

April 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

13 projects  
4 Board Trainings completed  
3 Board Trainings planned

##### EPA Wastewater

4 projects  
1 workshop planned

##### EPA Safe Drinking Water

2 projects  
1 workshop planned

##### OCS

5 projects  
1 Board Training planned

## Recent Project Highlights in North Carolina

### NCRCAP's Technical Assistance Yields Compliance and Needed Upgrades for Water System

The Ridgedale community is a Mobil Home Development in Buncombe County that NCRCAP's Rich Holder began working with in 2004 to address operational and managerial deficits as well as compliance issues with its water system. Rich Holder has worked with residents to achieve many successes, including assisting the community in reforming its Homeowners Association (HOA), collecting dues to upkeep the system, and contracting for legal services to maintain their rights to the well. In addition, Rich worked with the HOA to purchase the lot on which their well was located. Rich then met with the NC Public Water Supply Section (PWSS) engineer and conducted a complete water system evaluation. The HOA improved their capacity to correctly manage their water system by hiring a certified operator, and participating in a Small Water System Board Member Training to strengthen their technical, managerial, and financial skills. The water system now disinfects and monitors the water according to state PWSS rules. The HOA has also voted to purchase equipment to treat the water for excess iron and improve the distribution system by installing blow off valves to flush the system.

As a result of the last two years of technical assistance provided by NCRCAP, the Ridgedale Water System has become a self sufficient and viable water system that is managed competently by the Home Owners Association Board. Sev-

eral tasks remain, however, including: hooking up a phosphate pump to treat for excess iron in the water, installing blow offs in the distribution system, and replacing the hydro-pneumatic tank. The project was temporarily closed but reopened due to the communities continued need for assistance to complete these remaining tasks and address problems with the Operator Responsible in Charge (ORC).

During the first quarter of the 2006-2007 program year, the Ridgedale water system continued to make progress in improving their water system. Rich Holder and the HOA president installed the PO4 treatment equipment and the ORC began to treat the water for excess iron. Ridgedale HOA is considering applying for a USDA loan to replace the hydropneumatic tank, make repairs to the well house, install blow off valves in distribution system and refinance their current loan. The system is currently operating with two bladder pressure tanks and needs to replace those tanks with a 2,000 gallon hydropneumatic tank. The TAP researched prices for a new tank and is currently researching estimates on the construction cost to replace the tank.

During the next quarter the TAP will continue to search for a new certified operator, work with the USDA RD to determine the HOA's eligibility for a loan, and help them make continued improvements to the water system.

### Bob Taylor Presents at Excluded Communities Workshop

NCRCAP's Bob Taylor was invited to present at a workshop organized by the UNC Center for Civil Rights highlighting the challenges of typically disenfranchised communities in addressing community development issues. Bob Taylor participated on a panel discussion on community organizing and activism for obtaining needed infrastructure. Bob Taylor spoke on possible strategies, partnerships, and funding sources that have proved effective in NCRCAP's work. Bob highlighted several past NCRCAP projects such as Delta City and coalition building, Franklin Road for the reality of rates, and Hollister for the creation of a local unit of government. More than 70 people attended the workshop, with representatives of low-income communities, local and statewide non profit organizations, and County staff.

# Beyond the Pipe: Wastewater Management in Rural Areas

## *Planning and management of innovative wastewater strategies in rural communities*

**May 22, 2007**

**Tuesday**

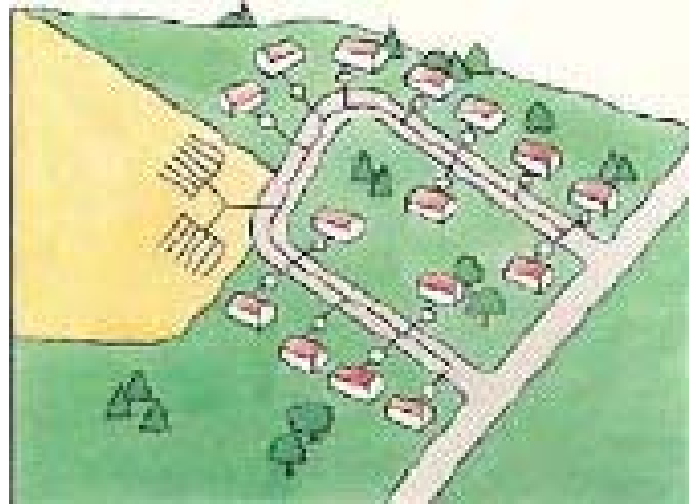
**10:00am-4:00pm**

### Who should attend?

- Community leaders
- Elected officials
- Engineers
- Planners
- Regulators

### Workshop sessions:

- Tools for planning wastewater projects in existing communities
- Management strategies of on-site wastewater systems using affordable technologies
- New regulations within the Clean Water Act
- Participatory problem-solving session



### Presenters include:

- Tim Banister, Tri County Wastewater, Inc.
- Nancy Deal, NCSU, Soil Science Dept
- David Lindbo, NCSU Cooperative Extension Service
- *Plus* regulatory and maintenance perspectives

### Workshop Location:

Vernon James Center

207 Research Station Road, Plymouth, NC 27962

PHONE: (252) 793-4118 / 4428

#### **NCRCAP and NC American Water Works Association/Water Environment Federation's Outreach Committee continue Partnership:**

Continuing the ten year partnership that has resulted in leveraging millions of dollars for rural communities throughout North Carolina, NCRCAP will work with AWWA/WEF's Outreach Committee members to prepare a preliminary engineering report for the community of Cottonville. The Cottonville community is located in an unincorporated area of Stanly county. There are 17 water supply wells, of which 12 are active. These water supply wells have been contaminated from a combination of Underground Storage Tanks, a

Kerosene-free product, and VOCs. Three wells, onto which 20 households are connected, have a carbon filtration system to address the UST contamination. There are 2 wells affected by the kerosene-free product and VOCs located on a single property. NCRCAP will work closely with the newly formed Stanly County Water and Sewer Authority and the Town of Aquadale, located about four miles to the east, to identify the necessary resources to extend water to the Cottonville community. The Outreach Committee provides engineering services free of charge to communities referred by NCRCAP. NCRCAP staff will use the PER's to pursue grant and/or loan funds to address the water concerns in Cottonville.