

CITY OF MARSTON RECEIVES \$800,000 IN USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

On Wednesday, January 16th, USDA Rural Development presented the City of Marston with a Mock Check in the amount of \$800,000. The Rural Development funding consists of a \$500,000 loan and \$300,000 grant and will be used to correct deficiencies in the City's existing water distribution system. Marston was also awarded \$400,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to help with the costs associated with the project.

"Today's announcement highlights the local commitment and the leadership of the USDA Rural Development staff. They are to be commended for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality. The entire community will benefit from these efforts," said Senator Kit Bond.

The City of Marston's original water system was constructed in the mid-1960's and consisted of transite "asbestos" cement pipe. The pipe has become brittle and non-functional, and many leaks cannot be corrected for fear of major damage that could be inflicted by trying to couple new PVC fittings with the brittle transite pipe. Several of the City's residents have strongly voiced their concerns with the quality of water and the effects it has had on plumbing, laundry, and public safety and health. All existing water lines are scheduled to be replaced with the implementation of the redesigned system. Construction of a new water well as a back-up water source is also included in the project.

"All Missourians deserve access to clean and safe drinking water. I'm pleased this funding will help the city of Marston replace and improve their existing water distribution systems," said U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill.

"This combination of grant and loan funding is a substantial investment in the quality of water infrastructure in Marston. I'm extremely excited about this opportunity to make considerable improvements on the system that brings water into and away from Marston businesses and residences. USDA Rural Development has done an outstanding job in identifying this need and structuring this



Holding check, left to right: William Polley, Alderman; Rebecca Redden, Mayor, City of Marston; Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development Acting State Director

Left to right: Ronnie Simmons, County Assessor; Robert Clay, Alderman; Ben Dyer, Representing Senator Claire McCaskill; Jennine Henry, Clerk; Glen Hayes, Marston Water Department; Dawn Ferguson, Clerk; Clyde Hawes, Presiding Commissioner; Don Day, Associate Commissioner; Pam Anglin, Rural Development Area Director; Tom Bradley, County Treasurer; Joe Lane, Bootheel Regional Planning Commission; Marvin Nesbitt, Schulz Engineering

funding award, and I congratulate the citizens of Marston on their hard work and advocacy as they work to improve the standard of services in their community," said U.S. Representative Jo Ann Emerson.

The funds are being provided through USDA Rural Development's Water and Environmental program. This program provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas, cities and towns of 10,000 or less.

"The City of Marston has long been in need of replacing the community's water lines. Due to being a small municipality and our financial status not near appropriate for such an endeavor, we were ecstatic when USDA Rural Development provided us with the means to proceed with this much overdue project. The situation for this need had become an emergency for our community. The funding will replace the existing water lines throughout the entire community, bringing us up to date for appropriate water distribution to our customers. We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for Rural Development's assistance in this matter," said Rebecca Redden, Mayor.

"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 Anita Dunning, Acting Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "This project exemplifies the Rural Development mission – committed to the future of rural communities."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in rural communities. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested over \$76.8 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information regarding any of the USDA Rural Development programs is available by contacting the Dexter Rural Development Office at phyllis.minner@mo.usda.gov or by calling 573-624-5939, ext. 4. Rural Development's web site is: www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo.

"Committed to the future of rural communities."

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).