



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDED FUNDS TO CITY OF BLAND FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Acting Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a \$4,100 mock check to Mayor Bruce Sassmann, on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at Bland City Hall. The grant funds will be used to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Engineering Report for a public sewer system extension. Upon completion of this report, Bland will be in position to make application for the necessary funding for expansion of their sewer system to serve its residents.



Pictured left to right: Llona Weiss – Field Representative Senator McCaskill’s Office; Kelly Gregory – USDA Rural Development Area Director; Dan Minks – USDA Rural Development Manager; U.S. Representative Kenny Hulshof; Bruce Sassmann – Mayor; Clayton Tandy – Alderman Ward 1; Alva Cahill – Alderman Ward 1; Janie Dunning – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director; and Tony Benz – State Senator Frank Barnitz’s Office

“This project will help the City of Bland better serve the community’s needs. The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work in continuing to advance the planned sewer system expansion,” said Senator Kit Bond.

“Development of infrastructure and services in rural areas is so important to the overall well-being of the state of Missouri. I’m pleased to see the federal government invest in the City of Bland,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill.

“As our rural communities continue to grow and develop, it’s imperative that the necessary infrastructure is in place,” Hulshof said. “This grant money is a good step toward evaluating and fulfilling the needs of Bland. I am pleased that USDA has recognized the importance of this project.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities,” said Dunning. “Appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.” Other officials attending from USDA were: Kelly Gregory Area Director from Clinton, and Dan Minks, Rural Development Manager, Jefferson City, MO.

“The City of Bland greatly appreciates the grant from USDA Rural Development to assist with funding of our Preliminary Engineering Report for our future wastewater system expansion,” said Bruce Sassmann, Mayor of Bland.

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental program. This program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. As of Oct. 1, 2007 Rural Development loans through this program carry a fixed interest rate of 4.625 percent for a 35 year repayment term.

Anyone seeking more information about the USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contact Dan Minks, Rural Development Manager, 1911 Boggs Creek Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101 at 573-893-8504, ext. # 4 or dan.minks@mo.usda.gov by e-mail

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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