

USDA ANNOUNCES CASS RURAL WATER EXPANSION

Stimulus funding used to deliver quality drinking water to Cass County

CASSELTON, August 17, 2010 – USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today is joined by U.S. Senators Kent Conrad and Byron Dorgan, Cass Rural Water Board Members and community members during a ceremonial groundbreaking for the second phase expansion to Cass Rural Water Users District (CRWUD).

“The economic progress we see in Cass County has led to a dramatic increase in water usage,” said Schneider. “The Recovery Act has advanced this project by decades and will lay the framework for long term economic growth.”

The project will include 27 miles of parallel transmission line that will connect to Reservoir “E” increasing its servicing capacity to the cities of Casselton, Mapleton, Kindred, Davenport and the surrounding areas.

“There are few things more important to the health of North Dakota families than a clean, safe, reliable water supply,” the Senators said in a joint statement. “This project will go a long way toward strengthening the safety and reliability of the water supply for our friends and neighbors in Casselton, Mapleton, Kindred and Davenport.”

The expansion will cost \$5 million leveraged by a guaranteed loan for \$1,250,000 from USDA Rural Development through Bremer Bank of Casselton, and \$3,750,000 of stimulus funds from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.



Ceremonial groundbreaking taking place to start the second phase of Cass Rural Water Users District expansion.

“We especially want to thank Senator Dorgan for his work with the Corps of Engineers in securing the grant funding,” said Jerry Blomeke, CRWUD general manager. In addition, we want to thank USDA Rural Development and Bremer Bank for their wonderful assistance to obtain the 25 percent local share of the project financing.”

Cass Rural Water was organized in 1978. The water district consists of three water treatment plants and nearly 2,300 miles of transmission line. The district provides water service to 3,500 rural residences and bulk service to 14 communities. Recent expansion has included connections to the city of Fargo and service to the Tharaldson Ethanol facility located west of Casselton.

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>.

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