

## **SCHNEIDER ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION USDA GRANT FOR WATER RESERVOIR IN BELCOURT**

**BELCOURT, N.D., February 11, 2010** – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today presented a symbolic check for a \$1 million grant to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians for replacement of a water reservoir.



*State Director Jasper Schneider (standing-fifth from left) in presenting \$1 million grant in funding to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians toward the replacement of a water reservoir.*

"I am pleased to partner with Turtle Mountain in providing grant dollars for the construction of their new water reservoir," State Director Jasper Schneider said. "These dollars will create access to reliable and safe water for many generations to come."

The grant funds are distributed under Rural Development's Section 306C Water & Waste Grants/Native American Set-Aside program, which is specifically intended to be used for eligible projects that benefit members of Federally Recognized Tribes (Tribal Members). The set-aside is targeted to Tribes that are severely distressed economically, have high unemployment rates and have critical water-related human and environmental health problems.

The Rural Development grant will be used toward the construction of a new one million gallon elevated water reservoir and two miles of water main to be connected to the Turtle Mountain Band Rural Water system east of BIA 15. Total cost of the project is \$3.3 million with added funding coming from the Bureau of Reclamation for \$1.3 million and the Indian Health Service for \$1 million. The expected start date for construction is May 2010 with completion anticipated for May 2011.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided \$56.4 million in housing programs, \$79.7 million in business and community programs, and \$647.1 million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.