



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Roberta Mues, Rural Development Specialist North Platte, Nebraska (308) 534-2360
Clifton Lord, Mayor Indianola, Nebraska (308) 364-2413
James Morris, Chairperson Bartley, Nebraska (308) 692-3222
Mark Harpst, Mayor Cambridge, Nebraska (308) 697-3711

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES DOLLARS TO BARTLEY, INDIANOLA AND CAMBRIDGE TO ADDRESS WATER ISSUES

North Platte, Neb., August 23, 2004--The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development awarded on August 12, 2004 over \$950,000 via a loan and grant to the Village of Bartley for water system improvements that will benefit its 355 rural residents. Predevelopment planning grants of \$5,250 have also been recently awarded by USDA Rural Development to both the Villages of Bartley and Indianola to perform a well field study that will facilitate the formation of a regional water system. This system would serve the 2,000 rural residents of Bartley, Indianola and Cambridge.

“Quality and quantity of water have been pertinent issues to the communities of Bartley, Indianola and Cambridge,” stated Rural Development Specialist Roberta Mues of USDA Rural Development. “USDA Rural Development is pleased to assist in addressing the water problems of these communities and in helping them to secure a sound water system. Current rural residents and future generations will definitely benefit from the water projects.”

Residents of Bartley are experiencing pressure loss in their water distribution system during both high and normal water demand periods. When fire hydrants are flowing, lawn sprinkler systems fail to operate in portions of the community. Additionally, several residences are unable to use more than one water consuming device simultaneously in their home. These problems are attributed to the naturally occurring minerals found in the water supply accumulating on the pipe walls in the distribution system which reduces the capacity of the system to transmit water to service connections.

The USDA Rural Development loan of \$319,000 and grant of \$634,600 will upgrade and replace Bartley’s existing water distribution system. Improvements will include the replacement of 9,000 linear feet of water main, 2,440 linear feet of service line, valves, tees, hydrants, and the installation of new water meters and a meter reading system. The loan will be repaid over 40 years at 4.5 percent interest.

The City of Cambridge was awarded in June of 2004, an USDA Rural Development grant of nearly \$333,000 to connect 11 residences to the city’s municipal water supply system. These affected households are experiencing a significant decline in the quantity of water pumped from their individual private wells with some rendered inoperable due to the drought conditions. Water use is managed to keep the wells from pumping dry due to their limited pumping capacity. As a result, non-potable uses such as for laundry, bathing, irrigation, and washing vehicles have had to be curtailed or not done at all. Improvements will consist of installation of 11,700 linear feet of water main, 5 fire hydrants and 11 service connections.

-more-



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

-2-

Indianola recently completed their water improvement project which USDA Rural Development provided a \$505,000 loan and \$458,500 grant leveraged with \$15,000 by the Village. Improvements included the replacement of 12,000 linear feet of main, replacement of water meters, new service connections, valves, hydrants and a pressure reducing valve.

The well field study is being conducted to locate a new water source for Bartley, Indianola and Cambridge whose water supplies currently contain excessive levels of arsenic and uranium. The \$10,500 in USDA grants joined by \$10,000 via a Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality facility planning grant will pay for the study. By working together, these three communities will reduce their capital costs of developing a new water source by \$2.2 million.

USDA funding was provided through the USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program and through an Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant and Predevelopment Planning Grants awarded under this program. For additional information contact Roberta Mues at 1202 S. Cottonwood North Platte, Neb. 69101 or phone (308) 534-2360, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.