



The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

No endorsement of AgEcon Search or its fundraising activities by the author(s) of the following work or their employer(s) is intended or implied.



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

Why Every American Should Care About the Future of Rural Water

Challenges and Opportunities

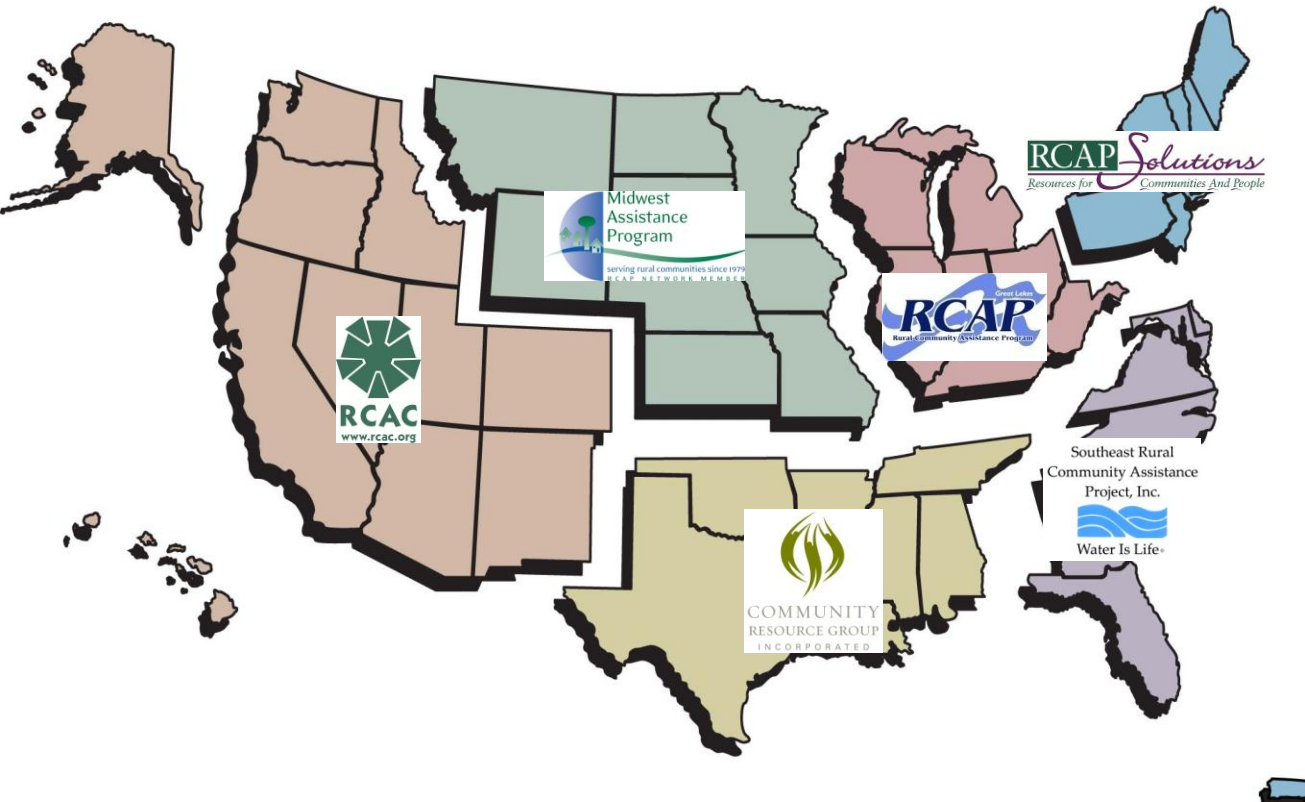
**Agricultural Outlook Forum 2012
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

February 24, 2012

**ROBERT STEWART
RCAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Improving the quality of life in rural communities



Rural Community Assistance Partnership
1701 K Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20006
(202) 408-1273 www.rcap.org

Western RCAP

Rural Community Assistance Corporation
(916) 447-2854
www.rcac.org

Midwest RCAP

Midwest Assistance Program
(952) 758-4334
www.map-inc.org

Southern RCAP

Community Resource Group
(479) 443-2700
www.crg.org

Northeast RCAP

RCAP Solutions
(800) 488-1969
www.rcapsolutions.org

Great Lakes RCAP

WSOS Community Action Commission
(800) 775-9767
www.glrca.org

Southeast RCAP

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
(866) 928-3731
www.southeastrcap.org

Rural Water Challenges



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

- Water utility - largest rural community investment
- Water utilities support public health, economic & community development
- Small utilities facing ever increasing compliance requirements
- Capital improvements & economies of scale
- Aging workforce
- Developing local capacity
- Increasing demands on watersheds
- Regionalization, consolidation & collaboration

Gaps in Rural Infrastructure Development



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

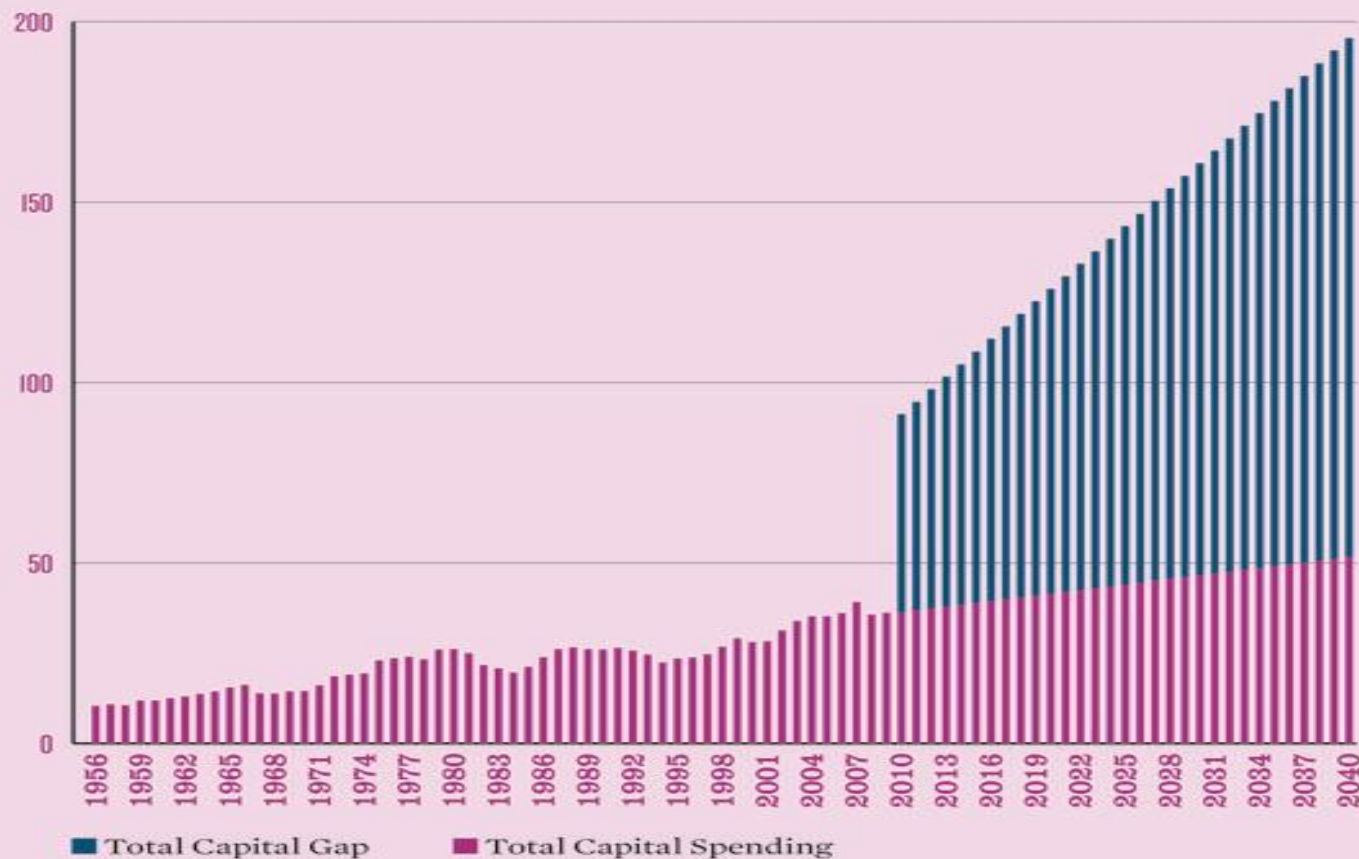
- Over \$300 Billion in “Current” Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Need; Over \$1 Trillion over next 30 years
- Small Community Requirements
 - Water: \$59 Billion for 24 million population; 9% of population but 19% of need
 - Wastewater: \$22.7 Billion with 817 new treatment facilities needed
- New AWWA study places needs for water infrastructure at over \$1 trillion over next 25 years

ASCE Report



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

FIGURE 4 ★ Overall Capital Investment Gap for U.S. Water Infrastructure, 1956–2040 (billions of 2010 dollars)



SOURCES Needs calculated from EPA (1997a, 1997b, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010). Spending calculated from CBO (2010) and USCB (2011a, 2011b). Consumer price index adjustment from BLS (2011). Projections by Downstream Strategies and EDR Group.

■ U.S. Conference of Mayors Study

- W & WW infrastructure has greater returns than other types of public infrastructure
- One dollar invested leads to GDP increase of \$6.35 in the long term
- For each dollar spent operating and maintaining water/wastewater infrastructure, economic output for all industries increases an average of \$2.62

Investment Opportunities



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

- Each job added in the sector creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy to support that job
- Every \$1 Billion spent on upgrading or maintaining sector infrastructure creates an estimated 42,000 – 57,000 jobs
- Every construction dollar generates nearly \$15 of private investment and adds \$14 to the local property tax base

Why Rural Water is Important



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

- Improved community health
- Foundation for all economic activity
- Watershed protection & sustainability
- Save and/or create employment
- Spur private sector investment
- Enlarge property tax base
- Attract other government funding
- Improved economic development climate
- Avoid increased future costs

Future Opportunities



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

- Watershed focus
- Water supports agriculture, resource extraction/use, tourism and emerging economic sectors
- Capital investments = Jobs
- Sustainable, effective utilities
- Private investments in infrastructure
- Cost-effective & comprehensive services

Contact Information



"Improving the quality of life in rural communities"

Robert Stewart
Executive Director
202-408-1273
rstewart@rcap.org

www.rcap.org