



PRESS RELEASE

## **HISTORIC FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR RURAL WATER AND WASTE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

**MINNESOTA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 2018** – In March 2018, Congress provided a historic level of funding that included \$5.2 billion for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure in rural communities under 10,000 population. At this level, USDA, under the leadership of Secretary Sonny Perdue, have the necessary resources to completely address the \$3 billion backlog and ensure additional investments are targeted to rural communities with the greatest infrastructure needs.

“For decades, elected officials from the local county supervisor to the President have placed aging infrastructure as one of the top priorities. These efforts have now come to fruition,” NRWA CEO Sam Wade stated. “Small communities and rural water and wastewater systems are highly encouraged to apply for USDA loans and grants now. Since Congress has clearly recognized the need by providing robust funding levels, we must fully utilize these resources to strengthen Rural Water.”

Rural community leaders can apply for these funds electronically by using the interactive [RD Apply](#) tool. They can also apply through one of USDA Rural Development’s [state or field offices](#).

“Robust, modern infrastructure is foundational for quality of life and economic opportunity – no matter what zip code you live in,” Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development Anne Hazlett said in a news release on July 16, 2018. “Under Secretary Perdue’s leadership, USDA is committed to be a strong partner in addressing rural infrastructure needs to support a more prosperous future in rural communities.”

**Contact MINNESOTA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION INFO for further information at 800-367-6792 or [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com).**