

WATERWAYS

Promoting the Development of Affordable Water and Wastewater Facilities, Activities and Resources to Improve the Quality of Life for Low-Income Rural Residents of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.



Water Is Life®

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

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Water Flowing to Baptist Valley

By Greg Jordan, Bluefield Daily Telegraph

— NORTH TAZEWELL, Va. — Ground was broken Monday for a water project that will create 711 new residential sewer service connections.

The Baptist Valley Sewer Project will serve the areas of Adria and Baptist Valley. Supporters met at the Baptist Valley Central Church of Christ to celebrate the project's start. "This is a great day to be thankful for what we have," Tazewell County Administrator Jim Spencer told the project's supporters.

The new sewer system will improve the residents' quality of life and create new possibilities for economic development, said U.S. Rep. Rick Boucher, D-Va.

"Currently, public wastewater services are not available in Baptist Valley, and residents rely on private septic systems," Boucher said. "The soil conditions for septic systems in the area are poor, and the conditions prevent residents from making necessary septic system modifications and preclude any growth in the number of businesses and residents in the area. Additionally, the Baptist Valley area is in the Clinch Valley watershed, and the failing septic systems contribute to the river's contamination."

Extending sewage treatment service into Baptist Valley will also create new possibilities for residential growth and the expansion of business in the area, Boucher

said. Construction of the system is expected to be finished within 18 months.

Financing for the \$10,161,678 project came from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for \$4,634,378; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, \$4 million; Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement, \$927,300; Southwest Virginia Water/Wastewater Fund, \$100,000; Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, \$50,000; and the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, \$450,000.

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Inside this issue:

Reflections from Hope F. Cupit, Vice President & Deputy CEO	2
Happy New Year Mr. and Mrs. Martin!	2
Virginia Drinking Water Report Card	3
Southeast RCAP State Updates	4
Southeast RCAP State Updates	5
Southeast RCAP Agency Contact Information	6



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**Reflections from
Hope F. Cupit,
Vice President &
Deputy CEO**

2010 Focus: Telling Southeast RCAP's Story

My vision for Southeast RCAP in 2010 is to tell our story. Over the past 40 years our funding has assisted many communities by leveraging dollars necessary to move their projects forward. For example, if a community has a commitment of funds from USDA or another funding source, Southeast RCAP can offer the community an interim loan up to \$150,000 so they can move forward with their project. This often assists with avoiding delays and lets the funder know that the community is committed towards results. Southeast RCAP also has grant funds that can be awarded to assist communities with water and waste water projects.

In most cases without the assistance and services that Southeast RCAP is able to provide most communities would not be able to be successful in seeing their projects materialize. As expressed from a recent letter dated January 8, 2010, by David L. Ash, Clarke County Administrator, "Southeast RCAP was invaluable in ensuring the Millwood project's success. We had to rely completely on Southeast RCAP personnel to complete the housing portion of the project. In short, we would not have been able to provide indoor plumbing and a far better quality of life to these 6 families without the dedication and hard work provided by Southeast RCAP personnel." Our story is one that has been untold; our impact has been a secret only to those that frequent our assistance. Southeast RCAP provides assistance in housing, lending, and development of affordable water/waste water facilities, in addition to training and technical assistance. Most of our services are at no charge to the community, which often uses our funding to leverage other overall project cost. Southeast RCAP is available to provide ongoing support to rural communities that do not have the existing capacity.

In 2009, Southeast RCAP provided the following regional services: 1) created over 600 jobs; 2) provided 85 residents with well loans totaling \$465,000; 3) built 14 homes under the Indoor Plumbing Program totaling \$1,047,686; 5) Provided water and waste water services to nearly 200,000 citizens; 6) Leveraged \$1,715,041 in funding for infrastructure projects that supported 195 households and 35 communities; and 7) assisted 258 Virginia households with emergency water and waste water needs.



Happy New Year Mr. & Mrs. Martin!



In 2008, Congressman Boucher's office referred a water/wastewater project to Southeast RCAP. In April 2008, Southeast RCAP made the initial site visit and decided that a substantial reconstruction IPR project was needed for Mr. and Mrs. Martin, who lived in Montgomery County, Virginia.

Southeast RCAP's crew was determined to bring safe drinking water and a bathroom to the Martins. Once the project began, the crew faced various obstacles including limited working area, difficulty meeting regulated setbacks due to the odd shaped parcel of land, and locating additional funds for the project. They also had to shock the well twice. Many long days, countless hours and perseverance from dedicated staff and volunteers proved to make possible what appeared to be impossible.

The Martins moved into their new home in December 2009, ringing in the new year with running water!



Original Home



New Home



Mr. & Mrs. Martin

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Virginia Infrastructure Report Card 2009 Grade: D+



The national Report Card for America's Infrastructure discovered crumbling infrastructure throughout the country, the Virginia infrastructure Report Card shows many sectors that need immediate attention. Virginia infrastructure affects the citizen's quality of life, provides the framework for the state's economy, and protects the safety of citizens. With a cumulative grade of D+, Virginia's aging infrastructure has a direct correlation to the state's prosperity in years to come. Investment now is essential to protect the way of life and the future for the citizens living in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Produced by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the purpose of the report card is not to paint a doomsday scenario,

but to present a realistic picture of the condition of Virginia's infrastructure. The intent is to inform and help policy makers meet the challenges presented by an aging infrastructure. Infrastructure categories include aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, parks and recreation, ports and navigable waterways, rail and transit, roads, schools, solid waste, stormwater, and wastewater. For more information, please visit www.infrastructurereportcard.org.

2009 INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT CARD					
	Drinking Water	Solid Waste	Storm-water	Waste-water	Investment needed
Nation	D	D	D	D+	500 billion
DE	D-	C	C	C-	600 million
MD	C+	D	D-	D-	9 billion
VA	C-	C	D+	D+	6 billion
NC	B-	C	C-	C+	7 billion
SC	B+	C	C-	C+	2 billion
GA	C+	C	D+	C	3 billion
FL	C	C	C-	B-	4 billion

The Town of Stanardsville and the surrounding environs is one example of a community that has been identified that needs future water and sewer infrastructure improvements. The original water and sewer infrastructure for the Town was constructed in the 1930's, and a large portion of the Town still relies on this aging network for service. The Town relies on three water storage tanks for water service and fire protection. A large portion of the Town still relies upon a gravity sewer network



Ridge Schuyler, District Director in the Office of Congressman Tom Perriello, Brennan Johnson, District Liaison in the Office of Congressman Tom Perriello, Carl Schmitt, Greene County Supervisor, and Hope Cupit, Southeast RCAP Vice President &

that was constructed in the 1930's for wastewater service. The Town of Stanardsville, along with the Greene County Board of Supervisors, are planning for a solution in the future to design an affordable water and wastewater system that resolves the current issues associated with the aging utility system. This will be done with the anticipation of bringing economic revitalization to the Stanardsville area. These projects will ensure adequate fire protection for the Stanardsville service area and eliminate possible sanitary sewer overflows that may potentially lead to environmental concerns.

Southeast RCAP State Updates



Delaware: Southeast RCAP was invited by the Delaware American Water Resource Association (AWRA) chapter to tour the Schiff Partnership Farm, one of the largest and environmentally friendly agricultural operations in Kent County, DE. This informative tour offered a demonstration of how water and manure are recycled and reused within the Schiff Partnership Farm, which is home to more than 2,000 cattle. The Schiff Partnership Farm is funded through the USDA and NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The farm's indoor feedlot (barn) is designed with a slatted floor and a reception pit, allowing for flush and transfer of manure. Once flushed, the manure is processed, separating solids, dewatering, and storing for later use. The liquids are distributed to large storage tanks, further clarified, and can be reused as an irrigation spray or for flush water.



Florida: The City of Bunnell has undergone a great deal of transition within the Utilities Department and City Management in the last several years. Throughout this process a number of serious issues have been discovered. Southeast RCAP provides staff/board training, water rate study, operating assistance, and emergency planning for the city of Bunnell. Southeast RCAP recently conducted water and wastewater rate reviews for Bunnell. Unfortunately, the results were not positive. As a result, Southeast RCAP is providing professional development training for the City's staff. Joan Douglas, TAP for Southeast RCAP, conducted an introductory training workshop for half of the Bunnell staff, while other half of the staff received a DVD of the presentation and workbook. The workshop addressed several topics, including customer service, human resources policies, workplace violence and safety/emergency response. The workshop produced positive feedback and results, and now detailed workshops on sexual harassment and workplace violence/safety are being planned.

Blackman Community Water System is establishing a water system in Okaloosa County. Rick Crews, Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Provider, conducted a site visit to explain the process involved with training individuals as Licensed Water Operators. Jeanette Cook, Water Board President, was extremely pleased to have Mr. Crews come to their meeting and educate them on how to reach this goal.



Georgia: Across the state, Georgia has renewed its efforts to combine the Georgia Department of Community Affairs satellite offices and the Rural Development Center offices. The overall effort is to reduce costs yet maintain direct hands-on support for the rural units of government. This consolidation of offices will probably enhance the need for Southeast RCAP throughout Georgia.

Sumner, Georgia experienced an eight inch rain over a 24 hour period in March 2009. The backwater resulted in the collapse of its primary well. The backup well has been unable to keep pace with the normal daily consumption, resulting in the rationing of water to the 111 water customers (population 309) of Sumner. Georgia RCAP TAP staff developed a plan to implement the Immediate Threat and Danger (ITAD) funding assistance and has been able to arrange supplemental water in times that the backup well is simply unable to meet the daily demand, until such time as the primary well can be repaired or replaced.



Maryland: U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, D-Md., visited Jonestown, MD to present a \$380,000 check to the Caroline County Commission to pay for a new water system, courtesy of federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Residents have campaigned for this water system for 15 years, during which

time the RCAP TAP assisted in the formation of the Jonestown Community Development Corporation, organizing the community, bringing the need for the project to the attention of the county commissioners and coordinating various funders. Sen. Cardin congratulated the county commissioners, U.S. Representative Frank Kratovil, D-Md.-1st, and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., for their work in securing the funds to build the new water system. This funding does not mark the end of the Jonestown Community Development Corporation's work. A new wastewater treatment facility is needed, as well as a Source Water Protection Plan for the new water system.



*Jack Tarburton, Maryland and Delaware State Director
USDA, Mable Friend, Jonestown Community Honoree, and
Senator Ben Cardin*

Southeast RCAP State Updates



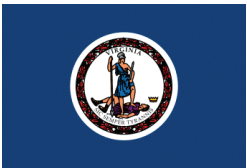
North Carolina: For the first time NCRCAP was an exhibitor at the North Carolina American Water Works Association Annual (NC AWWA) Conference. Although NCRCAP has attended the NC AWWA Conference for many years, this was the first time NCRCAP staffed an exhibit booth. A variety of promotional information was distributed, and the booth also displayed samples of successful grants written by NCRCAP. "It was important for us that engineers know who writes grants in the rural communities they work in," says Peter Kittany, Executive Director of NCRCAP. "Once a municipality is awarded the grant the engineer typically never knows who prepared the application. By showing engineers our successful grant applications, it lets them know we are not their competition, but in fact, able to be a positive liaison between their firm and the community." At the exhibit, NCRCAP Executive Director Peter Kittany and Marshall Yandle explained the variety of services offered to rural and low income communities in North Carolina. In addition to the many engineers, NCRCAP spoke to a variety of individuals in state and local government. Yandle said, "Not only did engineers from private firms approach us about our services, we also spoke to municipal public works staff and state government officials from several agencies."



South Carolina: USDA Rural Development has obligated over \$48 million in grants and \$28 million in loans in ARRA funds to over 14 rural communities in South Carolina. Some of these are current or past Southeast RCAP projects, including Talatha Rural Community Water Company, Goucher Rural Water Company and Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority. These funds will be used to repair, replace or upgrade water and wastewater systems.

The State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), managed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), has selected 11 Drinking Water Projects and 9 Clean Water Projects for funding using ARRA funds.

Many of these are current, past or future Southeast RCAP projects, including Ellore, Harleyville, and West Pelzer. Pipes, valves and tanks will be replaced with larger ones. ARRA funds will also be used to run new water lines from the Lake Marion Regional Water plant near Santee to the Towns of Holly Hill and St. George. These new lines will provide exceptionally clean water and will replace old town wells.



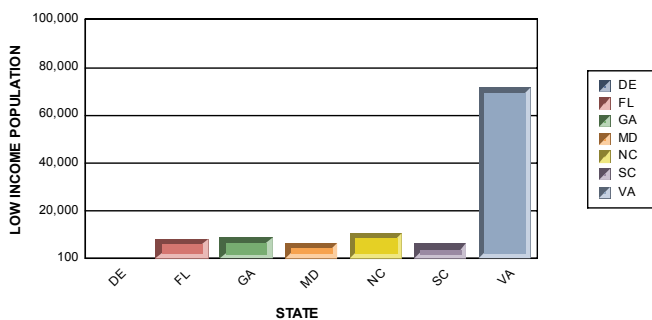
Virginia: Ripplemeade is a small community in Giles County, Virginia. Three years ago the county purchased a private water system and began upgrading the system by connecting the public supply

to the old water lines. A preliminary engineering report determined that new lines were needed, and the county began installing 15,000 feet of water lines to serve 140 customers. Most of the community is retired from the local Celanese plant, but there are some low income families that the county has requested \$30,000 in financial assistance from Southeast RCAP toward laterals to connect the houses with the new upgraded lines. Southeast RCAP Technical Assistance Provider Doug Phillips is working on this project. Phillips and several staff members are currently taking surveys to determine who can qualify for up to \$2,500 toward the laterals.

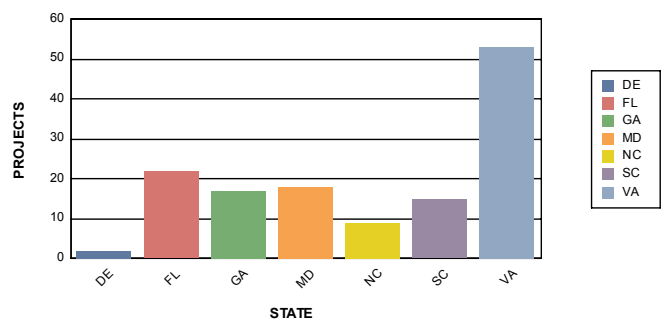


Work begins on upgrading water lines and extending laterals to homes in Ripplemeade, Virginia.

LOW INCOME POPULATION BY STATE



PROJECTS BY STATE



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