

RCAP Project Highlights

**Where:**

Milton Water District, Milton, NH

Problem:

Deteriorated water tank due to deferred maintenance. Lack of back-up well.

Solution:

RCAP Solutions, Inc., staff helped the water district secure funding for a new storage tank, which was dedicated in May 2007. Currently, the district is assisting in replacement of a highly vulnerable well located adjacent to a major roadway, as well as providing board training and ongoing management consultation.



Milton Water District's new storage tank



Milton – Repairing the Damage of Deferred Maintenance

For many years, the Milton Water District enjoyed the “best drinking water in the state.” This statement was made by a water commissioner who was proud of that quality. Unfortunately, as the saying goes, “Pride comes before the fall.” Over time, there seemed no need to make things better, or to plan for the future, because things were already as good as they could be!

RCAP Solutions participated in initial planning discussions with regulators and funders regarding how to pay for a new well, and to generate local support for the borrowing that would be necessary to complete the project and come into compliance with state and federal mandates, without which the community faced financial penalties.

While the well project was being planned, the water storage tank began to leak, and an inspection showed multiple areas where new leaks would soon develop. The district commission, recognizing the financial burden that would result from additional borrowing to replace the tank, asked RCAP for assistance in obtaining grant funds for a new tank. It was determined that Milton would seek a Community Development Block Grant and a U.S. EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG). RCAP completed an income survey, at no cost to the district, and worked with EPA Region 1 to facilitate the STAG process, following its award by Senator Gregg.

Through these efforts, and with the support of district voters, the core business and residential area of Milton has a new concrete storage tank and will soon have a new, safe drinking water source.

RCAP Solutions works with communities to address a broad range of needs, including community infrastructure, and to promote public, environmental, and economic health.

RCAP Solutions is a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. RCAP is a national network of regional nonprofit organizations that provide comprehensive, on-site technical assistance and training to help small, rural communities address their drinking water, wastewater, and other community development needs.

For more information

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Additional Projects

Franconia Water Department

RCAP is helping Franconia develop a strategy and funding to rehabilitate the village's water distribution lines and storage, which is a vital part of the Master Plan for Franconia's future.

Orford Village District

RCAP played a central role in the replacement of a badly outmoded drinking water system, including assisting in district formation, strategic planning, hiring an engineer, developing funding, water rate consulting, liaison, and public information. We continue to meet with and guide the commission as management issues with the new system arise.

Carroll Water Works

RCAP is assisting the town of Carroll to plan and develop a new drinking water billing system for the Twin Mountain area.

Groveton

RCAP played a role in planning and developing a project to rehabilitate the drinking water and drainage systems in the central part of Groveton (Northumberland). We assisted in the development of an up-to-date operations manual for the wastewater treatment plant. We remain involved in the process of planning to help alleviate the economic distress caused by the collapse of the paper industry in Northern New England.

Highlands Village District, Northfield

RCAP was asked by USDA Rural Development staff to assist the district with preparing a vulnerability assessment, in accordance with RD rules. In the course of this work, we suggested that they apply for funding from the NH Department of Environmental Services to make their facility more secure, by installing fencing and lighting, then facilitated a Source Water Protection Security Grant application.

RCAP also provided training for the board of commissioners in a self-assessment of their management capacity, which lead to additional discussion regarding budgeting and planning for sustainability.