



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF STEELE TO MAKE BRIDGE AND PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS WITH AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FUNDS

In a ceremony on September 7, 2010, Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented two Certificates of Appreciation to the City of Steele. The certificates were presented in recognition of the City of Steele's efforts to safeguard the safety of the residents by utilizing \$257,500 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The USDA Rural Development Community Facility funds include a grant in the amount of \$250,000 to replace the East Main Street Bridge and a grant in the amount of \$7,500

for paving equipment.

The condition of the bridge on East Main Street was recently discovered after the City noticed raw sewage leaking into the ditch. It was determined that the bridge's abutment is settling, placing undue pressure on the gravity main, causing it to settle and break. After careful observation, it was also noted that timber pilings are beginning to deteriorate at the low water surface, pile caps are not anchored to the piling, and sink holes are developing and increasing in size due to the settling of the abutments. All of these problems create an immediate health and safety hazard to the residents. Waters Engineering in Sikeston, MO, prepared an Engineering Report and recommended that the bridge be replaced with concrete culverts and the utilities relocated downstream.

The City also plans to purchase replacement paving equipment in order to repair paved roads that have been damaged by excessive use and weather conditions. These two projects will benefit the 2,263 residents of the City of Steele.

"We are pleased that the ARRA funds will assist in funding the new bridge for the community," said Dunning. "In addition, this should help with correcting some sewer issues and allow for an environmentally safe waste disposal. It is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for a common goal of meeting the needs of the local residents. This project mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Obama's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. Appreciation is also extended to our federal elected officials for supporting the USDA



Pictured left to right:

Front row: Terry Swinger, State Representative; Janie Dunning, State Director; Keith Samford, Mayor; Regina White, City Clerk; Middle row: Randy McDaniel, Alderman; Christy Mercer, Representative for Senator McCaskill; Ron Yersak, Grant Administrator; Lanice Samford, mayor's wife; Phyllis Minner, Area Specialist; Back row: Rich Cochran, Engineer

Rural Development programs. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians.”

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the Missouri Rural Development home page at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo. Information can also be obtained by contacting your local USDA Rural Development Area Office at 18450 Ridgeview Lane, Dexter, MO 63841 or by telephone at (573) 624-5939, ext. 4.

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