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THE Chesapeake

Maryland Rural Water Association

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WATER!
HOW PRECIOUS IT IS!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Town of SUDLERSVILLE

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**21st Annual
Technical
Conference
RECAP**

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BY CHRIS MCAFEE



Let's travel together to the top of the Eastern Shore to Queen Anne's County, a nice drive down route 313 to the town of Sudlersville, Maryland. The first thing you will see is a great big beautiful 500,000 gallon elevated water tower with "SUDLERSVILLE" and "Quality on Tap" stenciled on it. Looking up and down Main Street and route 313 you will see new fire hydrants as well as new meter pits. You will see a major improvement to a very small water system.

The old system supplied six residents, the schools, the library, and the senior center. The rest of the town had individual wells. Now there

are approximately 200 connections. The transformation has been a fairly quick and smooth one. There has been a lot of hard work and extra care put into this system. Planning was a very important part of this project and the town was looking to the future needs of its residents as it was developed.

They hired RETTEW Associates, an engineering and surveying firm headquartered out of Lancaster PA, to design and build this project. Joe Scott, the resident project representative, was kind enough to let me pester him over the past couple of months as the project moved through its various phases of transformation so I could document it all for this article.

First let's start with the water source. There are two wells that supply the town with water, they are about 200 feet deep and are capable of pumping 300 GPM

"THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE DRIVING DOWN TO THE SHORE AND ARE PASSING THROUGH SUDLERSVILLE, STOP AND GET A DRINK OF GOOD WATER!"

(gallons per minute) each. In certain spots, the Maryland eastern and western shore aquifers, unfortunately, can contain arsenic over the maximum contaminant level of 10 PPB (parts per billion). To remedy this, the new water plant is designed around an arsenic removal filter system made by Hungerford and Terry, Clayton, NJ. The principle of the treatment is to coprecipitate the arsenic with iron and filter the resulting floc. There is very little iron in the raw water so the system is designed to feed small amounts of ferric chloride and chlorine to make this process work efficiently.

The plant is small but the design was such that an operator can move around with ease and can work on things if need be without a

struggle. Under normal conditions this plant will operate automatically, however, it may be operated manually if required. This is a well-designed and efficient plant and should be relatively easy to operate and maintain.

The second part of this project is the distribution system. The mains are comprised of 8 to 12 inch C-900 pipe. The service connections are 3/4 " to 2" plastic. The fire hydrants selected by the town were Mueller Aqua Grip. I loved this part because I have had to read water meters before: they chose a radio read Mueller/Hersey metering package. The town went the extra mile in making sure they installed plenty of valves in the event of a water main break. They also made sure to loop the system thus insuring

chlorine residuals will be evenly maintained.

The third part of the improvement, as I mentioned before, is a one half million gallon elevated tank. There were a lot of driving forces to make this project work, one of them being Commissioner E.T. Kimble. He was in the thick of it every step of the way. He was very hands-on with the project, constantly inspecting and really making sure the contractors were doing a good job. I can't forget to thank Nicole Hilliard the clerk/treasurer for Sudlersville. She is always busy dealing with everything that goes on in this town. The next time you are driving down to the shore and are passing through Sudlersville, stop and get a drink of good water! ☺

