

April 2011

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

USDA Technitrain  
16 projects  
2 workshops

OCS  
6 projects

EPA Wastewater  
1 project

EPA Drinking Water  
1 project

## Viewmont Acres Now With A Reliable Tap



*Pipe being laid on the steep drive leading up to Viewmont Acres.*

Viewmont Acres is a low income community located on the steep slope of a mountain just outside the city of Asheville. The community purchased water from Asheville and supplied water to the residents through a dilapidated, leaky distribution system that lacked individual meter boxes. The Spivey Mountain water storage tank would overflow once Asheville turned on their pumps to fill it up. Due to lack of pressure, many residents were left without water for days. The original owner of the system had abandoned it, and there was no one taking responsibility for managing or operating the system. With no unit of management the system was out of compliance for monitoring and reporting. As a result, the NC Utilities Commission had taken over the system and designated a state Emergency Operator.

Community Resource Coordinator, Rich Holder, has worked with the State Public Water Supply Section (PWSS) and the City of Asheville Water Resources since 2008. As a result of Rich's efforts to maintain the community as priority for both PWSS and the city, they were able to secure a \$677,532 grant through the PWSS Disadvantaged Communities Program. This grant extends water lines into the community and installs meters at all the homes.

In October of 2010 the construction phase of the project began and as of March 1, 2011, is nearly complete. Thanks to persistence of Rich, the residents of Viewmont Acres now will have a safe and reliable source of drinking water.

## **Lead Hazard Repair Program Continues: NCRCAP is Awarded HUD Grant To Repair 20 More Homes in Rural North Carolina**

Building on the success of the pilot Lead Hazard Repair program, NCRCAP has received additional funding to repair twenty more homes of low-income families in North Carolina. The program will benefit families with young children living in houses with lead-based paint hazards, an environmental health threat that negatively impacts the health and cognitive development of children under the age of six. NCRCAP launched the program in the summer of 2010 and was the first non-profit subgrantee in the state to receive funding to implement such a program. North Carolina received a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to repair lead-based paint hazards in hundreds of homes across the state, and NCRCAP is continuing leading the effort in Chatham County. "Childhood lead exposure is an entirely preventable environmental health threat, and Chatham County children are especially at risk," explained Marcia Perritt, Projects Manager with NCRCAP. One-half of all housing units in Chatham County were constructed before the national ban on lead paint in 1978, and last year, only forty percent of Chatham County children were tested for elevated blood lead levels. The primary cause of childhood lead exposure is deteriorating lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust and soil inside and outside homes built before 1978. Since 2002, NCRCAP has coordinated outreach to parents, medical providers, policymakers, and community groups to raise awareness of childhood lead exposure.

### **Yadkin Farmers Market Awarded \$30,000 For New and Improved Site**

Since early Fall 2010 NCRCAP has worked with Yadkin County Cooperative Extension, Yadkin County Planning, and the Town of Yadkinville to update their farmers market. Beginning a few years ago, the market met in the parking lot of a Masonic Lodge with no shelter and inadequate parking. Because of its success, the number of vendors and customers grew to the point where they no longer could conduct the farmers market safely and inclement weather would cancel the market altogether. NCRCAP worked with the partners involved to identify a site, and grant funding for renovations. The site for the new market will be on at an unused Yadkinville garage. A grant from the Rural Advancement Foundation International that NCRCAP helped prepare will assist with renovating a garage, adding a bathroom, and marking off appropriate parking. Once the project is finished, the Yadkin Farmers Market will have a large site, protected from the elements, with adequate parking for both vendors and customers. This improved market provides greater access to healthier food for the community while the farmers and town benefit from the boost to the local economy.

### **2011 Summer Workshop Series Planning In Progress: Cost Analysis Tool For Rural Wastewater Needs**

NCRCAP will coordinate a series of five workshops in June sponsored by the Rural Economic Development Center and conducted by the NC Cooperative Extension on a new tool. This tool is in the form of a dynamic spreadsheet which estimates the cost of different wastewater technologies for rural communities based on their current community profile and vision for the future. NCRCAP is excited to be a part of this ground-breaking series which seeks to educate rural communities about their available wastewater options and their anticipated costs.

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