



Committed to the future of rural communities.

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES CITY OF CRANE WITH \$1,985,000 FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$1,985,000 to the City of Crane on May 2, 2008. The \$1,500,000 loan and \$485,000 grant funds represent that portion of the project funded by Rural Development to be used towards replacing water lines, upgrading water storage facilities, and a new well. The upgrade to the water system will benefit the 1,390 residents.

“It is important that we meet the infrastructure needs of our communities like Crane, not only to encourage economic growth but also to safeguard the environment,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “Our health and that of the environment and economy depends on clean water. I thank USDA for their partnership, and their commitment to the betterment of our communities. These are the types of federal-local partnerships I like to see.”

“All Missouri families deserve clean and safe water,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I am pleased that these federal dollars will help the City of Crane make necessary upgrades to its water system and better provide for residents.”

Congressman Roy Blunt said, “Clean water remains a vital element to everyday life. Crane, like other Ozark’s communities, has seen the expansion of new residential subdivisions and businesses. Expanding and making improvements to water systems demands local leadership and a financial commitment from residents. Crane, in partnership with USDA Rural Development, has met the challenge to provide those improvements which should give the community the long term ability to row neighborhoods, improve fire protection and safeguard the environment.”



Left to Right holding the check: Morris Westfall, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development; Steve McIntosh, Field Representative for U.S. Representative Roy Blunt; Stacy Burks, District Office Director for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill

Back Row: Tim Rickabaugh, Rural Development Area Director; Andy Novinger, Shaffer & Hines, Inc. Engineer; Leah Estes, City Clerk; Jack Swearingen, Public Works; Max Edmondson, Public Works; Ronald Fearn, Alderman; Collin Brannon, Mayor; Jack Mustard, Alderman

“Mayor Collin Brannan expressed his appreciation, “This project has come together with hard work from many people, the USDA, and other funding agencies. On behalf of our community, I would like to say thanks for your cooperation and financial contributions. The improvements to our water system will benefit our current residents and support improvements to sustain our future growth and economic development for all our customers.”

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of an environmentally safe water system,” said Westfall. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality. I am pleased that so many rural households will benefit from an adequate and dependable system.” Westfall added, “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.”

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Bruce Hively, Area Specialist, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [brucehively@mo.usda.gov](mailto:brucehively@mo.usda.gov).

**Committed to the future of rural communities**

“USDA is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer.”

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D. C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).