



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$685,000 LOAN and \$667,000 GRANT FUNDS TO THE MERCER COUNTY PWSO # 1

In a mock check ceremony on Wednesday, June 23, Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director, USDA Rural Development announced the award of \$685,000 in loan funds and \$667,000 in grant funds to the Public Water Supply district # 1 of Mercer County. Funds will be used to improve the water distribution system and extend water lines to additional users. The District will provide clean, safe water to approximately 2,950 users upon completion of this project.



Pictured are members of the Water District with the mock check presented by Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director.

The District has a strong history of serving Mercer County residents since the district formation in 1974. They began their partnership with Farmers Home Administration/Rural Development shortly after formation, and began selling water in 1978. The district has grown through the years and now serves all of Mercer County including the communities of Mill Grove, Modena and Ravanna. Their service area also extends into a small portion of northeast Harrison County lying north of Cainsville.

“Adequate infrastructure is essential to the quality of life enjoyed by the people living in Mercer County,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “I commend county and local leaders for their efforts to secure these funds. Because of their hard work, much needed improvements will be made to the water distribution system which is critical to the continued health and safety of the people living in the area.”

“Providing Missouri rural communities with the necessary resources to update their water distribution systems is vital,” said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill. “I’m pleased to hear that Mercer County will be able to extend water lines to additional users with the help of the USDA’s competitive grant program.”

“This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’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.”

Public Water Supply District President Gary Porter said, “The district sincerely appreciates the financial assistance from Rural Development and the support by our federal senators and congressman. This project will allow the District to continue to meet the need for water in Mercer County.”

USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Programs (W E P) 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. 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 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.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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