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Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2018 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.](#)



Training - Thinking *Inside* the Box



RCAP Solutions recently completed a second annual Workshop In A Box (WIB) super tour in several states across the north east. These Sustainable Utility Management Workshops, funded by the EPA and USDA, are incredibly important in providing rural and small systems with utility management and future planning solutions. Attendees not only get an overview of ten key management areas and great takeaways, but they are also forced to get up, move around the room and share ideas and best practices with other communities.

Below is an example of feedback from a recent WIB in Killingly, CT:

"I would like to thank you for the workshop; I found it very useful. Interesting that large or small, water utilities share many of the same issues. It is interesting to hear directly how some of these systems have addressed (those) various issues."

Partnerships Forged After Hurricane María to Bring Clean Water to Rural Communities



San Diego is a small community located in the hills of Coamo, Puerto Rico. They have been providing water to community members for a long time, but not under the official status of a public water system. Because of this, the water quality has not been regulated for many years. The PR Department of Health, in coordination with the EPA, referred them to RCAP Solutions to help them to develop an official and reliable system.

The community, with a small donation from the municipal government, drilled a well despite the topography challenges of the area. Their economic restrictions and a lack of technical assistance at the time of construction caused them to place the well between a ditch and a pluvial discharging area. When RCAP Solutions evaluated the situation, RCAP taught the community about the elevated risk of losing the well in its current location and the immediate negative effects that they might face if a heavy rain event occurs.

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

Operator Training and Community Engagement Workshop, Potluck Style



When you think of your typical water operator training for seasoned or prospective operators, you likely would envision a room set up classroom style at a utility, community space or hotel, filled with men and women in work boots, all on call, coffee in hand, trying to sit as close to the back of the room as possible, there to get the required continuing education hours needed to maintain their operation license. The word potluck would not even come to mind, but if done right, that promise of shared food, can bring together seasoned operators to assist a community concerned about their distribution system and water quality. This concept was successfully piloted at the Pepperidge Woods water system in Barrington, NH in November 2017, entitled: Distribution System & Community Engagement Workshop.

[Click here to read more.](#)

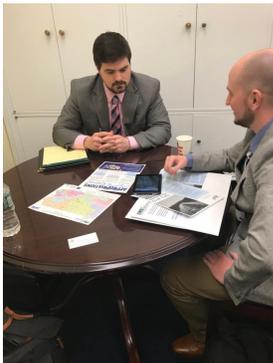
When is a Bridge an Asset for a Water Utility?



When is a bridge an asset to be considered in your water system's financial planning? One small system, the Leino Park Water District, located in Westminister, Massachusetts, is an example of just that. The residents and water board knew they had to do something to replace this crumbling structure that was integral to servicing their community. Its value was always clear to the sixty-five households for whom it was the only right of way, but unfortunately it was not a priority for local or state highway funding. One would not normally categorize this as a water system asset, but out of desperation, ingenuity was born.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Advocating for Rural Communities



RCAP Solutions Staff participated in the Rural Community Assistance Partnership's Annual Fly In in Washington DC in February.

On left: Congressman Marino's office taking the time to discuss the issues facing rural communities in PA with Seth Loht, GIS Specialist. On right: Arthur Astarita, Maine State Lead and Sarah Buck, Community Resources Deputy Director visit with Senator Susan Collins to discuss the issues facing rural Maine.

A Vermont Village Looks Ahead



It's late in the evening, and the monthly meeting of the Prudential Committee has been over for hours. Lisa Bowden, treasurer and clerk of the Barnet Fire District #2, is tired and frustrated. She should have been home hours ago, but an issue with the chlorine pump at the well pumphouse is keeping her awake. Lisa is used to sending out bills, balancing the District's too-thin checkbook, and chasing customers down for delinquent payments; replacing the diaphragm on a chemical feed pump is not in her proverbial toolkit. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a new pump diaphragm in her actual toolkit, either.

[Click here to read more.](#)

East Branch Water System Upgrade, Town of Hancock, NY



The East Branch water system has been under a Boil Water order from the health department for almost three years. A recently-completed Preliminary Engineering Report suggested that without outside funding assistance, a project to resolve the problem would cost residents upwards of \$900 per year per household. The Town of Hancock is proposing to take over the water system and provide a new well source; ultimately, they also plan to upgrade the aging distribution system. RCAP Solutions completed an income survey to document income eligibility of the service area to compete for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to pay for the improvements; the system was deemed eligible and the application was funded.

[Click here to read more.](#)

Education & Training Initiatives in U.S.V.I.



RCAP Solutions has begun providing a series of wastewater and drinking water operator trainings in the U.S. Virgin Islands, funded by the U.S. EPA. The first wastewater training, completed in June was incredibly well-received and filled up the day it was publicized. According to Carlos Velazquez-Figueroa, Wastewater Specialist in Puerto Rico, *"Training is very important, there are no other resources other than online for operators in USVI. Multiplied by the conditions on the islands after the hurricanes last year, the request for training has been significant and we are providing additional training options as well."*

Feedback from attendees included: *"This course was extremely beneficial as a workforce development tool"* and *"The exchange of ideas among the class participants was extremely thought provoking and instructive."*

Recovery of Hazardous Waste in Patillas, Puerto Rico



With the assistance of a few community volunteers from Barrio Collores, Pontifical Catholic University students, and municipal representatives, RCAP Solutions conducted an electronic (e-waste) and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection event in Juana Diaz. As part of the solid waste program, RCAP has been educating communities about the negative impacts of household hazardous waste on the environment and public health, as well as looking at ways to promote participation in recycling activities. While many

materials can be recycled and taken out of the waste stream, residents don't know which items or how and where to recycle them.

[Click here to read more.](#)

RCAP Solutions Staff Receives National Award



Congratulations Josefa Torres-Olivio, District Director for Puerto Rico and USVI, winner of the RCAP National Hall of Fame Award! So very well deserved for all the work she and her team do each and every day helping communities in Puerto Rico and USVI.

[Read more about Josefa here.](#)

Pictured from left, Nathan Ohle, RCAP Executive Director, Josefa Torres-Olivio, and Karen A. Koller, President and CEO of RCAP Solutions at the RCAP National Awards Reception.

Welcome New Team Members!



Cassedy



Cohrs



Day



Gullick



Rios
Martinez



Rees



Velazquez-
Figueroa

RCAP Solutions welcomes seven new members to the Community Resources Team!

Matt Cassidy, Drinking Water Specialist, CT; Michael Cohrs, Water Specialist, NJ; Jenna Day,

Community Development Specialist, New England; Richard Gullick, PHD, Water Compliance Specialist, MA; Wanda Rios Martinez, Water Compliance Specialist, PA; Catherine Rees, Water Specialist, NY; and Carlos Velazquez-Figueroa, Wastewater Specialist, PR & U.S.V.I.

[Click here to view their full bios.](#)



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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