



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Indiana - Rural Utilities Services

Community Building

USDA Water Grant Provides Emergency Funding to Rural Town

Outline Of Need:

The rural Town of Goodland, Indiana, was in shock the evening of November 7, 2011. As all the metal came crumbling to the ground, so did 250,000 gallons of water. It rushed north, covering a small parking lot with mud and damaging a lot of homes along the way. Many houses had siding ripped off. The rush of water caused an electrical fire at a house south of the tower. It was put out quickly and no one was hurt. Fences were knocked down and sheds moved feet from where they had stood for years.

How Rural Development Helped:

In the immediate aftermath, the nearby towns of Kentland, Brook, and Morocco provided drinking water and other assistance. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources loaned a 5,000-gallon tanker for backup fire protection.

The Results:

the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded an Emergency Community Water Assistance grant to the Town of Goodland for the repair of the town's water system. The water tower was insured for \$752,000. However, the replacement cost was estimated at slightly more than \$1 million.

Town Council President Jim Butler said, "The citizens of Good-

Fast Facts

Program: Water and Environmental Program Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant

Partners: Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Towns of Kentland, Brook, and Morocco

Investment: \$150,000 Loan and Grant

Congressional: IN-01

Demographics:

- Town of Goodland, Jefferson Township, Newton County
- Population: 1,748 (2010 Census)

Contact: Darrell.Mowery@in.usda.gov



Goodland's Collapsed Water Tower.

land deeply appreciate the grant from Rural Development to help put our lives back to normal after the collapse of our water tower. We are currently serving our daily needs by continuously operating pumps, which is costly, and does not provide any reserve capacity for fire protection. This grant will be used to connect the new tower into our existing distribution system, giving us the fire protection we need, and reducing our operating costs. In these difficult times, we must operate our water utility as efficiently as possible to keep the costs to our citizens as low as possible. This grant helps us achieve that goal."

Congressman Peter Visclosky said of the grant, "There are very few aspects of daily life that are more important than access to clean drinking water and fire protection, so I was very pleased to learn that the Town of Goodland has been awarded this federal grant. These funds will greatly assist the town in rectifying the issues that resulted from November's water tower collapse."

The Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant program is designed to assist rural communities that have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water due to an emergency.

The total amount administered under this grant will be \$150,000.

April 2012