

May 2009

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
8 projects
3 workshops in planning

EPA Wastewater
1 project
1 workshop in planning

EPA Safe Drinking Water
1 project
1 workshop in planning

OCS
3 projects
1 workshop in planning

EPA SMART About Water
1 project
2 workshops completed

Recent Project Highlights in North Carolina

An Update on Past Successes

- **Governor's Island, Swain County** - In 2001, NRCAP prepared a NC Rural Center Unsewered Communities grant application to extend sewer lines to this unincorporated community of 50 households located next to the Tuckaseegee River. After navigating through many obstacles, including devising a mechanism for residents on private wells to pay a central sewer rate, a first for the Rural Center to consider, the grant was awarded for \$1.4 million. Since then, complex legal issues and project partner discord stalled the initiative. After helping to facilitate communication and action once again, NRCAP is pleased to report that the project has finally gone to contract and went out to bid in February 2009.
- **Maple Hill Sewer District, Pender County**- This unincorporated community located in the sandhills of NC has a very high water table, saturated soils, and has been threatened by health risks from failing septic systems and straight piping. In 2006, the project garnered \$2.7 million from the NC Rural Center for Phase 1 of a decentralized wastewater system. In October 2008, Maple Hill was awarded an additional \$1.4 million from Clean Water Management Trust Fund to complete project funding. Due to the economic crisis, that award is now pending with the State in the Construction Grants & Loans Division, but has been deemed "Shovel Ready."
- **Walnut Island Sanitary District, Currituck County** - This small coastal community reached an agreement with an incoming developer to use their property to house a new, state-of-the-art on-site wastewater system in exchange for treating Walnut Island's sewage and making the necessary improvements to their collection system. The project was awarded \$500,000 from Clean Water Management Trust Fund in October 2008 for their wastewater collection system upgrade, which will leverage the \$500,000 Rural Center Supplemental Grant awarded in July 2008.
- **Midway, Aberdeen ETJ, Moore County** - In the summer of 2005, NRCAP conducted a needs assessment survey to justify a sewer line extension to this low-income, minority community. The Town of Aberdeen was awarded \$700,000 in CDBG Infrastructure funding in 2006 to extend sewer service to the 44 homes in Midway. Construction was completed in the fall of 2008.
- **Jackson Hamlet, Pinehurst ETJ, Moore County** - This minority community of 100 households has a county water supply, but no central sewer service, inadequately maintained roads to accommodate storm water runoff, and only privately maintained street lighting. NRCAP began working with the community in 2004 to address these issues by conducting a needs assessment survey and secured a \$12,000 planning grant from the Creating New Economies Fund in 2007. The Town of Pinehurst was awarded a \$750,000 Infrastructure CDBG in 2006 to fund Phase 1 of connecting the community to Moore County Water and Sewer. This Phase is currently under construction and an application for Phase 2 is under review.
- **St. Paul's, Robeson County** - Located in Eastern NC, this small town has one of the highest poverty rates in North Carolina. In January of 2008, NRCAP began working with the Town to secure funding for both their water and wastewater systems. In July 2008, \$2.2 million was awarded by the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for sewer system upgrades. This winter, the NC Rural Center awarded St. Paul's a \$29,000

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Planning Grant to complete a comprehensive water and sewer system map and a \$310,000 Supplemental Grant to complete water system improvements to address water loss issues and fire protection safety.

SMART About Water Workshops

NCRCAP hosted a SMART About Water-- A Public Drinking Water Protection Workshop in Boone, NC on March 4, 2009. Topics covered in the workshop included Source Water Watershed Management, Planning & Development, Threats to Drinking Water Supplies, Source Water Assessments, Well Head Protection, and Low Impact Development. Over 50 participants attended representing 10 different water systems.



This workshop was the second in a three part series. The program, named for Strategic Management and Available Resources and Technology, provides training and technical assistance about source water and well head protection to small and rural communities. The first workshop, offered in Sylva in February 2009, was just as successful with over 40 participants representing 17 different water systems. Participants at both workshops included operators, local, county and regional planners, managers, commissioners, HOAs, watershed groups, environmental health specialists, engineers, USDA agents, and the NC Department of Water Quality staff. Planning for a third SMART workshop is currently underway and will be held this Spring at the Land of Sky Regional Council in Western North Carolina.