

Aprile 2010

Southeast RCAP Board of
Directors Meeting

Progress in North Carolina

NCRCAP: A Contractor for Southeast
Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.



Harrellsville Better Prepared When Disaster Strikes: Town Awarded over \$21,000 For Generator

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Statistics in North Carolina

USDA Technitrain
7 projects

OCS
2 projects
1 workshop

EPA Wastewater
1 project

EPA Drinking Water
1 project

Hurricane Isabel struck the town of Harrellsville in September 2003. This small town located along the banks of the Chowan River in Northeast North Carolina received substantial damage to homes and businesses. Due to power line damage, the town lost power for eight days including power to the sole water pump that supply over 700 residents with clean drinking water.

Since 2007 NCRCAP has been working with The Town of Harrellsville on a variety of items. Preliminary engineering work is nearly finalized on extending the town's waterlines; a service NCRCAP helped procure pro-bono. NCRCAP also

recently conducted a survey of wells in the area to determine the critical need of the residents currently not served by the municipal water system. In addition to all this, Harrellsville was awarded a grant for over \$21,000 from the North Carolina Rural Center to purchase a back-up generator in case another power outage occurs, such as the one that happened with Isabel. This grant was written and put together by Community Resource Coordinator, Marshall Yandle. "It is important that while we are planning to seek funding to extend the waterlines, we also work to prepare the town for the extra responsibility financially but also in terms of their operation. This back-up generator provides greater operational stability of the town's water supply.," says Yandle. NCRCAP will continue to work with Harrellsville to obtain funding to extend their waterlines, and also provide them with any other technical assistance they may need.



NCRCAP Launches Chatham Environmental Health Education Initiative



NCRCAP has launched a new Chatham County-based health education initiative as part of its *Healthy Homes for All* program. Lay health advisors, or Promotoras, will educate the Latino community about the far-reaching health and environmental implications of pest infestations and pesticide use. NCRCAP, in partnership with the Duke University Medical Center Department of Pediatrics Division of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, the nonprofit organization Toxic Free NC, and Community Care of North Carolina, is currently coordinating a series of training sessions for the Promotoras on topics such as asthma and allergy triggers in the home, integrated pest management, and non-toxic alternatives to

pesticides.

“Our goal is to foster a sense of collective responsibility and to build the capacity of residents to take action to promote environmental protection not only in their homes, but in the wider community,” said Margaret Wurth, NCRCAP Outreach Coordinator. After completing training, NCRCAP Promotoras will conduct educational outreach visits in the homes of Chatham County Latino families. Promotoras will model sustainable, low-impact steps that these families can take to ensure that their homes, lawns, gardens, and outdoor play areas are both pest-free and safe from harmful toxins.

NCRCAP Promotoras have a history of tackling environmental health issues head-on. In 2009, Promotoras focused on educating Latino parents on the dangers of childhood lead exposure, a serious yet entirely preventable environmental health threat that affects one in ten Chatham County children. In nine months, NCRCAP Promotoras reached over 1000 Chatham individuals through in-home outreach and community presentations. After completing training, NCRCAP Promotoras will visit the homes of 200 Chatham County residents in 2010.

Mountain Community Gets Reliable Source of Water: Viewmont Acres Receives Disadvantaged Communities Grant

The small, low-income community of Viewmont Acres, located on tremendously steep slopes outside the city of Asheville, finally received some good news. In December Viewmont Acres learned from the North Carolina Environment and Natural Resources Public Water Supply Section (PWSS) that the city of Asheville was awarded over \$677,000 to extend a water line into their community.

For years the community lived with a dilapidated water system with many leaks. During low pressure events some of the residents were without water. In addition, the water storage tank that the city of Asheville had been filling for the community would overflow and leak thousands of gallons of water. Until recently, the original owner had abandoned the system and there was no one taking responsibility for the system. NCRCAP Community Resource Coordinator Rich Holder was instrumental in facilitating a resolution to the community’s water supply needs. Rich assisted with the collaboration between PWSS and the city of Asheville’s Water Resources Department to get Viewmont Acres consolidated with Asheville. He will continue to monitor the progress of the water line and soon, the community of Viewmont Acres will realize the benefits of a clean and reliable source of water.