



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building • 100 Centennial Mall North • Lincoln, NE 68508
Phone: (402) 437-5563 • Fax: (402) 437-5408 • TDY: (402) 437-5093 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne>

Vicki Ritterling (402) 437-5563

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REPUBLICAN CITY CELEBRATE FUNDING OF \$2.2 MILLION FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Republican City, Neb., April 22, 2008 — USDA Rural Development and the residents of Republican City celebrated in honor of Earth Day, the funding of a \$2.2 million water improvement project. The improvements will ensure a dependable supply of safe drinking water to the 209 residents of the village.

“Water is one of our earth’s most precious natural resources and we need to make a concerted effort to preserve this resource for generations to come,” stated Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. “Rural Development is pleased to assist Republican City with their water system improvements that will bring a reliable supply of safe, potable water to its’ residents.”

USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check to the Village for a \$1,017,000 loan and \$695,000 grant provided via the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. A Community Development Block Grant of \$250,000 and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and grant totaling \$200,000 completed the funding needed.

“Thank you to the USDA Rural Development, CDBG and SRF for coming to the aid of Republican City. With their assistance, the Village Board is now able to go ahead with the development of a new well field to provide the residents with safe, potable water,” stated Wayne Lutjeharms, chairperson for the Village of Republican City.

The Village of Republican City’s municipal water system is under an Administrative Order for high nitrates resulting in a new water source being needed to bring the system back into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Village considered several alternatives for their water source needs and determined a new well field to be the best solution. Republican City also experiences problems with maintaining adequate water pressures throughout the entire community caused by the existing storage facility needing major repairs and maintenance and the lack of necessary height to maintain the pressures needed. A new 100,000 gallon storage tank will be developed to resolve the water pressure issue. Other water system improvements will include the installation of 228 water meters and system controls.

Contact Glen Gatz, (308) 237-3118, (402) 437-5093 (TTY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

“USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender.” To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).
