

December 2007

Southeast RCAP Board of
Directors Meeting

Progress in North Carolina

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



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Statistics in North Carolina

Technitrain
9 current projects
3 Workshops conducted

OCS
5 current projects
1 Board Training conducted

Recent Project Highlights in North Carolina

NCRCAP helps to navigate options in Hollister Community

Bob Taylor of NCRCAP continues to work with the Hollister community on several levels, and most recently, putting significant energy into building the capacity of the Meadows Sewer District Advisory Board. The board has re-committed its members, elected a new chair, and agreed upon their role of advising the community and the county on wastewater options. In late November, the preliminary engineering study that assessed the cost to connect to the Town of Littleton 12 miles to the north was presented to the advisory board and county staff. The estimated cost of connecting the 300 households core area of

Hollister to the Littleton WWTP via force main will be \$6 million. This figure is the same as establishing a treatment and disposal system, though operation and maintenance will be less with Littleton. County staff and community leaders discussed the ability of the community to bear the operational costs of such a system. The next priority for stakeholders involved is to complete and needs assessment in order to document the case of need, and NCRCAP will continue to work with the community and county to leverage resources for that endeavor. NCRCAP will also continue working with the Advisory Board to implement alternative technologies to meet immediate needs.



As NCRCAP gears up to plan for another 'season' of septic system repairs in Western North Carolina, the work of Rich Holder and the more than 200 volunteers who he worked with in the summer of 2007 we featured as the cover story in the magazine Small Flows Quarterly fall issue. The article can be found at the following website:

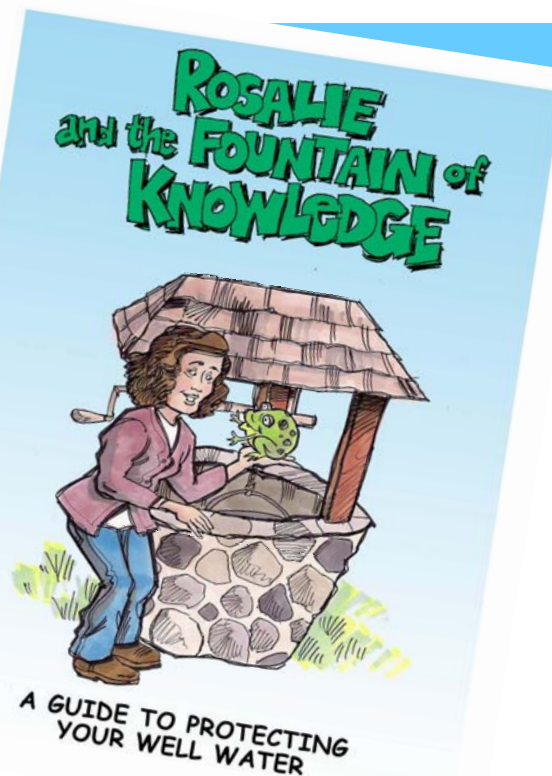
http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc/sfq_2007.htm#fa_wi

Holder is planning to complete repairs at another eight households beginning in the spring of 2008 again working with volunteers through Recreation Experiences and the Emmanuel Lutheran Services.

Healthy Homes for All gears up for expanded scope of outreach

The comic novella 'Rosalie and the Fountain of Knowledge,' the cover of which is to the right, is in the final stages of editing after feedback from Spanish- and English-speaking peer reviews. The novella designed to illustrate basics of drinking water protection will be produced in color and available for distribution and outreach visits by spring of 2008. Judging by correspondence from nearby service providers to the native Spanish-speaking population, the novella will be well received.

As an additional element to broadening the outreach efforts of the Healthy Homes for All program, Marcia Perrit recently completed a week long lead risk assessor training from the Environmental Institute in Atlanta. Completing the course with a perfect score on the exit exam, Marcia is poised to take the state third-party lead risk assessor and inspector exam. Due to this training, outreach staff will now be well-versed on EPA, HUD and OSHA regulations regarding the testing for hazards and for ensuring safe practices in restoring, renovating or remodeling of homes.



Carrie Fields participated in a 'train-the-trainer' function hosted by the Durham Affordable Housing Coalition. John Zilka directed the training, and Carrie is now equipped to train contractors in lead-safe work practices.

Technitrain Workshops provide training for over 140 systems

NCRCAP held two workshops this fall with Technitrain support, both of which were regional workshops titled 'Rural Water and Wastewater Projects: Getting to Success with your Consulting Engineer.' The workshops drew representatives from over 140 water and/or wastewater utilities from the eastern half of the state. This part of the state is facing numerous challenges with changing demands of services as the economic base has shifted, and regulatory standards have tightened, along with the issue of aging infrastructure. Funders all recognize the challenges these utilities face and the need for them to have efficient working relationships with professional service providers. The workshops provided first-hand accounts of positive professional relationships and how to keep them, principles of conflict resolution, requirements of the qualification-based selection process, essentials of financial responsibility in the current funding environment, and review of contracts. Evaluations from the workshops revealed all information was valuable, in particular to small utilities, or new board members.

