

Targeting Disadvantaged Systems to Develop Capacity and Compliance

August 11th, 2020

The RCAP Network will present an overview of their role working with small, disadvantaged communities (DACs) across the country, describe policy priorities RCAP is working on to support DACs and the importance of capacity development programs in these efforts, & share a compliance case studies of on the ground challenges and solutions in Vermont. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality & Communities Unlimited will present a case study on Presidio County, and the unique collaboration to assist some isolated public water systems find operators, mentors & funding to address compliance issues including arsenic in far West Texas.

Sarah Buck is a member of senior leadership, oversees the training, technical assistance & programs team. Sarah has been involved in the water resources management & community development industry for the last nine years, seven of which have been within the RCAP Network. She has been involved in the administration of federal & state funding programs & numerous smaller public & private grant programs for over 6 years. Sarah graduated magna cum laude with a BA in International Studies from Middlebury College with a concentration in Spanish/Hispanic Literature & Culture & a double minor in Russian & Political Science. She is a certified facilitator & environmental educator in both Project WET & Project Learning Tree. She has a professional membership with the Solid Waste Association of North America.

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Ted Stiger joined RCAP in 2016 & is responsible for the organization's national policy, legislative, & regulatory efforts as well as assists with the overall management of the organization as a member of the senior leadership team. Stiger has also managed & secured multi-million dollar technical assistance & training programs while at RCAP. Currently, he oversees RCAP's new Economic Development & Events Departments He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Albion College & hails from rural northeast Michigan.

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Mark Johnson is a technical assistance provider & the Vermont State Lead for RCAP Solutions, the northeast affiliate of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. Mark has a background in civil & environmental engineering & is currently working directly with Vermont communities on critical water & wastewater issues alongside partners at USDA Rural Development & at the Department of Environmental Conservation. Mark also manages RCAP Solutions' private well program & serves on several interagency water & wastewater committees, including the Water Operator Certification Committee. Mark has been certified as a backflow assembly tester, cross-connection control program specialist, & as a water operator in Maine, California, & Vermont.

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Dorothy Young is on the Response & Capacity Development Team in the Water Supply Division at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Dorothy's background includes drinking water enforcement, assisting systems with drought & helping develop regional drinking water projects.

Dorothy works with "at-risk" water systems & receiverships. She is member of the Texas Water Infrastructure Coordination Committee (TWICC) which helps water & wastewater water systems find funding & other assistance. Dorothy has a B.S. in Horticulture & M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

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Mark Pearson serves as West Texas Coordinator for Communities Unlimited, the Southern RCAP. Since 2004 Mark has assisted rural communities with water & wastewater infrastructure funding & compliance. Mark also participates in the Texas Water Infrastructure Coordinating Committee (TWICC) & previously worked several years for the Texas Water Development Board, served as Finance & Operations Director for a local non-profit in Waco, & lectured Economics courses. Mark has B.S. University Scholars/Liberal Arts & M.S. Economics from Baylor University.

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Kathryn Lucero has been with Communities Unlimited, since December 2017. Prior to that she was the El Paso County Ombudsperson for the Texas Secretary of State's Colonia Initiatives program, which assisted Texans living in colonias. Kathryn has worked serving rural areas for over 14 years & has worked with communities that previously had no access to drinking water obtain safe drinking water in colonia households. Kathryn has a B.A. in Social Psychology from Park University & a M.A. human resource development from Webster University.

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