

An artistic illustration of two water towers on a hill. The towers are made of reddish-brown metal with white conical roofs. They are supported by a complex lattice of black metal beams. The foreground is filled with dense green bushes with yellow flowers. The background is a bright blue sky with white clouds.

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc.

2018 Annual Report

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Cover Art adapted from Painting entitled, *Water Towers*,
by Kim Martin. Used with permission.

Did You Know...

\$20.9 Billion

Is Needed for Wastewater Infrastructure Maintenance/Upgrades in SERCAP's Service Region Over the Next 20 Years.

\$41.6 Billion

Is Needed for Water Infrastructure Maintenance/Upgrades in SERCAP's Service Region Over the Next 20 Years?

83%

of Water/Wastewater Systems Identify as Small Systems!

6 Billion

Gallons

of Treated Drinking Water is Lost Every Day!

11 Jobs Created for

Every **\$1 Invested** in Water/Wastewater Infrastructure!

SERCAP's Financials

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants	\$4,370,379.00
Other Income	\$832,824.00
Total Revenue	\$5,203,203.00

EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$1,476,623.00
Fringe Benefits	\$553,645.00
Contractual	\$873,255.00
Travel	\$375,080.00
Space Costs	\$113,682.00
Consumable Supplies	\$99,229.00
Rental, Lease or Purchase of Equipment	\$90,711.00
Other Direct Costs	\$120,677.00
Facilities Development	\$489,740.00
Allocated Indirect Costs	\$731,528.00
Total Expenditures	\$4,924,170.00
Change in Net Assets	\$279,033.00
Net Assets-beginning	\$4,265,894.00
Net Assets-ending	\$4,544,927.00

Two SERCAP Stories: Delaware

Sustainability and Resiliency Training in Partnership with the Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland!

On July 23, 2018, SERCAP's Delaware staff collaborated with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland, to present training in Dover, DE, aimed at resiliency and sustainability for small utilities. SERCAP presented the Workshop In a Box, "Sustainability for Small Systems," while the EFC made a brief presentation on Resiliency Imperatives and Methods, then conducted the "Game of Floods" interactive training board game.

The game assigns a role to each player and a planning scenario, then the players must choose 9 of 24 assets in the fictional town of Resilience Harbor, that must be protected from a specified sea level rise. As the players found, the hard part is protecting those assets within the budget given. The point of the game is to recognize the dangers of sea level rise, and to appreciate the positions of each stakeholder and the compromises that are usually necessary. When asked, each of the attendees commented that "Game of Floods" had been a positive learning experience, and in some cases an eye opener.

An Update on the Fight to Bring Quality Water to the Community of Ellendale in Sussex County, DE!

After many years of work, two failed referendums, and hundreds of hours put in by community volunteers and SERCAP staff, it turns out that the third time is the charm for this small rural community in Delaware. Approximately 10 months after the last failed referendum in November of 2017, the Community of Ellendale got its third opportunity to secure a safe drinking water solution for the community. Residents in the outer areas of the community have had undrinkable water from shallow residential wells for many years, and a water sampling in June 2017 found that several wells contained bacteria and high nitrate levels while almost all had high iron content, proving the need for a safer water source for this community.

The third referendum was held on Saturday, September 15, 2018, and this time, the referendum finally passed, with a vote of 81 for and 21 against. Since the referendum passed, Sussex County will now contract with the Artesian Water Company to provide public water to the district's residents, and the Community of Ellendale will finally have clean, safe drinking water.

Ellendale is just one of many communities facing similar struggles. SERCAP's Technical Assistance, general support, and advocacy allows communities like Ellendale to access a clean, safe drinking water solution after years of struggle. Without the support and advocacy of SERCAP communities like Ellendale fall through the cracks, and can be forgotten.



SERCAP Assists Independence Village in Charlotte Hall, MD!

Independence Village, a small community of 24 households, has been operating its own water system since the 1970's. The Homeowners Association (HOA) contracts with a licensed water operator to check wells and run required water tests, but most repairs are typically handled by one or two volunteers who are familiar with the system. As the system ages, there have been more frequent repairs and, with only one well and pump, the HOA Board began to worry that a breakdown could mean no water at all. When they contacted Charles County to request it take over the system as a county district, they were told that the system had to first be brought up to county standards, the estimate for which was just shy of \$2 Million. With only 24 customers, raising the required funding was prohibitive, and the HOA contacted SERCAP for assistance.

It appeared that the HOA's options were to 1) accept the county estimate and seek funding to accomplish the required repairs; 2) continue patching the system and hope for the best; 3) abandon the system entirely, and seek funding for individual well installation; or 4) have their own estimate and system assessment done and then evaluate the options from there. It was SERCAP's recommendation that they seek an independent system evaluation and feasibility study before making any final decisions, and work was begun on a USDA SEARCH grant application by SERCAP's Delaware-Maryland office. Before that could be submitted, SERCAP was alerted to the existence of the Community Engineering Corps (CEC), a group of AWWA member volunteers who provide free engineering services to under-resourced communities. On January 22, 2018, SERCAP submitted an application to the CEC for engineering services to evaluate the water system. SERCAP received word in mid-February that the application had been approved, and work would begin shortly.

A SERCAP Story: Maryland

155,000

*Approximate #
of Public Drinking
Water Systems
in United States!*

\$3 Million+

*SERCAP's Average Annual Investment into Water,
Wastewater, Housing, and Community Development Projects!*

1 Million+

*Approximate # of
People Served by
SERCAP Each Year!*

SERCAP By the Numbers

70,169

*# of Occupied
Households in
SERCAP's Service
Region with
Incomplete Indoor
Plumbing!*

1969

*Year SERCAP
was Founded!*

50 YEARS

**of Providing Training, Technical, and Financial Assistance for
Water, Wastewater, Housing, and Community Development
Projects to Rural Communities and Low-Income Individuals!**

13.2 Million

*Approximate # of
Households in US
on Private Wells
and Septic Systems!*

52,873

*# of Community
Water Systems
in United States!*

400+

*Approximate # of College
Student Volunteers that
Participate in SERCAP's
VFC Alternative Break
Program Each Year!*

7 *# of States in
SERCAP's Service Region!*

\$80.16 Billion+

*Total \$ Investment Needed in SERCAP's Service Region for Drinking Water
and Wastewater Infrastructure Needs over the next 25 Years!*

216

*Total # of SERCAP's
Active Technical
Assistance Projects
in 2018!*

A SERCAP Story: Virginia

SERCAP Staff Provide Insight to Equitable Economies Panel Discussion at VA Tech's Advancing the Human Condition Symposium!

On Wednesday, November 28, 2018, SERCAP's Virginia State Manager participated in the Equitable Economies Panel Discussion, as an invited Panelist, at the 2nd Annual Advancing the Human Condition Symposium at Virginia Tech. The Equitable Economies Panel focused primarily on Water/Wastewater Infrastructure both in the United States and abroad, covering specific topics, including: contamination, aging and failing infrastructure, accessibility issues, disaster recovery of infrastructure systems, and the link between access to water/wastewater facilities and poverty. Following the formal presentations of the Panelists, the floor was opened-up for questions and further discussion on the aging infrastructure in the United States, and the potential solutions and innovations that may improve both the water/wastewater infrastructure, and overall access to clean, safe drinking water and environmentally sound wastewater systems throughout the United States. SERCAP's Planning Manager was also present at the event and participated in the open discussion.

In the long-term, the positive impact of SERCAP's participation in VA Tech's Advancing the Human Condition Symposium, and other similar public events, is the increased knowledge and awareness of Academia and the general public on challenges surrounding water/wastewater infrastructure and access to water in this country. While there might not be a direct impact, or immediate improvement to the Quality of Life, Environmental Health, and/or Economic Self-sufficiency of the individuals in attendance, information and advocacy can produce a ripple effect that can impact long-term change. If SERCAP's presence at public events inspires attendees to write to their Delegates, Congressmen, and/or other Public Officials regarding the current state of water/wastewater infrastructure in the United States, and/or to make financial contributions to SERCAP or other nonprofit organizations, then SERCAP, and the country at-large, can take steps towards improving access to clean, safe drinking water and environmentally sound wastewater disposal solutions for all Americans.



SERCAP President & CEO, Hope Cupit, Delivers Keynote Address at Founder's Day Celebration in Kingstown, NC!

Incorporated in 1989, Kingstown is a small, rural town in Cleveland County, NC. SERCAP has been working with Kingstown since 2013 on a variety of water, wastewater, and community development projects, including assistance in securing a grant, and the development of relationships with neighboring communities in order to strengthen planned community improvements.

Kingstown's Founder's Day is an annual event which celebrates the community and its people. 2018 marked the 29th year of the Town's independence, and included a very special guest. SERCAP's own Hope Cupit, President & CEO, was invited to deliver the Keynote Address at the event. Cupit delivered a powerful speech with a message focusing on the assistance SERCAP provides to small rural towns and communities, and concern regarding the challenges faced by rural communities, especially in regards to losing the younger population. Cupit spoke about SERCAP's ongoing support of rural communities, their residents, and the importance of good intentions. She emphasized SERCAP's commitment to serving people, and truly working together in order to overcome challenges and change lives for the better. She closed with a statement on how Kingstown came to be and how its the product of a dream come true.

Following her compelling Keynote Address, Cupit was presented with the *Key to the City*, by Councilwoman Janet Gerald.



A SERCAP Story: North Carolina

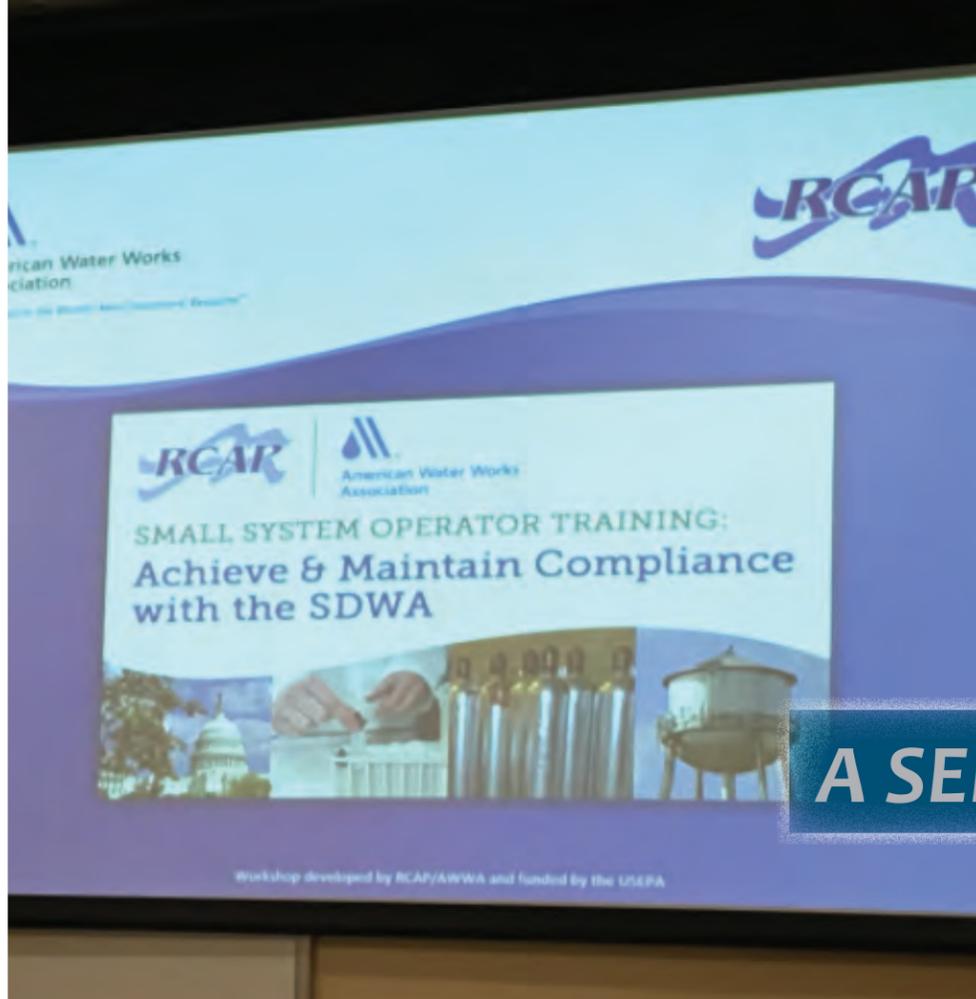
A SERCAP Story: South Carolina

SERCAP Assists Town of Ridge Spring in Saluda County, SC!

SERCAP's Regional Program has been working with the Town of Ridge Spring in Saluda County, South Carolina, to provide technical assistance to both the local water and wastewater systems. Initially, SERCAP was asked to work with the Town to perform a study of the Town's Financial Stability and Sustainability. However, a major dilemma for the Town is the significant increase in demand for water during harvest season in order to support seasonal workers brought in to harvest local crops. Ridge Spring is a small rural town in western South Carolina, with a strong agricultural base. A wide variety of crops are produced locally, including: peaches, cotton, corn, soybeans, and blueberries; and the Town's population almost doubles during harvest season.

SERCAP has been working with the Town to both, increase revenues through the procurement and installation of Automatic Read Water Meters (AMRs) funded by USDA-RD; and assist with identifying alternative water procurement options. The Town does own a well that is permitted by the State environmental Agency, but currently purchases water from adjacent suppliers. SERCAP is currently participating in technical reviews of existing and proposed contracts to address long-term sustainability for the town.

Additionally, once the meter installation is complete, SERCAP will continue to work with the Town to secure a seasonal water supply, and increase sewer sustainability, so the Town will be able to handle the increased water and wastewater management demands during harvest season. These are complex issues which will need to be addressed technically, administratively, and socially; and SERCAP will be coordinating these efforts closely, with local and state agencies and organizations.



SERCAP Partner, Georgia RCAP, Delivers NPA Workshops

In Georgia, SERCAP partners with Georgia RCAP to provide Technical Assistance services to communities and small water/wastewater systems. Recently, two Georgia RCAP Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs), collaborated with the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), to conduct a small systems operator workshop with a focus on Safe Drinking Water Act Compliance.

The Workshop was hosted by the Henry County Water Authority Tussahaw Treatment Plant, and included a plant tour. Topics presented during the Workshop, included:

- SDWA Regulatory Review
- Microbial Contaminants
- Distribution System Maintenance
- Disinfection Byproduct Formation and Control
- Hands-on lab exercise to collect samples and evaluate for chlorine residual

The focus of the Workshop was to produce long-term outcomes, including:

- Attending Water Systems would be able to achieve and maintain compliance with drinking water regulations and avoid costly violations.
- Participants would be able to apply a multiple barrier approach for prevention of microbial contamination of water.
- Participants would be able to disinfect water appropriately and inactivate microbial contaminants.
- Attending Water Systems would be able to manage distribution system infrastructure and disinfectant residuals to prevent microbial contamination.
- Participants would be able to collect microbiological and chloride residual samples without contaminating the samples.
- Attending Water Systems would be able to optimize treatment plant and distribution system operations to minimize DBP formation.
- Attending Water Systems would be able to evaluate the most appropriate in-plant or distribution system treatment alternative that helps minimize DBP formation.

A SERCAP Story: Georgia

A SERCAP Story: Florida

SERCAP Assists Rosedale Water Association, Inc. in Chattahoochee County, FL!

Currently, SERCAP's Regional Program is providing Technical Assistance to Rosedale Water Association, Inc. in Chattahoochee County, FL, to address a number of non-compliance violations, which have not been addressed over the years. Rosedale Water Association, Inc. receives water from the City of Chattahoochee, FL. The water travels to Rosedale's booster plant where it is re-chlorinated before being pumped to the 150 connections on Rosedale's system.

One of SERCAP's Technical Assistance Providers (TAPs) in Florida, has stepped in to help the system regain compliance. SERCAP's field staff attended litigation meetings with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to better explain Rosedale's situation and request more time be given to address the noted deficiencies with the aid of SERCAP, before FDEP levied fines against the system.

After the passing of the previous President of Rosedale Water Association, Inc., a new President was assigned who was eager to correct all deficiencies within the System. SERCAP's TAP and Rosedale's new President met with FDEP on numerous occasions to show corrections that had been made, and the updates that were currently being made. SERCAP and Rosedale worked on sampling procedures, and mandatory reports required by FDEP. SERCAP's field staff is continuing to compile the yearly Consumer Confidence Reports for the water association, while keeping all mandatory documents updated. The system is currently in compliance and has been able to obtain some funding to start updating their water distribution system.





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