



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Utilities Newsletter

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www.rurdev.usda.gov/me

Michael W. Aube, State Director

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An Informational Newsletter of Rural Development's Rural Utilities Division

About the Rural Utilities Program

The mission of the Rural Utilities Program (RUP) of USDA Rural Development is to help improve the quality of life and promote economic development in rural America. RUP administers USDA's Rural Utilities Program in a service-oriented, forward-looking, and financially responsible manner. These programs have a long history of serving farm families and small communities.

On October 14, 1994, Congress reorganized the U.S. Department of Agriculture and created the Rural Utilities Service (RUS, changed to RUP in April 2004) to direct the federal Electric, Telecommunications, and Water and Environmental programs. Along with the Rural Housing Program and the Rural Business-Cooperatives Program, RUP works as a part of the Rural Development mission area team to provide the tools rural Americans need to make a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities. RUP also acts as a catalyst for private sector investment in rural areas and promotes rural America's ability to succeed in the new century.

Rural Development Celebrates New Sewer System Dedication with the Town of Vinalhaven



Displaying a check for Rural Development's contribution of \$4,105,430 is: Tom Allen, Congressman; Marjorie Stratton, Manager, Town of Vinalhaven; and Michael W. Aube, State Director, Rural Development

At a Sewer System Dedication Ceremony in Vinalhaven on June 12, Michael W. Aube, State Director of Rural Development, along with over 100 residents of the Town of Vinalhaven and their supporters, celebrated the contributions made by USDA Rural Development and others to the Town's new sewer system.

The Town of Vinalhaven is an island community located in Penobscot Bay, about 15 miles offshore from Rockland, with a year-round population of 1,235 residents. Historically, wastewater treatment and disposal occurred through private septic systems (continued)

In This Issue	
About Rural Utilities.....	1
Vinalhaven Receives \$4 Million from Rural Development.....	1
An Update on Funding.....	2
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program	2
Recipients of Rural Development's Rural Utilities Program	2

and overboard discharges directly to the ocean. Because of the island's granite geology, many of these systems were failing, resulting in the periodic closure of clam flats, potential health hazards, and violations of State and Federal standards for wastewater discharges.

In June 2000, with an approved preliminary design for a new sewer system, the Town was faced with the daunting challenge of finding the necessary funds for a multi-million dollar project. After a great deal of hard work and perseverance on the part of the Sewer Committee and its engineers, and thanks to the support of Maine's congressional delegation, adequate resources were secured over the next two years. The funding amounts and agencies included \$4,105,430 from the USDA Rural Development, \$2,373,775 from three separate special appropriations from the U.S. Congress, \$1,542,000 from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, \$950,000 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and \$800,000 from the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development's Community Development Block Grant, for a total of \$9,771,205.

Attending the event along with State Director Aube were Congressman Thomas Allen and Andrew Fisk, Director of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality, who congratulated the Town and all of its supporters for successfully completing this challenging project.

\$\$\$ Rural Utilities Program: An Update on Funding \$\$\$

As of June 30, Rural Development's RUP has invested \$11,018,200 in the state of Maine in Fiscal Year 2004

Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program has 11 applications that were submitted this past winter for scoring and selection. The DLT Program is a competitive Grant Program which is designed specifically to meet the educational and healthcare needs of rural America. Through loans, grants, and loan and grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents. The national funding level for Rural Development's DLT Program for FY 2004 is \$325,000,000. The money was provided in three categories:

- (1) \$ 15,000,000 for grants
- (2) \$200,000,000 for loans
- (3) \$110,000,000 for loans and grant combination (\$100,000,000 in loans and \$10,000,000 in grants)

Recipients of Rural Development's Rural Utilities Program FY 2004

<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Loans</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Town of Searsport	\$ 492,000	\$ 328,000	\$ 820,000	Sewer Line
Alfred Water District	\$ 750,000	\$ -	\$ 750,000	Water Line
Bridgton Water District	\$ 400,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 650,000	Water Line
Lincoln Sanitary District	\$ 572,000	\$ 738,000	\$ 1,310,000	Waste Water Plant
Town of Orono	\$ 5,690,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 6,940,000	CSO Abatement/Plant
Androsscoggin Valley Council of Governments		\$ 122,400	\$ 122,400	Solid Waste Management
Androsscoggin Valley Council of Governments		\$ 98,000	\$ 98,000	Technical Assistance & Training
Eastern Maine Development Corporation		\$ 40,500	\$ 40,500	Solid Waste Management
Hancock County Planning Commission		\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	Solid Waste Management
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments		\$ 67,500	\$ 67,500	Solid Waste Management
Kennebec Valley Council of Governments		\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	Technical Assistance & Training
Northern Maine Development Commission		\$ 86,800	\$ 86,800	Solid Waste Management
Total			<u>\$ 11,018,200</u>	

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