Homes have been destroyed. 3) Ecosystem damage has occurred. 4) Human health effects are significant and are ongoing."

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If you would like more information about this, please contact Emily Harris at 501-733-2409 or email her at EmilyHarrisMPH@gmail.com.