



NEWS RELEASE

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OWANKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. CONSTRUCTS WATER SYSTEM
USDA Rural Development Funds of \$166,000 Assist With Project Cost

(Owanka, South Dakota – April 21, 2008) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development South Dakota Rural Development Area Director Tim Potts and Specialist David Adrian today presented a ceremonial check representing loan funds of \$166,000 to the Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc. for construction of a new rural water system.

“This rural water system project will provide potable water to area homes to alleviate severe water shortages that are currently occurring in the area,” said Rural Development State Director Mike Jaspers. “This project is a great example of what can happen when State and Federal agencies can cooperate and come together to make a project like this happen in a short time. USDA Rural Development is committed to providing investment financing and an improved quality of life for local residents.”

The Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc. was recently formed as a not-for-profit corporation under the laws of the State of South Dakota to provide water service to the area adjacent to Owanka, SD. This project is necessary to provide an adequate supply of water for the families residing in the Owanka area. Many members of the corporation currently have to haul water for household use. Some of the areas stock dams and dugouts are dried up or very low due to the persistent drought conditions that have existed in the area for the past several years. These federal funds will be used for the construction of a rural water system to include a new well, pumps, pumphouse, distribution lines, and a water storage reservoir. Rural Development’s funding will be leveraged with an applicant contribution of \$30,000 and a State Consolidated Water Assistance Planning Grant in the amount of \$270,000, Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding in the amount of \$431,292, and funding from the Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$678,000. Total project cost is \$1,575,292.

“Quality and quantity of water have been problems in our community for many years. Thanks to Rural Development, Midwest Assistance, NRCS, BOR, DENR, and our State Senators, we will have quality drinking water for both the people in the community and our livestock,” said Marvin Williams, Chairman of the Owanka Rural Water Association, Inc.

In South Dakota, Rural Development provides valuable loan and grant programs, loan guarantees and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Rural Development invested more than \$259 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.9 billion over the past 10 years in South Dakota’s economy.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on 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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