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Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2015 Edition of Watershed to Well! Since 1986, RCAP Solutions has been proud to bring this newsletter to our constituents, providing educational resources on important rural community issues. Our articles are now housed on the RCAP Solutions blog, which can be found by [clicking here](#). As always, we appreciate your feedback on this publication and welcome your input on anything regarding RCAP Solutions and our services.

[Please click here for staff contact information.](#)

A Testimonial From a Partner in Maine...

I want to thank you for all the assistance RCAP Solutions has provided to drinking water and wastewater operators in the state of Maine. Each year our future industry leaders benefit from the wonderful "Asset Management" and "Emergency Preparedness" presentations given by Art Astarita during our Management Candidate School. His practical approach resonates well with this audience. Art and Rebecca Reynolds have also been great in their willingness to travel to less populated areas like Calais, Rockland and Presque Isle, Maine... It is so important that RCAP Solutions takes such high caliber training to the less populated communities in the far reaches of Maine. Such training saves the operators in both the cost of travel and also in the cost of time away from their facilities.

[Read the full testimonial by clicking here](#)

Sustaining Rural Communities



Scott Mueller, Director of Community Resources & Chief Rural Affairs Officer

Perhaps one of the most important activities and investments a community can make is providing safe, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure for its residents. For many rural communities a water or wastewater system can be the single most expensive investment it makes for itself. Along with these also are affordable housing, electricity, safe transportation routes, and telecommunication opportunities. In this day and age many

communities are looking at all of these as basics for community life and economic betterment. Without water and wastewater disposal two of the critical elements necessary for a safe and clean community life needed to prosper are missing and due for some challenges. Can you imagine living in a location where there was no drinking water?

[Click here to read more...](#)



Maegen McCaffrey, Chief Communications Officer

Manzanillo is a small, poor, rural barrio located on the southern coast of Puerto Rico, where the Jacaguas River meets the Caribbean Sea. Manzanillo, like much of Puerto Rico, faces significant challenges with solid waste management and illegal dumping, but for Manzanillo the problem is magnified because the debris is washed into the river and ocean only to be returned to the beach and into the community during the all too common flood events in the area. That continuous cycle of pollution, combined with the limited budgets and personnel, made the goal of cleanup seem almost out of reach. Recognizing the need for a comprehensive solution, RCAP Solutions partnered with the Solid Waste Authority of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources to form a community coalition with the goal of cleaning up Manzanillo.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Regional Ideas for CUPSS R&R Cost Schedule



Arthur Astarita, Maine State Lead

RCAP Solutions' experience has shown that small-sized systems (<3300 connections), have a wide-range of ways to document the need for capital improvements. Typically, the superintendent has a list showing improvements including costs that is used to plan proposed upgrades. This "mental list" is generated and updated when events arise but does not contain a comprehensive look at the entire system and its' financial health. It is not holistic view which is required to assure the system is operated in a long term and responsible manner. Conducting a collaborative infrastructure assessment through an asset management planning process produces a thorough document that can be utilized by the utility* and shared with the town or even regional economic development groups. [Click here to read more...](#)

New RCAP Solutions Training Materials Well Received Across Northeast



Sukhwindar Singh, Director of Education and Training

Just under seventeen months ago, the RCAP Network was fortunate to be funded through the US EPA to develop materials and train small systems on compliance related topics including content that supported Operator Continuing Education credits. After a systematic review of the ABC (Association of Boards of Certification) Drinking Water Treatment Need-to-Know criteria, it became evident that RCAP curricula would focus on Distribution System Water Quality Management for small systems as well as basic math and chemistry for water operators. This goal was set at the National RCAP level for all the regional RCAPs to follow.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Fly In Review & Legislative Update

Ari Neumann, Director of Policy Development and Applied Research, [RCAP](#)

Each year, a contingent of RCAP staff and rural community leaders come to Washington, DC for the RCAP network's annual Legislative Fly-In. The purpose of the fly-in is to educate members of Congress and the administration about the services that RCAP performs for their rural constituents and remind them of the importance of federal rural development programs. Despite a late-season snowfall that forced the closure of most of the federal government, this March we were able to meet with the offices of more than 100 legislators as well as Congressional committees and federal



Legislative UPDATE

agencies.

The event helped build support on the Hill for rural development programs and for technical assistance for those programs. In the weeks following the fly-in, RCAP circulated a letter in the Senate supporting funding for technical assistance for rural water and wastewater systems that was signed by a bipartisan group of 12 Senators. A similar letter in the House of Representatives garnered 42 signatures from across the political spectrum. As Congress contemplates funding bills later this year, this strong show of support across party lines will help to ensure that funding for these programs continues.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Farewell & Thank You to Dr. Robert Morency, Jr.



Bob poses with "Sir Hydrologic", the Mascot of the VT Drinking Water Fair.

After 17 Years of Service, Dr. Robert Morency, Jr., State Lead for New Hampshire & Community Development Specialist is Retiring. Bob joined RCAP Solutions in February, 1998, bringing an emphasis on spearheading community board training and associated consulting around infrastructure project planning, especially those associated with the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and USDA Rural Development funding programs, Source Water Protection and watershed-related issues. Bob is a certified and licensed Geologist, receiving his PhD. in Geology from Boston University. Bob served as a volunteer for numerous associations and we thank him for his contributions and dedication to serving the rural community in northern New England.

Networking in New England



the RCAP Solutions Booth.

RCAP Solutions participated as an exhibitor during the New England Water Works Association's Annual Conference at the Omni Mount Washington Resort in NH.

Pictured from left: James Starbard, Environmental Water and Wastewater Technician; Emil Coviello, Drinking Water Specialist; and Mia McDonald, Drinking Water Specialist at

RCAP Solutions Staff Receive National Awards



Three members of our Community Resources Team were recognized for their dedication to rural communities and longstanding contributions to the organization.

Sukhwinder Singh, Director of Education and Training was inducted into the RCAP National Hall of Fame, Josefa Torres-Olivo, District Director for Puerto Rico was the recipient of The Bill French Bridge-builder Award, and Art Astarita, State Lead for Maine, received The Outstanding Service Award. [Click here to read more..](#)

Case Study - Nitrate Contamination Causes Identification and Abatement



James P. Starbard, M.S., REHS/RS, Program Resource Specialist

RCAP Solutions was contacted by the Property Manager of a U.S. Housing and Urban Development owned property which houses elderly and disabled individuals. The Property Manager had just received a "Do Not Drink Order" from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health due to high nitrate levels and was seeking assistance from RCAP Solutions.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Case Study - Glendale Water Association, Glendale, RI



Mia McDonald, Technical Assistance Provider, RCAP Solutions

The Glendale Water Association is a small, private water supplier that consists of one well, one pump and thirty residential service connections in a small neighborhood in Glendale, a village of Burrillville, Rhode Island. The homes and water system were originally constructed in the 1950s by the U.S. Army as housing for the military families. It is now managed by the Association, whose members are composed of resident volunteers. A recent

change in board membership left the remaining and new members to inherit a failing well pump, broken backup generator and a current rate structure that cannot support the needs of the system.

A crash course in sampling protocol got the system the attention of the Rhode Island Department of Public Health, who directed RCAP Solutions to assist the system.

[Click here to read more...](#)

RCAP Solutions mission is to foster personal and public self-reliance and improve the quality of life for individuals, families and the communities in which they live.

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