

January 2005

Southeast RCAP Board of Directors
Meeting
Richmond, Virginia

Progress in North Carolina

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



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Statistics in North Carolina

Technitrain

10 projects
3 Board Trainings

EPA Wastewater

3 projects

EPA Safe Drinking Water

2 projects

OCS

3 projects

Case Studies

Village of Cranberry— A Quest for Water

NCRCAP worked on the Cranberry Water System Upgrade project in Western NC in a previous program year to try and resolve the water supply situation and to help the water system achieve compliance with Safe Drinking Water regulations. While many objectives were met, such as bringing together stakeholders and identifying resources, ultimately the best solution for addressing the water quantity problem from a funder standpoint -- connecting Cranberry to the water system in the neighboring town, Elk Park -- was rejected by the governing board of the Water Association.

Today, the water system continues to face a severe situation with regard to water quantity. The system's only operating water supply well is located on leased land. The owner of this land would like to develop it, which would prevent the Water Association from using this water supply well for public consumption. As it stands currently, the landowner turns off the well pump daily at 4 pm in order to preserve the water yield, which is too low to sustain constant water use by the customers in Cranberry. The Water Association has drilled a second well, but has no funds to connect this well to their distribution system. In addition, the current distribution system needs significant repairs to reduce the substantial water loss occurring in the system.

As the inadequate water supply continues to plague Cranberry, the Water Association Board and concerned residents have resumed discussions with their NC Legislator to seek a solution. In 2004, NCRCAP was again contacted by NC state government representatives for assistance to work with Cranberry's Water Association. In the hopes that

the Water Association Board may now be in a position to consider the Elk Park alternative, NCRCAP has resumed working with the Village of Cranberry.

During the first quarter of this program year, NCRCAP made progress on meeting the goals of securing an adequate water source for Cranberry. NCRCAP contacted numerous stakeholders, such as the NC Public Water Supply Section, Avery County government, High Country Council of Governments, NC State Legislators, USDA RD, and community representatives in an effort to facilitate this project. NCRCAP arranged for two community meetings in Cranberry to discuss the options available, including connecting to Elk Park or repairing the current distribution system and connecting to the new water supply well. Again the community expressed their concern over low water pressure and no water for parts of the day to homes at higher elevations, but continued to prefer building their own water system rather than connecting to Elk Park. USDA RD representatives presented information on the 504-grant/loan programs that could be used for individual home repairs. Many of the residents may pursue this funding source to replace the line from the main to the house, which they believe to be a source of water loss throughout the system. In an effort to move this project forward, NCRCAP secured engineering services through the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Outreach Committee for a preliminary engineering report for the Village of Cranberry. In the PER, all options will be evaluated for ensuring water quantity and achieving compliance with SDWA regulations. NCRCAP will continue to work with Cranberry in the coming year to find a resolution to their water needs.

Murfreesboro Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project Awarded \$400,000 Supplemental Grant

The Town of Murfreesboro was referred to NCRCAP by the Mcauley Institute, an agency that works with non-profit organizations in building affordable housing units. Grant funding previously awarded for an affordable housing development, Howard's Hunter Villa, had been frozen because of the moratorium imposed by the Division of Water Quality on the Murfreesboro Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Town intended to build additional spray irrigation fields to accommodate the wet weather flow increases, but needed assistance in securing project funding.

NCRCAP worked with the Town and various local stakeholders to coordinate funding efforts for the wastewater treatment plant project and prepared grant application materials for submittal to the NC Rural Economic Development Center's Supplemental Grant program to offset the total cost of the expansion. The Town of Murfreesboro was awarded a \$400,000 Supplemental Grant to help finance this project.



Future site of Howard Hunter's Villa/NCRCAP photo

Jackson Hamlet– Excluded but not Deluded

Jackson Hamlet is a minority community in the extra-territorial jurisdiction of the Village of Pinehurst in Moore County. This 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. The UNC Center for Civil Rights has been working with the community to review various options to upgrade those public services and determine possible annexation opportunities. The Center for Civil Rights requested NCRCAP to assist with this process of assessing the community's resources.

NCRCAP has been instrumental in the first quarter of this program year in conducting a community needs assessment in Jackson Hamlet. The community survey will help to document the current infrastructure needs, prioritize the community's energy in coordinating with nearby units of government, and particularly, help Jackson Hamlet decide whether to pursue voluntary annexation. NCRCAP anticipates a continued significant role in the next quarter as sur-

veys are completed and the community speaks with the Moore County Board of Commissioners. NCRCAP will continue to coordinate with the UNC Center for Civil Rights and Jackson Hamlet to obtain the resources the community identifies as their priorities. Jackson Hamlet has already demonstrated a commitment to improving the community by reinvesting themselves: an after school tutorial program was established this past fall and this spring, the community plans to rehabilitate the community center.



A non-maintained public road/NCRCAP photo