To: scheduling[scheduling@epa.gov]
From: SERCAP
Sent: Fri 3/17/2017 1:20:54 PM
Subject: Waterways News Blast - The Focus February Spotlight on SERCAP

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
Waterways News Blast
March 17, 2017

Mission Statement: *To improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and wastewater facilities, community development, environmental health and economic self-sufficiency.*

Much Needed Hope - The Focus February Spotlight

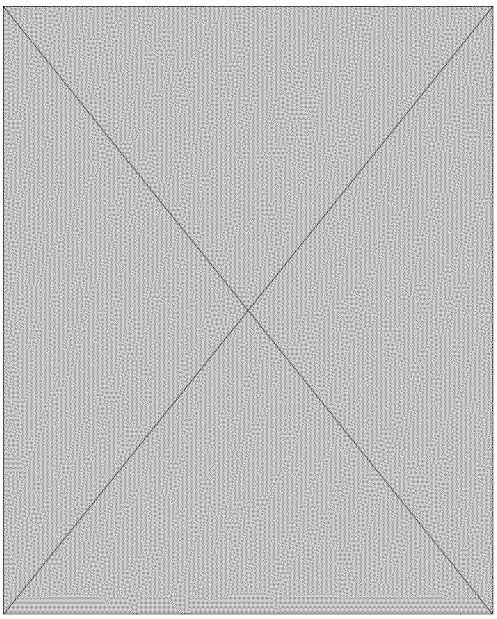
Hope Cupit, SERCAP President & CEO, was recently interviewed by Erica Kane with The Focus. Ms. Kane's February Spotlight article about SERCAP is below.

By: Erica Kane, The Focus

SERCAP in Action!

The VFC Alternative Break Program is counting down until the weeks of service begin. If you are a current volunteer in the program, please use the hashtag #VFC2017 for pictures posted and we will share them on Facebook!#VFCIsExcited #LetTheCountdownBegin

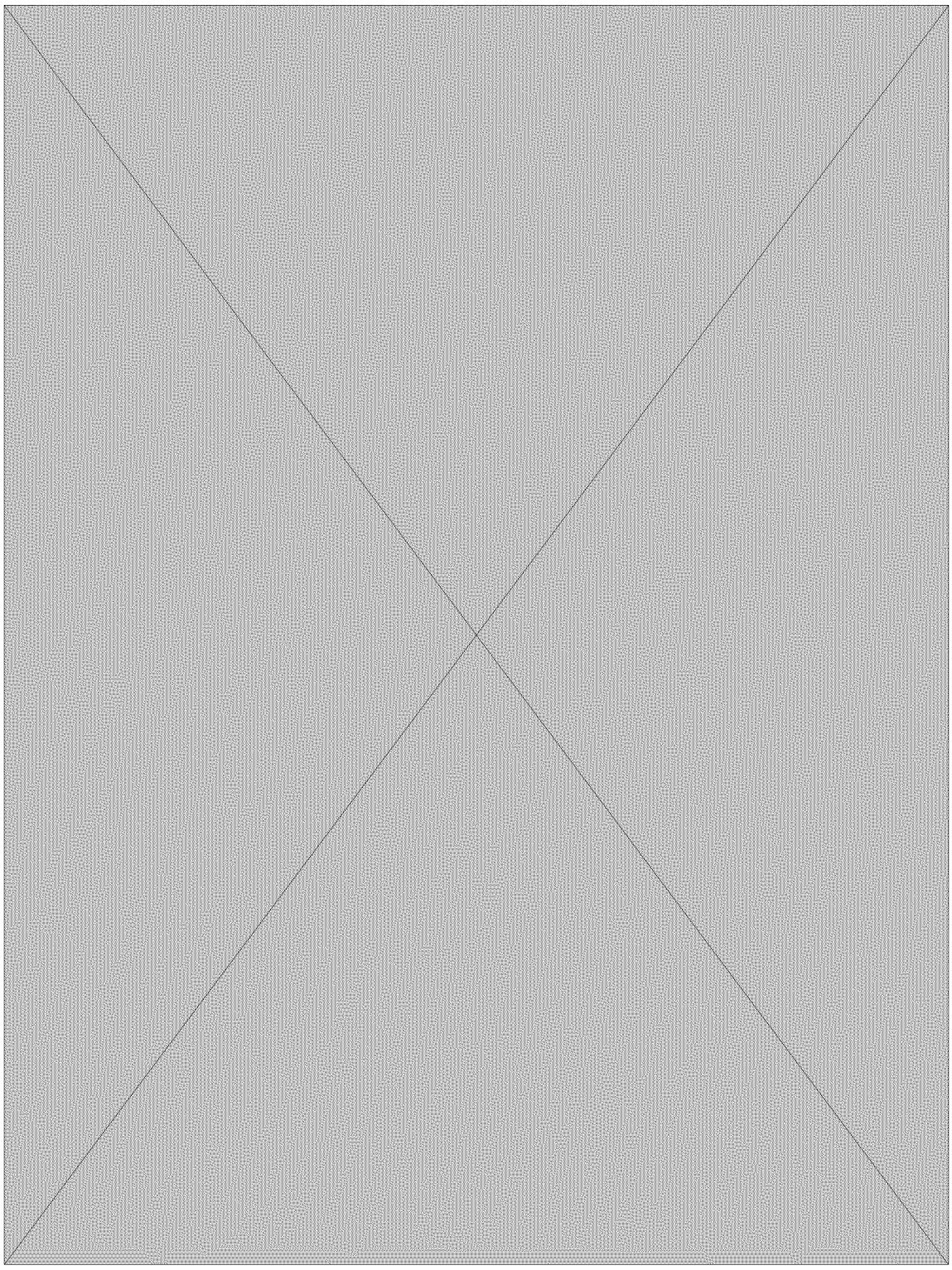
347 Campbell Avenue S.W. | Roanoke VA, 24016



I recently had the pleasure of speaking with Hope Cupit, President and CEO of Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project (SERCAP). SERCAP serves a seven-state region, including Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. This organization's mission is to improve the quality of life for low-income individuals by promoting affordable water and waste water facilities, community development, environmental health, and economic self-sufficiency.

I was impressed with all the wonderful programs and services that SERCAP has to offer, including a wide range of loans and grants for various water issues. It amazed me that the loans have interest rates that range from 1 to 4%, which is typically unheard of. If you have issues with or need a new well you can get a loan with an interest rate of only 1%. If you have septic issues you can get a loan up to $9,000 with a 2 to 4% interest rate. If you need home improvements that have to do with upgrading the bathroom or kitchen you can get a loan up to $15,000 with an interest rate of only 2 to 4%. They also have grants for pipes that burst, a new water heater or anything that deals with water, but these grants are only available in Virginia. When Hope explained all of this to me I definitely felt like I had to spread the word about what SERCAP has to offer. Being a homeowner myself I know that there are many issues that you have to face when it comes to home ownership. That's why I wanted to hear more about SERCAP so I could share the knowledge of what exactly the this organization does.

I truly appreciate Hope Cupit for taking the time to educate me about SERCAP and all the amazing things that they do for people with water and waste water issues. Hope is truly a superior leader and a great asset for SERCAP.



National Groundwater Awareness Week was March 5 - 11, 2017

Life as we know it would be impossible without groundwater. It is the world's most

Don't take groundwater for granted. Pay forward by letting others know how important groundwater is and ask them to pass it along.

Click here to access information about National Groundwater Awareness Week!

48th Annual Water is Life! Conference & Luncheon Registration is Now Live Online!

Date: April 19, 2017. Conference Workshops 8:00 AM - 11:50 AM & Luncheon at Noon!

Click Here to Register!

Weekly Update - SERCAP's Regional Department Assists Town of Glasgow in Rockbridge County, Virginia

Currently, SERCAP's Regional Department is assisting the Town of Glasgow in Rockbridge County, Virginia through its Technical Assistance Program to renovate its aging wastewater treatment plant, an essential part of the Town's infrastructure. The Town's wastewater collection lines are deteriorating and allowing water from other sources, such as storm water runoff, leaking waterlines, streams, etc., to enter the collection system, increasing the flow into the plant and forcing the plant to treat the increased volume of water. Treating the increased flow (referred to in the industry as Inflow and Infiltration or I & I), significantly increases the cost of treatment and plant operations, costs which are subsequently passed along to the Utility's customers in the form of increased rates, further stressing an already economically stressed customer base.

The Town of Glasgow has been working with CHA Consulting, Inc., an engineering firm from Blacksburg, Virginia, to procure a USDA Rural Development Loan/Grant Package to cover the majority of the costs for this necessary wastewater project. However, USDA Rural Development funds cannot be used to replace the customer laterals which connect the main collection system to the individual households. SERCAP is partnering with CHA Consulting, Inc. and the Town to develop a funding plan to cover the costs associated with the project that cannot be covered by the USDA Rural Development Funding Package, and provide any needed application assistance. SERCAP anticipates awarding the Town a Facilities Development Grant to fund at least a portion, if not all, the customer lateral installations.

Without SERCAP's technical and financial assistance, as well as other similar programs, many low-income individuals, families, and communities would be forced to go without such necessities as water, that which makes life on Earth possible, and wastewater systems. It is important to remember that even in the United States in the 21st Century; there are those who do not have reliable access to clean, safe drinking water and environmentally sound septic facilities. In order to help SERCAP continue to provide assistance to both the individuals and communities in need, please consider making a donation to SERCAP's Water Is Life! Fund by clicking here.

**Funding for SERCAP's Regional Department is made possible by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of Community Services' (OCS) Grant, USDA RD's Technitrain Program, the Drinking Water Compliance Grant through the EPA, and the EPA Private Well Grant. Funding for SERCAP's Facilities Development Grant Program is made possible by the Budget Appropriation from the Virginia General Assembly, which is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD). Additionally, all of SERCAP's programs in Virginia, are leveraged by the same Budget Appropriation from the Virginia General Assembly.*

Key Fundraising, P. O. Box 1015, Lynchburg, VA 24505

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