

What's New at MRWS

Volume 1, Issue 1

November 2009

NEW SOURCE WATER SPECIALIST **JOINS MONTANA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS**



John Weikel has been actively involved in the water/wastewater industry since 1980. This includes:

- 20 years in conventional surface water treatment which involved 13 years of operating an Aquifer Storage and Recovery System,
- 5 years in Reverse Osmosis/Ion Exchange
- 3 years activated sludge wastewater experience.

In 2007, John began working for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality as an Environmental Specialist in the Public Water Supply Section. For the past year he has been the Surface Water Rule Manager overseeing the operation and compliance of all the surface water systems in Montana.

He has an Associate Degree in chemistry, a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies, and has two classes remaining to complete his Masters Degree in Environmental Policy and Management with Denver University. He is a certified Montana 1B/1C water/wastewater operator and retains his Florida A-Drinking Water License. **Please give John a call or email and welcome him into the Rural Water Family... he is eagerly awaiting your phone call. Phone: 406-202-4890 Email: jweikel@bresnan.net**



MRWS WELCOMES RORY SCHMIDT BACK TO THE... RURAL WATER COMMUNITY!

Montana Rural Water Systems, Inc. (MRWS) has hired Rory Schmidt as a new Stimulus Circuit Rider for a 17-month position. Rory brings many years of experience with him in this new position. This temporary position fills the role of ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) Circuit Rider for the duration of the program.

This position will work with communities on the USDA Loan and Grant Backlog list and also assist new applicants in obtaining loans and grants from USDA Rural Development. The circuit rider will assist communities with the applications process, environmental reviews, vulnerability assessment and be a liaison with agencies. The purpose is to move the projects forward and locate new projects that can be funded and to assist in applying for these available funds.

Rory will be traveling throughout Montana working with communities and is required to have 35 contacts per month along with monthly visits to regional Rural Development offices. Rory can be contacted by calling his cell phone at 406-839-1920 or MRWS at 406-454-1151. You may also reach him by email at mrwscr@yahoo.com.

Take advantage of the Expertise of these 2 MRWS Employees

**Call John today for all of your Source Water Protection Questions and Technical Assistance.
Rory is here to assist you with all of the Rural Development management and finance issues.**

**USDA Rural Development has
Stimulus money available
through the
American Recovery and
Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**



The **Mission Statement of RURAL DEVELOPMENT** is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all Rural Americans. Rural Development helps rural communities develop the basic community facilities and infrastructure needed by rural Americans to participate fully in America's economic, political, and social life. With dependable facilities, rural communities can attract families and businesses that will invest in the community and improve the quality of life for all residents. **Background History:**

1937 August 28, Congress passed the Water Facilities Act to provide loans for farm water systems in 17 western states where drought and water shortage were chronic hardships. The water programs came under FmHA in 1946.

1955 The Rural Development Program was started in USDA.

1961 Before then, the water program was open to farm water systems only in the 17 western states.

1990 Water and Waste Disposal, Community Facilities, and Business & Industry programs moved out of FmHA into the new Rural Development Administration (RDA).

1994 Department of Agriculture. Reorganization Act created Rural Development, abolishing FmHA and RDA.



**Water & Environmental Programs
Funding HISTORY:**

(Loan History)

In 1940 – 1st loan was made for \$1,600

In 2008 – 895 loans made for \$1,270,611,081

(Grant History)

In 1966 – 221 grants made for \$18,668,040

In 2008 – 994 grants made for \$552,301,584

(Total Funding from 1940-2008)

47,268 Loans = \$25.369 Billion

28,225 Grants = \$11.821 Billion

**Water & Environmental Programs FY 2009
National Allocation**

DIRECT LOANS

Initial Appropriation = \$894,563,098

A.R.R.A. = \$2,733,515,732

GRANTS

Initial Appropriation = \$422,022,911

A.R.R.A. = \$924,680,000

GUARANTEED LOANS = \$32,257,500

USDA Rural Development Montana Site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt/>

Nat'l Rural Development Forms:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/regqs/formstoc.html>

RD Water & Environmental Programs Handout:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/pubs/pa1806.pdf>

Montana Recovery Site:

<http://www.recovery.mt.gov/default.mcp>

National Recovery Site: <http://www.recovery.gov/>

Overview of USDA RD Water and Environmental Programs



The Purpose of these Programs is to provide loan and grant funds for water and waste projects serving the most financially needy communities. Financial assistance should result in Reasonable User Costs for rural residents, rural businesses, and other rural users. The FUNDING PROGRAMS consist of the following areas:

- Water & Waste Disposal Loans & Grants
- Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
- Technical Assistance & Training Grants
- Solid Waste Management Grants

Who is Eligible for Assistance from RD: Municipalities, Counties, Special Service Districts, Indian Tribes and Non-Profit Corporations.

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Be unable to obtain financing from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms.
- 2) Have the legal capacity to borrow and repay loans, pledge security for loans and to operate and maintain the facilities.
- 3) Project must be consistent with area planning.

What Type of Projects can Rural Development FUND

Construct, Repair, Modify, Expand or Improve: Water, Sanitary Sewage, Solid Waste Disposal & Storm Wastewater Disposal Projects.

Utilities must be found in the Following Areas to be Funded

Must Serve Rural Areas - Incorporated City or Town with a population of less than 10,000, and any unincorporated area regardless of population. Facilities financed by RUS may be located in non-rural areas. However, loan and grant funds may be used to finance only that portion of the facility serving rural areas, regardless of facility location.

Upon receiving the funding from Rural Development, what is the repayment time period? Loan Only - Up to 40 Years or useful life of the facility. Loan and Grant Mix – Maximum of 40 years or the useful life of the facility.

Finally there are three different Interest Rates (Poverty, Intermediate, & Market). Systems must meet the requirements to receive their respective rate value. Two major factors determining your interest rate are your Utilities Median Household Income (MHI) of the service area must be less than 80% of the State Nonmetropolitan Household Income (SNMHI). Primary purpose of the loan is to alleviate a health, sanitary or security problem of the facility being financed.



USDA Rural Development Montana Site:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mt/>

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**Mark Your Calendars Today and
Plan to Attend the...**

**“MAKING A DIFFERENCE”
MRWS 31ST ANNUAL TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION SHOW**

**February 17–19, 2010
Heritage Inn, Great Falls Montana**

Note:

**Check out the Conference Registration form in the H2O-NEWS-4-YOU.
Also conference registration has been mailed to all Utilities in our mailing
database.**