



NEWS RELEASE

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\$540,570 IN USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING TO CITY OF LACLEDE FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

A \$540,570 Mock Check was presented to the City of Laclede on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 by Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development.

The funding, consisting of a \$388,570 grant and a \$152,000 loan through the agency's Water and Environmental Program, will be used to replace deteriorated water lines, renovate the existing water standpipe, construct a new water treatment building and construct a new pump station to increase water storage capacities and improve water pressures within Laclede. These improvements will address much needed maintenance and operational issues with the water system.



Pictured left to right: Carol Hendrix, City Clerk; Cynthia Mitchell, M.A.P.; Josh Lewis, City Aldermen; Gary Brown, Mayor; Stan Wolfe, Area Specialist, Rural Development; Janie Dunning, State Director, Rural Development; Tom Kelly, Allstate Consultants (engineer); Brook Balentine, Field Representative for Senator Claire McCaskill; Naomi Boss, Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves; Neal Miller, Area Director, Rural Development; and Joyce Curley, City Aldermen

The City of Laclede received a \$9,000 grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, which in combination with \$1,000 of their own funds, paid for the cost of the preliminary engineering report for the project.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "Having access to clean water is essential. I am pleased that these federal funds have been available to the city of Laclede to help make renovations to the public water system."

“This is an important and necessary project for Laclede. I'm delighted that the USDA recognizes the importance of helping our rural communities prepare for tomorrow,” said U.S. Congressman Sam Graves.

“The improvements to be made to the City’s water system will insure that a safe and adequate water supply will be available to Laclede’s residents and businesses,” said Laclede Mayor Gary Brown. “This project will allow for an efficient and economical public water system.”

Brown added, “The City of Laclede would like to thank our elected officials for their support of this project and the financial assistance available through USDA Rural Development.”

The project is currently in the final design stage. Cary Sayre, with Allstate Consultants LLC of Marceline, is the engineer for the project.

By obtaining Rural Development financing, a fixed interest rate of 2.75% with a 35-year repayment term was secured for the \$152,000 loan. USDA Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Programs are available to eligible entity’s to provide financing for public water and sanitary sewer facilities for rural residents.

“Having an environmentally safe water system is important to the residents and I commend all the partners for their hard work in making this project a reality,” said Dunning. “This project exemplifies the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities.” Dunning added, “I am pleased that the residents of the City of Laclede will benefit from a substantially improved water system. Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials for making available the federal funds for these kinds of projects.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development provides funding and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Anyone seeking more information about the water and environmental programs, or any other USDA Rural Development programs, may visit the Missouri’s homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting the St. Joseph Rural Development Area Office, 3915 Oakland Avenue, St. Joseph, MO 64506 or by calling (816) 364 - 3767 (extension #5).

“Committed to the future of rural communities.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”

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