

September 2005

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
5 Board Trainings

EPA Wastewater
3 projects
1 workshop

EPA Safe Drinking Water
3 projects
1 workshop

OCS
3 projects
1 Board Training

Recent Project Highlights in North Carolina

North Carolina RCAP Receives Funding Awards

After a year of hard work, NCRCAP was awarded several grants this summer to support community and individual projects:

- The Cranberry Water Association in Avery County was awarded \$987,653 from the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Construction Grants & Loans Section on August 24th. This High Unit Cost grant will upgrade Cranberry's water distribution system and fund a water line connection to the neighboring Town of Elk Park. The NC Chapter of the American Water Works Association's Outreach Committee provided pro-bono engineering services to complete the Preliminary Engineering Report and spearheaded the preparation of the grant application. Their contribution was valued at \$27,000.
- NCRCAP's Safe Housing Initiative program, which addresses severe housing needs in rural Chatham and Randolph counties, received funding from the USDA's Housing Preservation Grant program on August 2nd. The grant award amount

of \$88,950 will be used to eliminate the health and safety hazards posed by substandard housing.

- On August 1st, NCRCAP received a Green Fund grant of \$10,000 from the Housing Assistance Council. HAC's Rural Capacity Building Initiative, with support from The Enterprise Foundation, is designed to promote the incorporation of a "greener" approach to affordable rural housing development. These funds will be used in conjunction with the Housing Preservation Grant to support the Safe Housing Initiative program.

- In June, NCRCAP was awarded \$4,000 from the Leadership Triangle Class of 2005, a program established to promote regionalism across separate communities within the Triangle area. Class members, motivated by two Chatham County commissioners who were enrolled in the course, leveraged an additional \$5,000 from Chatham County government and private donations to support NCRCAP's area outreach programs.

Midway To Connection

Midway is a low-income, minority community of 68 households in Moore County and is located within the Extra-territorial Jurisdiction of the Town of Aberdeen. As an economic boom has come to Moore County over the past decade and developments have grown around and through Aberdeen, residents of Midway have witnessed municipal services be extended to areas well beyond their community, with some service vehicles even using Midway Road to access these outlying developments, but have yet to receive services themselves. A previous CDBG project allowed half of Midway Road to connect to sewer, but many Midway residents are still excluded from municipal services and must rely on failing septic systems.

NCRCAP began working with the Midway community in February as requested by the UNC Center for Civil Rights and the Environmental Finance Center at UNC. Aberdeen has gained insight on extending services through studies done at the Center for Civil Rights and Environmental Finance Center, but is now looking for more detailed information on environmental health conditions and the potential impact to their wastewater collection system. To assist with this effort, NCRCAP Technical Assistance Provider Bob Taylor conducted a door-to-door survey to verify existing septic system conditions and gather information to support grant and loan

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applications.

This summer, the Midway community rallied around preparations for the US Open Golf Championship in Pinehurst and utilized the event as a platform to highlight their request for annexation and service extension. A strategic planning workshop with a Latino Community from Modesto, CA was coordinated by the UNC Center for Civil Rights to focus media attention on the community's need for municipal wastewater services. As a result, media pressure around the golf tournament caused Aberdeen officials to move forward on the annexation request, which including making a proactive motion to get funding for the sewer line extension through the NC Legislature and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund agency.

During the next program year, NCRCAP will assist with combining information from the preliminary engineering report and survey data to explore various funding opportunities. NCRCAP will continue to provide technical assistance and meet with the community to discuss the implications of each option available to them. NCRCAP anticipates assisting Midway until they are successful in their quest for annexation.



Workgroups outline a strategic wastewater plan during NCRCAP's "Economic Development & Wastewater Management" Workshop held on August 11, 2005 at the Central Carolina Community College in Pittsboro

Fairview Community Makes Plans to Submit Funding Application for New Water Tank

Fairview, located in Madison County in the western part of NC, is a rural community consisting of 26 homes. NCRCAP provided the Fairview Water Association with a Small Water System Board Management Training in 2002 and began working with the Association to locate funding for the replacement of their 5,000 gallon metal storage reservoir tank at the end of the 2003-2004 program year.



NCRCAP was contacted by a former Madison County Extension employee about the community's current needs and was requested to provide technical and grant writing assistance for this drinking water project.

This past fall, NCRCAP contacted the Fairview community to discuss their water needs in greater detail. Rich Holder, NCRCAP Technical Assistance Provider, conducted an assessment of their water distribution system, reviewed a completed Preliminary Engineering Report for the new storage tank, and began researching funding options available to finance the project. After presenting various funding scenarios to the community, the Fairview Water Association decided to pursue a USDA Rural Development infrastructure loan to finance the cost of replacing the 5,000 gallon water tank. NCRCAP began meeting with the community and the project engineer on a weekly basis to review and gather information for the loan application. NCRCAP developed a map of the community water system, met with the USDA RD Area Specialist to confer on the application process, and contacted several state agencies to discuss the environmental, cultural, and economic impact of the project on the proposed site.

During the spring, NCRCAP continued to work on critical aspects of the loan application, such as drafting the Environmental Report. This summer, the project was somewhat delayed as the community representative was unable to attend a majority of the meetings due to the onset of the tourist season in Hot Springs and personal obligations to his business. However, the community representative has now resumed working on the project and all agencies previously contacted as part of the application process submitted written approval of the project, which stated it would have no adverse effects to the area. NCRCAP will continue to meet with the community and the engineer to complete the loan application and anticipates submitting it to the USDA in the fall.