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USDA Partners with Waupun Public Utilities to Improve Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Waupun, WI – Waupun Utilities and the USDA announced today that the City of Waupun is receiving a \$37.1 million loan and grant combination to improve its current water distribution and storm water collection system infrastructure, as well as the wastewater treatment facility and system extensions throughout the city. Improvements to the wastewater treatment facility include the addition of a phosphorus removal system. Currently Waupun Utilities is exploring two alternatives to reduce phosphorus, using either a mechanical filtration process or a new state-of-the-art technology – Advanced Biological Nutrient Removal – capable of recovering phosphorus and nitrogen into harvested algae biomass. The process selection is pending WI-DNR approval but will help the city in achieving compliance with its phosphorus limits in the Rock River Basin. Randy Posthuma, General Manager for Waupun Utilities explained, “This funding is an unexpected shot in the arm that will help bring our wastewater facility into compliance with the new mandated standards. We expect the grant to cover approximately one-third of the cost of the upgrades with the balance being offset by a low interest loan.”

Waupun’s current wastewater treatment facility was constructed in 1951. Since that time, the facility has received three upgrades with the most recent occurring in 2002. The design engineering phase of the project will begin in 2019 with project bidding and construction anticipated in the final quarter of 2020. The upgraded facility is expected to be fully operational in 2023.

Wisconsin Rural Development State Director Frank Frassetto noted that, “Modern infrastructure is the cornerstone to ensuring prosperity in rural communities. The project in the city of Waupun is a great example of how state-of-the-art technology, married with modern infrastructure, can address essential concerns like water and wastewater treatment in smaller communities.” The funding for this project is provided as a result of the work of President Donald J. Trump’s Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity which identified legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities.

About USDA Rural Development: USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit <http://www.rd.usda.gov/wi>.

About Waupun Utilities: Waupun Utilities is a municipally owned and operated electric, water, and sewer utility, serving more than 4,000 customers in Waupun, WI. The utility was founded in 1894 and strives to provide low-cost reliable service within the community. Waupun Utilities is currently a member of WPPI Energy. For more information, visit <https://www.waupunutilities.com>.