

The Private Well Program to Protect Public Health

RCAP Solutions

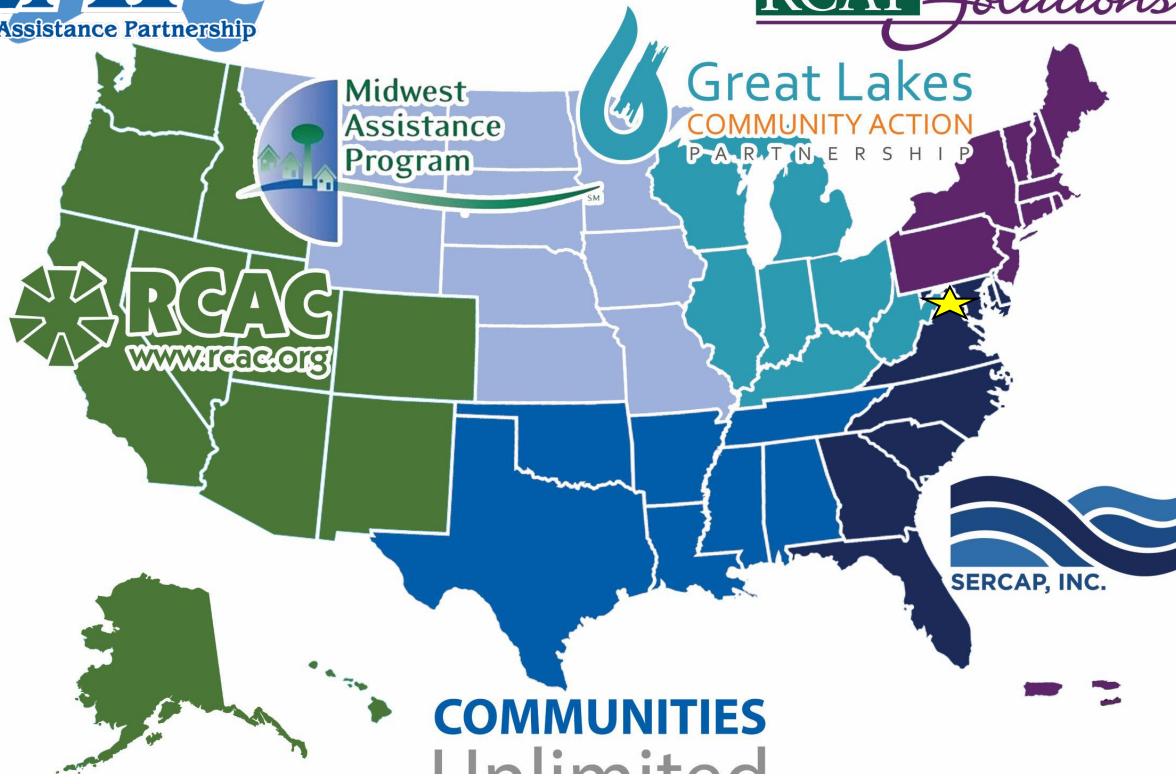
Brian Scales-Interim President & CEO

Jim Starbard-Massachusetts State Lead

RCAP

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

RCAP Solutions



RCAP National Office
1701 K St. NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20006
www.rcap.org

Western RCAP
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
www.rcac.org

Midwestern RCAP
Midwest Assistance Program
www.map-inc.org

Southern RCAP
Communities Unlimited
www.communitiesu.org

Great Lakes RCAP
Great Lakes Community Action Partnership
www.glcap.org

Southeastern RCAP
Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
www.sercap.org

Northeastern RCAP
RCAP Solutions
www.rcapsolutions.org

“Improving Rural Quality of Life”

The Private Well Program to Protect Public Health

- 5-year grant
- Goals
 - Educate Private Well owners on wells & testing
 - BOH local regulation implementation/update
 - Technical Assistance & Sampling for well owners
 - Ultimate Goal-Statewide Minimum Private Well Standards

#WhatsInYourWellWater



**Are you a homeowner
with a private well?**

**Ensure your drinking
water is safe.**



HUBBARDSTON



BOXBOROUGH

The North Central Massachusetts Private Well
Program is coming to Hubbardston and Boxborough!

Visit: www.rcapsolutions.org/ma-private-wells



Leadership Team



Advisory Team



MONTACHUSETT
PUBLIC HEALTH
NETWORK



2020 Field Work

- Samples Taken: 21
- Samples Flagged by lab: 12 (57%)
- Samples not Flagged by lab: 9 (43%)

Including: E Coli, TC+, Arsenic & Lead

Pilot Year-2021

- 6 of the target communities to focus on
 - Berlin, Bolton, Boxborough, Hubbardston, Princeton & Sterling
 - 2 Towns at a time
- Based on:
 - Interest from 2020
 - Community primarily uses PW's
 - 3 from each Health District

North Central Massachusetts Private Well Program

Sampling Results

Combined

240 Tests back from Lab

Primary Standards (Health Based)

43 Have levels of contaminants exceeding MassDEP public drinking water health-based limit -18%

197 Have no levels of contaminants exceeding MassDEP public drinking water health-based limit -82%

Primary Standards exceeded:

- Arsenic-24
- Radon-12
- Manganese (above .3)-6
- Uranium-5
- E Coli-2

Secondary Standards

123 Have levels of contaminants exceeding Primary and/or Secondary Standards-51%

117 Have no levels of contaminants exceeding Primary and/or Secondary Standards 49%

Secondary Standards Exceeded:

- PH-45
- Total Coliform Bacteria-34
- Manganese-24
- Chloride-11
- Iron-8
- Color-3
- Odor-2
- Copper-1
- Flouride-1

Public Water Systems

VS

Private Wells

- 2021 Comparison
 - 18% exceedance rate for Health Based Standards in Private Well Sampling
 - With TC+ exceedance is 27%
 - MASS DEP reported an average of 4.5% exceedance of Health Based Standards in Community PWS's

Private Well Legislation

- Private Well Legislation filed late 2021 ([SD.2667](#) / [HD.4693](#))
- Gives MASS DEP Authority to write a state-wide private well code
- Enforcement by MASS DEP & Local BOH

Financial Assistance

- Loans/grants could assist low-income homeowners
 - E.g., Mass Housing Septic System Repair Loan program, USDA Rural Development
- Additional funding, resources, and training may be needed for MASS DEP and local BOHs

2022-Implementation Year

- Lobbying & Advocating for bills to be passed
- Sampling in 6 towns state-wide, 40 samples per community (TBD towns)
- Expansion of Leadership & Advisory Teams

More Information & Questions

- www.rcapsolutions.org/ma-private-wells/
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 - (978)-502-0227

Want to Support Legislation

“An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All”

www.whatsinyourwellwater.org



Thank YOU

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