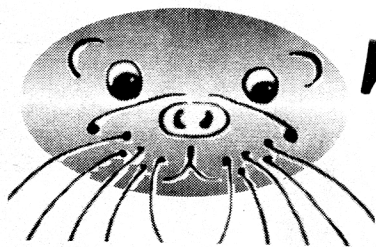


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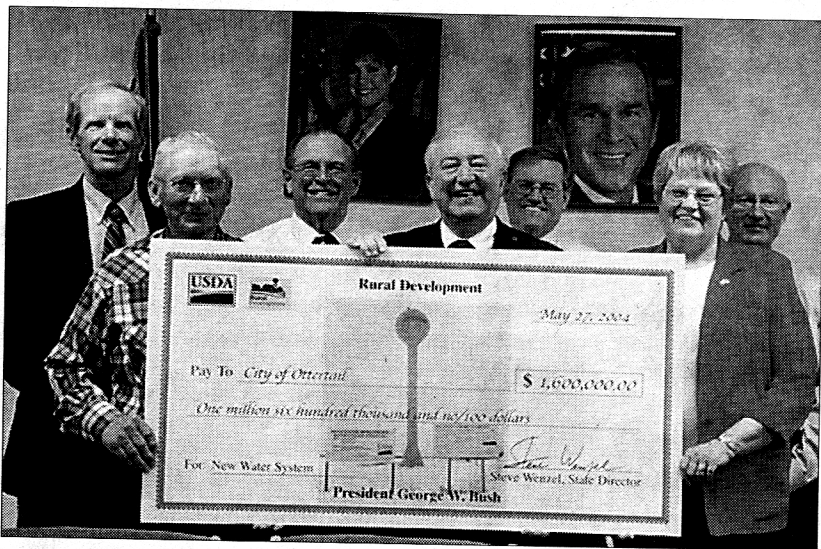
Ottertail receives \$1.6 million

USDA Rural Development Minnesota State Director Steve Wenzel announced a \$1 million loan and a \$600,000 grant were approved to help fund a new water system for the city of Ottertail.

USDA and government officials presented a check to Ottertail Mayor Ole MOUNTS and Clerk Arlette Carlson Thursday, May 27, at the Minnesota USDA Service Center in Alexandria following the closing of the loan.

The loan and grant will help fund the water transmission line from Henning to Ottertail, the 150,000 gallon water tower, a distribution system and water meters.

"Today's investment from USDA Rural Development helps improve the quality of life for residents of Ottertail by providing them with a clean and environmentally safe water system," said Wenzel. "President George W. Bush and his administration understand the need for clean water in rural America. The President continues to increase investment in rural communities, which is vital to the preservation of Greater



Mayor Ole MOUNTS and City Clerk Arlette Carlson were presented with a check in the amount of \$1.6 million dollars Thursday, May 27. The funds, which are a combined \$1 million loan and \$600,000 grant, were granted by USDA Rural Development. At the loan closing ceremony were left to right Tom Meium (representing Congressman Collin Peterson), MOUNTS, Bill Slininger, State Director Steve Wenzel, Mike Hinrichsen, Carlson and John Strand.

Minnesota."

Before receiving the new system, Ottertail had no municipal water system. Many private wells had nitrate levels exceeding the Maximum Containment Level allowed under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Rural Development also provided funding to Henning on a separate project for additional treatment plant capacity to help serve the needs of Ottertail.

Additional funding for the new water system came from a small cities grant, a State of Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) loan and a PFA grant. Total funding for

the project was \$4,160,000.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in home ownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or visiting USDA's web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov.

Paula Wojcik photo/Citizen's Criterion