

## *From the Director*



**Randy Hunt**  
State Director

I thought I'd take this opportunity to thank all of our Ohio partners who've helped foster positive economic development conditions for the rural residents we serve.

We're about halfway through administering this year's budget and although we've shared some significant progress I'm sure all of us would like to see more accomplished.

In Ohio and the nation, jobs translate into economic strength for the communities in which those jobs are located. For the next few months we'd like to solicit your assistance in identifying those communities that might benefit from our Business and Industry Program. Additionally, we're increasing our outreach efforts for our Renewable Energy Program.

Please keep these funding options in mind as you meet with community and civic leaders who are in the planning stages of local development initiatives.

## **Rural Development Funds Job Saving Business Consolidation Project**

*\$1.1 Million in Financing Positions Company for Growth*



*(From Left) John Stilliana, representing Sen. George Voinovich's office, Garry Mrozek, National City Bank eastern region president, Congressman Timothy Ryan, Andreas Foerster, president Starr Manufacturing, Inc., Rev. John Temple and Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development state director, gather to celebrate the \$1.15 million Rural Development financing package awarded to Starr Manufacturing. Starr will use the financing to consolidate its business operations, preserving 62 local jobs.*

Rural Development awarded a \$1.15 million financing package to Starr Manufacturing, Inc. to help with its business expansion plans.

The financing, guaranteed loan, was from Rural Development's Business and Industry Program and was administered through National City Bank. It will be used to consolidate Starr Manufacturing's operations while securing the company's 62 jobs and creating 18 more.

Rural Development's Business program invested more than \$28 million in Ohio while helping to create or save 1,664 rural jobs.

During his remarks Director Hunt lauded Starr's leadership for its vision and excellent management capabilities.

Starr's President Andreas Foerster escorted the group on a personal tour of the operation and highlighted some of the improvements envisioned with Rural Development's funding.

### **RD Review**

# Del-Co Water Opens New \$34 Million Rural Development Funded Facility

USDA Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt participated in Del-Co Water's ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening their new \$34 million expansion project.

The funding came from Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Program and is the largest water project Rural Development has funded in Ohio. The expansion project helps Del-Co Water provide improved services to its more than 30,000 customers.

Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Program invested more than \$48.8 million throughout Ohio last year to help improve water quality and access by rural Ohioans.



*(From left) Randy Hunt, Rural Development state director, Thomas Reinhold, vice president, JP Morgan Chase, Jack Kane, Malcolm, Pirnie Engineering, Kenneth Zarbaugh, president, Del-Co Water Co., Rick Taliaferri, Shook Construction and P.K. Tudor, general manager, Del-Co Water Co., officially open their newly expanded water treatment facility.*

## Rural Development, Village of Corning Celebrate Earth Day \$4.4 Million Financing Package Provides New Sewer System



*(From Left) Perry County Commissioner Fred Shriner, Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt, Village of Corning Mayor Leroy Azbell, Perry County Commissioners Thad Cooperrider and Lonnie Wood celebrate Earth Day with a \$4.4 million Rural Development financing package for their new waste water treatment project.*

USDA Rural Development joined with the Village of Corning to celebrate Earth Day 2007 with the announcement of a new village waste water treatment plant.

The total cost of the project is \$6.5 million and will serve 280 users within the Village of Corning and 22 users in Monroe Township in Perry County.

Other funding partners included the Ohio Public Works Commission with \$800,000, the Ohio Department of Development, \$500,000, the Appalachia Regional Commission, \$250,000, the U.S. Army Corps, \$109,000 and the Strategic Tribal Assistance Grant, \$96,200.

## Rural Development Awards \$500,000 to Ohio Community Development Finance Fund

USDA Rural Development awarded a \$500,000 loan to the Ohio Community Development Finance Fund during their 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in downtown Columbus. The funding was from Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP).

Funding in the relending program is given to intermediaries, such as community development or regional planning groups, who then re-lend the funds to local businesses. Ohio was one of 13 states sharing \$8.7 million in IRP funding. The Finance Fund will use the award to provide low-interest loans to small businesses in the Appalachian counties of Athens, Belmont, Guernsey,



*James Klein, chief executive officer of Ohio Community Development Finance Fund, accepts a \$500,000 loan award from Randy Hunt, USDA Rural Development state director. Hunt awarded the funding from Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program.*

Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan and Vinton.

## Guaranteed Housing Program Partner



*Larry Fisher, Villa Mortgage, accepts an award from State Director Randy Hunt for supporting Rural Development's Housing Program. Villa Mortgage originated 44 loans for \$5.6 million last year. Their efforts ranked them among the top five in loan originations in Ohio.*

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