

September 2010

Southeast RCAP Board of
Directors Meeting

Progress in North Carolina

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



Appalachian Regional Commission Gets Dirty With NC Rural Communities Assistance Project, Inc.



NCRCAP Community Resource Coordinator Rich Holder preps ARC working group about the project before the digging begins.

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Statistics in North Carolina

USDA Technitrain
14 projects
2 workshops

OCS
9 projects
1 workshop

EPA Wastewater
1 project

EPA Drinking Water
1 project
1 workshop

Because of a long history of successful programs in rural Appalachia North Carolina, NCRCAP was chosen by The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to coordinate a workday for their national meeting. On August 3rd, 2010 they kicked off their National Policy Development and Commission Meeting with sweat, mud, and bugs at this NCRCAP event. Over 50 people signed up including ARC representatives from across Appalachia and headquarters in Washington, DC. They traveled to a remote location in Jackson County to finalize a repair to a septic system that was part of the 2010 Jackson County Septic Repair Program. Other participants at the workday included representatives from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, USDA, and regional Council of Governments. To begin the workday NCRCAP's Rich Holder explained how the system was failing and what he, along with other organizations, had to do to address installation and repair. As work progressed, Holder explained to participants how this specially designed system worked and of similar challenges in dealing with difficult site design. Throughout the morning participants worked to finish part of the site so that a family would have proper sanitary conditions. NCRCAP is proud to say that everyone worked extremely hard and had completed their mission. *Continue on Page 2*

ARC Gets Dirty Continued From Page 1 "It takes an incredible amount of planning, determination, creativity, and muscle to do this project every year; it certainly wouldn't be the success it is today without Rich," says NCRCAP Executive Director, Peter Kittany.

The 2010 Jackson County Septic Repair Program is part of the original Western Carolina Septic Repair Program that has been going strong for over six years. Since that time NCRCAP's Rich Holder along with several community and state organizations have repaired or installed dozens of septic systems eliminating thousands of gallons of sewer that were previously contaminating watersheds.

NCRCAP Pilots HUD Lead Hazard Repair Program

Ten low-income Chatham County families living in houses with lead-based paint hazards will have their homes repaired for free this summer. NCRCAP was chosen by HUD to pilot the Chatham Home Repair Program through a contract with the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"NCRCAP is our first non-profit sub-grantee," said Beverly Baldinger, HUD Grant Manager, "and we're very excited to be working with them on this project." North Carolina received a \$3 million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to repair lead-based paint hazards in 210 homes across the state, and NCRCAP is leading the effort in Chatham County.

Since 2002, NCRCAP has coordinated outreach to parents, medical providers, policymakers, and community groups to raise awareness of childhood lead exposure. "We're delighted to finally have the resources to take a primary prevention approach and help families fix environmental health hazards before their children are affected," said Margaret Wurth, Outreach Coordinator with NCRCAP.

"Childhood lead exposure is an entirely preventable environmental health threat, and Chatham County children are especially at risk," explained Marcia Perritt, Projects Manager with NCRCAP. One-half of all housing units in Chatham County were constructed before the national ban on lead paint in 1978, and last year, only forty percent of Chatham County children were tested for elevated blood lead levels.

"The primary cause of childhood lead exposure is deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil inside and outside homes built before 1978," said Baldinger.

To qualify, a family must meet income limits, live in a house built before 1978, and have a pregnant woman or at least one child under the age of six spending time regularly in the home. "We understand many times grandparents, extended family members, or neighbors are a child's primary caregivers, so our program is open to any household where a young child spends time," said Wurth. There is absolutely no cost to participating families.

NCRCAP Staff Begin Graduate Studies in Planning & Public Health

NCRCAP staff members and former Americorp Volunteers, Margaret Wurth and Marcia Perritt will begin graduate work this fall in Planning and Public Health. Margaret will attend Columbia University's School of Public Health, Marcia will attend The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill pursuing a dual Master's degree in Planning and Public Health. Both staff members have been valuable assets to the organization over the years, especially to many of the OCS/HHS projects including Healthy Homes. Marcia will continue to work at NCRCAP to oversee these projects. Margaret left at the end of July for Manhattan. NCRCAP wishes them both success in their new educational endeavors.