

USDA



Rural Development

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NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Stan L.Wolfe, St. Joseph Area Specialist Telephone (816) 364-3767 (extension #5)

HOLT COUNTY PWSO #1 RECEIVES \$150,000 USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR WATER LINE EXTENSIONS

USDA Rural Development presented a \$150,000 Mock Check to Holt County Public Water Supply District #1 on Wednesday, October 24th at the District's office in Oregon. The USDA Rural Development grant funds will be used to extend the District's water distribution lines to add additional households to the public water system. The PWSO will be contributing \$6,000 to the extension project.



Those in the photograph are from left to right: Kent Kurtz (District President), Stan Wolfe (Area Specialist with the USDA Rural Development Area Office at St. Joseph), Dean Brookshier (Deputy Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Sam Graves), Neal Miller (Area Director with the USDA Rural Development Area Office at St. Joseph), John Dudeck (District Board Member), Wayne Kurtz (District Vice President)

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development's Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program. This program assists rural areas that have experienced a significant decline in water quantity or quality by obtaining or maintaining adequate quantities of safe drinking water. USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental Programs are available to eligible entity's to provide financing for public water and sanitary sewer facilities for rural residents.

"It is great to be a partner in a project that will enable the Public Water District #1 to better serve the residents of Holt County," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. "The local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

"Infrastructure is essential to economic growth in rural Missouri, and the federal government must continue to invest in this part of our state through grant programs like this one so residents of Holt County can access fresh, clean water more easily," U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said.

“This funding will bring clean water to more Missourians,” said U.S. Congressman Sam Graves. “It is important that we continue to improve the infrastructure in our rural communities.”

“Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “This project mirrors President Bush’s initiative and exemplifies the Rural Development mission - committed to the future of rural communities.”

Branum 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.”

Holt County PWS#1 Board President Kent Kurtz stated, “On behalf of Public Water Supply District No.1, I would like to thank USDA Rural Development for awarding us the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant. A special thanks goes to USDA Rural Development Area Specialist Stan Wolfe for all his time and direction given to the Water District in applying for this grant and also to Senator Christopher Bond, Congressman Sam Graves, and Representative Brad Lager for their continued support of PWS#1 of Holt County. This grant will enable us to provide more Holt County families with the quality and quantity of water that is so needed in our county. We would not have been able to serve these families without this funding.”

John Conway with Bartlett & West Engineers, Inc. is the project engineer for the District.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or contacting Stan L. Wolfe, at the St. Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling (816) 364 - 3767 (extension #5).

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

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