



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
Federal Bldg. 200 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Phone: (614) 255-2394 • Fax: (614) 255-2559 • TDD: (614) 255-2554 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.govohj>

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Contact: Michael Jones 614-255-2394
michael.jones@oh.usda.gov

Rural Development and Village of Stone Creek Celebrate Earth Day

COLUMBUS, OHIO, April 21, 2006 – Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr visited Tuscarawas County, Ohio to participate in a \$3.2 million Earth Day project celebration with the Village of Stone Creek leadership and its residents.

“Rural Development is meeting with communities all across the nation to help raise environmental awareness as we all strive to become better stewards of our natural resources,” said Rural Development Under Secretary Dorr. “Rural Development’s contributions to projects like this help identify the community impact our actions and improve the overall quality of life for rural residents.”

Rural Development awarded \$1.9 million towards the project, the Ohio Public Works Commission contributed \$650,000 and the Ohio Department of Development added \$500,000. The funding will be used for the construction of a wastewater treatment plant to serve 93 residential users in the Village of Stone Creek and a small portion of Jefferson Township. The system will be part of the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Sewer District.

Water quality concerns resulting from direct wastewater discharge into Stone Creek prompted the Tuscarawas County Health Department to declare water sanitary conditions a health hazard. This condition required immediate correction that could only be accomplished through construction of a new centralized wastewater treatment system.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Program, Rural Business-Cooperative Program, and Rural Utilities Program. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

For additional information the Earth Day event please contact Michael Jones at 614-255-2394.

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EARTH DAY APRIL 21, 2006

Rural Development Under Secretary Tom Dorr (center) celebrates Earth Day in Ohio on April 21, 2006 by presenting a \$1.9 million Check from Rural Development to Village of Stone Creek Mayor Jim Wherley (right) as Tuscarawas County Commissioner Kerry Metzger looks on. Total costs for the project was \$3.2 million with the balance being contributed by the Ohio Public Works Commission and the Ohio Department of Development. This new treatment plant will provide service to 93 rural residents in the Village of Stone Creek and a small portion of Jefferson Township.