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Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2016 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.](#)

Testimonial from a Community in NY...



"I am writing to express the Village of Granville's appreciation and strong support for Mark Johnson of RCAP Solutions Inc. Mr. Johnson has been instrumental in developing the operations and maintenance plan for the Village's new Water Treatment Plant, completed in 2012.

Mr. Johnson is consistently organized and prepared, and he has utilized his experience to aid the Village with numerous recommendations in maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as to make the plant safer and more efficient."

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

Community Resources Program Update



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

Over this past year, the focus on drinking water and health has been more important than ever before. Close attention needs to be made on quantity, quality, and maintenance of water and the system is critical to a communities overall health and ability to serve its residents and businesses. The lead issue in Flint Michigan has also brought national awareness to this issue with many states now testing their school systems for lead. As well regulatory agencies are now more critically looking at compliance and trying to work more closely with communities to insure such.

One key activity to look at is knowing where your system components are such as valves, pumps, distribution and collection lines, laterals and the list goes on. By knowing where they are assessments can be made on their condition, lifespan, and the ability to plan for replacement or upgrade and prior to it being

needed to be made so it is a proactive activity rather than a reactive one focusing on having the financial means available to make the replacement. Geographical Information Systems [GIS] combined with Asset Management planning is now becoming a very good way to guide this process. Here institutional knowledge of the system characteristics and physical components can be maintained providing information to operators and decision makers insuring proper operation of the system in a holistic manner.

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RCAP Solutions Opens Office in Portland, Maine



Celebrating the open house and ribbon cutting for the new Maine field office in Portland. From left: President & CEO Karen A. Koller, Portland Mayor Ethan Strimling, RCAP Maine State Lead Art Astarita, Board Member Sharyn Rice, Maine State Representative Diane Russell and RCAP Community Development Specialist for Maine Rebecca Reynolds.

RCAP Solutions recently hosted a grand opening to celebrate the newest field office for the Community Resources Division, which promotes public, environmental and economic health by providing consulting, planning, financing, regulatory and compliance oversight, management and operational support for a wide range of community development and infrastructure projects.

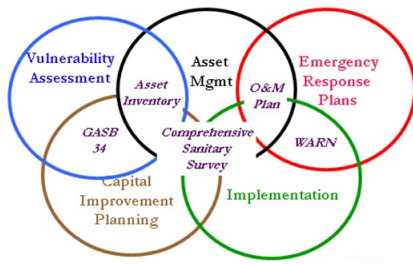
"Historically, we have always had field staff members located in all of the states we represent," stated Karen A. Koller, President & CEO for RCAP Solutions. "The nature of our work requires our Community Development Specialists to travel to the communities they serve and as a result, the majority of our field staff has worked out of home offices. Our regional expansion plan focuses on branding each of our states to promote our services. Our goal is to bring recognition and visibility to the organization, allowing our staff to deliver new and expanded programs throughout the states and in the communities we serve."

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

Operation and Maintenance Plans: A Blue Print of Your System

Thomas W. Essig, Jr., RCAP Solutions Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Lead

A system's Operation and Maintenance Plan (OMP) is a formal document that describes how a water system is to be safely operated on a daily basis. It details how to provide system service while adhering to permit requirements and



The interrelationships of an Operations and Maintenance Plan with other important planning activities of a water system.

unable to operate the system for whatever reason. It provides direction so that all employees are aware of their individual roles and responsibilities for operating the system. Because all water systems, even those of similar design, are run differently - the template should be customized to each system's size, source water, treatment techniques and distribution system needs. It should convey a complete and concise understanding of the water system's operations.

safeguarding public health. This plan contains a comprehensive description of water sources, treatment processes, storage tank data and distribution system information. It must be prepared in a way that provides accurate depictions of daily routine operational and maintenance procedures. It should include examples of record keeping and emergency response procedures.

The OMP should be prepared completed in a way that it clearly explains to another operator how to run the water system and keep it in compliance with all laws, rules and regulations. This document ensures adequate safe drinking water to the community if current system personnel were

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RCAP National Legislative Update



Legislative
UPDATE

Ted Stiger, Director of Policy, [RCAP](#)

Congress needs to pass a stopgap spending before this current fiscal year ends on September 30. Congress continues to debate a measure that would fund government programs at current levels (fiscal year 2016) until December 9. Senate leaders hope to pass their version of the bill this week to avoid a government shutdown and keep federal agencies funded into FY 2017, which starts on October 1. The House is likely to follow the Senate and adopt the same measure.

Congressional leaders have not reached a deal yet on emergency Zika virus funding and language restricting funds for Planned Parenthood from the Zika package, which has caused delays in getting the funding measure passed.

Congress will still have to return in a lame-duck session after the elections to complete the full FY 2017 appropriations process.

On September 15, the Senate passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA)-S. 2848. The legislation identifies \$4.5 billion of water-related infrastructure projects and authorizes \$4.9 billion for drinking and clean water infrastructure over five years.

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

Advocating for Rural Communities

RCAP Solutions Staff participates in the Rural Community Assistance Partnership's Annual Fly In in Washington DC. On left: Scott Mueller, Chief Community Services Officer & Director Rural Assistance with US Senator Patrick Leahy of VT and Mark Johnson, Vermont State Lead.

On right: Kathy Rodgers, New Hampshire State Lead with US Senator Jeanne Shaheen of NH.



RCAP Solutions Receives Award from Department of Agriculture



Committed to the future of rural communities.

RCAP Solutions has been awarded \$244,831 from the Department of Agriculture's RCDI grant program.

This grant will allow RCAP Solutions the opportunity to undertake 33 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping or technical assistance projects to 14 recipients and 20 beneficiaries in rural and low income communities in Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico

that work to develop the capacity of the recipients through the provision of training, technical assistance and the development and outreach resource materials.

The primary focus of the projects is to increase the capacity of small, rural water and wastewater systems by providing high level GIS services and technical assistance and training.

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RCAP Solutions Staff Receive National Awards



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

Candace Balmer, Community Development Specialist, New York, was the recipient of the The Bill French Bridge-builder Award, and Scott Mueller, Chief Community Services Officer & Director Rural Assistance, received the Outstanding Mentor Award.

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

Ever wonder how clean your well water really is?

RCAP Solutions is seeking homeowners interested in learning more about the quality of their water and the condition of their well.

Unlike public drinking water systems, private wells do not have experts regularly checking the water's source and its quality before



Andrew Bing, Drinking Water Specialist for New York and New Jersey assesses a private well.

it is sent to the tap. Households that use private wells must take special precautions to ensure the safety of their drinking water.

The Individual Well Program (IWP), also known as EPA Priority Area 4 is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a national scale to develop and utilize a new assessment tool and host educational workshops on how to identify potential well issues, including contamination threats. This hands-on tool will be available to sanitarians, environmental health specialists and other stakeholders around the country. IWP will provide sanitarians and other stakeholders with the essential tools they need to assist well owners not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), to protect and improve the water quality of wells in their communities. [Click here to read more...](#)

Eliminating Illegal Dumping in Puerto Rico



Edwin Vázquez-Asencio, Sustainable Materials Management Specialist, RCAP Solutions, Puerto Rico

Collores is one of the most named barrios in Juana Díaz PR. It was the birth place of poet Luis Llorens Torres, one of the most important journalists of the first decades in the 20th century in PR. As a lawyer, playwright, politician and poet, he was responsible for the immortalization of the beauty of the rural areas of Collores in his writings. But in recent decades some of the beauty of

"El Valle de Collores" was lost as a result of poor management of the solid waste.

Due to the collaborative strategy and the efforts between the "Solid Waste Taskforce" members and the communities, we can appreciate a positive change. The Natural Resources Department contacted RCAP to refer a situation with the establishment of an illegal dumping site in the Agustínillo Sector at the road 512 km 4.2. The place near the river is been used for the accumulation of solid waste for future pickup by the municipality. Using the information in the RCAP solid waste brochure published in the community newspaper, some residents called the DRNA Vigilant Corp. to complain about the problem. The lieutenant in charge, looking for a more proactive way to deal with the situation, oriented the residents in the sector and some interviews were made by RCAP TAP.

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

Brave Pennsylvania Water and Sewer Case Study

Sukhwinder Singh, Director of Education and Training

The village of Brave is a tiny hamlet on the banks of Dunkard Creek in southwestern Pennsylvania.

About 100 years ago, Peoples Natural Gas Company of Pittsburgh decided this community was suitable for the largest gas compressor station in the world. The compressor remained in



operation from 1906 to 1959. Two dams were created by People's Natural Gas and other amenities were added including public water, public sewer, telephone service, an elementary school and an ice plant. Today Brave is considered a census-designated place in Wayne Township, Greene County Pennsylvania. It lies in Pennsylvania's southwestern corner near the West Virginia Border. As of 2010, the population was 201 with about 80 household connections.

Brave Compressor Station 1940s

The Brave Wastewater Treatment Plant provides service to the village of Brave in Wayne Township, Pennsylvania with a service area of approximately two miles. The biggest concern of the Authority is the condition of the treatment plant and collection 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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