



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
William L. Guy Federal Building • 220 East Rosser Ave. • Room 208 • Bismarck, ND 58502
Phone: (701) 530-2037 • Fax: (701) 530-2111 • TDD: (701) 530-2113 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/>

STATE WATER COMMISSION RECEIVES FUNDS FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHWEST RURAL WATER

BISMARCK, August 14, 2007—Agriculture Rural Utilities Program Administrator for Rural Development James Andrew joined North Dakota State Director for Rural Development Clare Carlson in a ceremonial check presentation to the North Dakota State Water Commission.

The State Water Commission received \$1.426 million in a water and waste disposal loan and \$883,900 in a water and waste grant from the USDA's Rural Development.

“Investment in water and wastewater programs could be the next sleeping giant to confront at the national level,” said Andrew. “USDA's Rural Development Utilities Programs has invested over \$266 million in direct grants and loans for North Dakota water and environmental programs. This new investment of over \$2.3 million for this water project will help not just North Dakota, but our entire nation.”

The USDA Rural Development provided the financial package of \$2,309,900 to complete the Medora-Beach (South Fryburg Pocket) of the Southwest Pipeline Project. The pocket consists of approximately 85 miles of 1.5 inch to 6 inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipeline and will serve approximately 66 users, including the South Fryburg VFD Booster Station.

This project is located in the Southwest Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone. The Southwest REAP is a regional collaboration of federal, state, and local representatives working to stem the out migration of people and jobs from the region.

Also included in this project is 3.3 miles of parallel pipeline on the Missouri West Water System to accommodate the additional customers who signed-up during construction in eastern Morton County.

In Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$56.6 million** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens.

USDA Rural Development is the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. It administers financial and technical assistance through a network of state Rural Development offices, various non-profit and educational institutional partners, and its national office.

Further information on these and other rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

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