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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

## Under Pressure—Hyde County Scores Big with NCRCAP Sanitary Survey

At the end of August NCRCAP received an urgent request from old friends in Hyde County. The county had written several grant applications to fund a sewer line extension from the Engelhard Sanitary District all the way to Lake Mattamuskeet Lodge (a historic landmark and a symbol to the community). The community lies just above or at sea level and in the ten miles stretch from the district to the lodge lived people who had problematic septic systems they couldn't afford to fix, property owners who couldn't build a home, businesses that couldn't expand, and entrepreneurs stifled all due to lack of sewer. Although the county knew this, they had no proof or documentation needed to show the funding agencies the true extent of the problems in the area. The county was running out of time with a funding application up for review and scoring in only two months; they needed a hand and called on NCRCAP. NCRCAP contracted with Hyde County and worked with their staff and the funding agencies reviewing the project to develop a survey adequate to cover all their needs. After the survey criteria was approved, NCRCAP hit the ground with local staff surveying nearly 100 properties. Once the information was compiled, a final report complete with GIS maps and environmental narratives was sent to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. With NCRCAP's final report included in Hyde County's grant application, the grant scored high enough to be awarded over \$609,000. NCRCAP's survey findings were then sent to other funding agencies with applications pending for the county. If all grants are awarded, the sanitary survey will have assisted with funding applications of over 1 million dollars. NCRCAP will continue to monitor the progress of these applications and provide additional information as needed by the funding agencies considering Hyde County's applications.

## Blue Cross & Blue Shield Awards NCRCAP \$60,000 to Address Healthy and Nutritional Lifestyle Choices for Latino Families in Chatham County

NCRCAP's Promotoras (Lay Health Advisors) program has received \$60,000 from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina to tackle a pressing public health concern – obesity. The Promotoras, who in the past led outreach efforts in the Latino community around environmental health issues such as childhood lead poisoning prevention and non-toxic pest management, will now use their talents as health educators to provide families with information on nutrition. One-third of children in the U.S. are overweight *Continue on pg 2*

*BCBS Cont'd* or obese, and this rate is higher in Chatham County, where the Promotoras will be directing their community outreach. NCRCAP Promotoras will teach families how to eat nutritiously on a budget and how to make healthy food appealing to young children. They will also connect families with local farmer's markets, community gardens, and CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture). "Access to healthy food is a big concern in the community," says Marcia Perritt, NCRCAP Projects Manager. Because of the economic downturn, more families are experiencing food insecurity. The Promotoras will hold monthly cooking classes that emphasize healthy and safe meal preparation using low-cost ingredients.

## NCRCAP Visible Around the State and US



*Marshall Yandle at NC AWWA Conference in Winston-Salem, NC*

In October NCRCAP's Rich Holder and Marshall Yandle attended the Annual Onsite Water Conference hosted by the NC State Soil Science Department. Rich presented on two separate topics; the first addressed mountain installation of onsite systems. He explained to a group of professionals from across the state the potential challenges of installing in rocky soils and steep slopes among other issues he comes across in Appalachia. The other topic Rich presented was low income repairs, in which he explained some of the funding sources available for individuals needing financial assistance and highlighting the successful Western Carolina Septic Repair Program.

In November NCRCAP attended was an exhibitor at the NC Rural Economic Development Center's Rural Partners Forum and the NC American Water Works Association (NCAWWA) Annual Meeting. During the Rural Partners forum NCRCAP took questions from rural community leaders and distributed information about the services the organization provides for rural communities. NCRCAP was delighted to have the opportunity to participate in this forum for the first time with agencies across the state. At the NCAWWA conference NCRCAP passed out information and discussed with engineers the challenges small towns face in implementing a project and how NCRCAP can help guide the municipality during the process of working with a consulting engineer.

Finally, at the RCAP National Conference in Washington, DC, NCRCAP was well represented. Program Coordinator, Marshall Yandle received the National RCAP Rookie of the Year award. Yandle said, "I'm honored to be nominated by my colleagues at NCRCAP and SERCAP. I've received a lot of support from my co-workers at NCRCAP and been allowed a great deal of creativity since joining in April of 2009. In addition, the guidance and knowledge from other TAPs at SERCAP has assisted me through the RCAP process which has been so helpful." Executive Director, Peter Kittany was a speaker at the conference and presented on the topic of selecting consulting engineers. Peter led a discussion on the roles and responsibilities of both the engineers and municipalities when selecting and working with an engineer. "We had a lot of good feedback from attendees, requests for additional information, and inquiries about giving the presentation in others states. It was great to that everyone was so engaged in the presentation," says Kittany.