



Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Club
Rotary District 5960
**El Corozo (Nicaragua) –
Water Project
UPDATE**
October 2022



GENERAL:

- Although Hurricane Julia hit Nicaragua on October 9th, the work on the water project progressed well throughout the month. The hurricane hit the east coast of Nicaragua and was a Class 2 hurricane. Since El Corozo is more on the western side of the country, it was spared from the worst of the hurricane. El Corozo did see high winds, heavy rain, and flooding (especially of their crops), but no significant damage.
- Other than the hurricane, the weather was somewhat agreeable throughout October and much progress was made on the project. The pump house construction was completed, and electrical connections to the pump house also done. Work on the retaining tanks has now started.

GRANT:

- Payments were made to McGregor for completion of the drilling, along with the pre-payment for pump installation. Payments were also made to Engineers Without Borders (EWB) for work completed to date, as well as for payment to Julio for construction of the pump house and the pre-payment for the retaining tanks.
- The estimated cost of the retaining tanks was reduced, mostly by increasing the amount of labor being provided by members of the community. The overall budget is on track with the grant, and currently with < \$1,000 additional costs estimated.

PARTNERS:

- Since the drilling has been completed, McGregor's work is temporarily done. McGregor will not be involved in the project until they are ready to install the pump (estimated 1st week of November). Planting Change Foundation (PCF) / CENICA continues to work closely with the community CAPS group and perform overall project management. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) role has been expanded. In addition to their role and technical and design consultant for all phases of the project, they have directly contracted Julio Munoz, who is the engineer/contractor for next elements of the project including the pump house, retaining tanks, and distribution system. Rotary will pay EWB for all of Julio's work, and Julio is then sub-contracted directly to EWB. Energia Verde has also now entered the picture as the electrical contractor for setting up all of the power and controls for powering the system.
- PCF/CENICA is continuing to work with national government agencies to achieve tax exempt status for the El Corozo CAPS group. The team is still waiting on the National Government to finalize.
- Weekly meetings have been continuing with McGregor, PCF/CENICA, EWB, Managua Tiscapa (Jorge) and me. These meetings have been very productive to assure group communication and to resolve technical differences in a timely and productive manner. Very good input and participation from all partners.

PROJECT:

- **Pumping Test / Water Quality Test:** The water quality test results were completed and all testing data showed the acceptability of the water for the community
- **Pump House:** The pump house construction was completed on October 19th (see photos at end of summary)
- **Electrical wiring to pump house:** Energia Verde completed the wiring into the pump house and installation of the control panel on October 24th (see photos at end of summary)
- **Installation of the final pump:** The pre-payment for installation of the pump has been made to McGregor and they are now waiting on associated work to be done to start on the installation. Because of the rains, the condition of the road is in very bad shape and even though it may be dry, access to the community with the crane to install the pump may be an issue. McGregor is analyzing this and may need to reach out to Masatepe leadership to make some necessary road improvements to assure access.

- The specifications and quotes for the retaining tanks are all complete and the pre-payment for the retaining tanks has been made to Julio. The clearing of the land for the concrete base for the retaining tanks started on October 26th and the two 22,000 liter tanks were also delivered on that day (see photos at end of summary). Based on the agreeability of the weather, the concrete will be poured the week of October 31st. There will be a time lag to establish a partial cure for the concrete, then the empty retaining tanks will be placed. Once the tanks are placed, all of the piping from the pump to the retaining tanks can be completed. Once the concrete cure is finished, the tanks can then be filled.
- Once the retaining tanks are complete, then water will be available to the community. The project then moves to Phase 5 where the piping from the retaining tanks all homes and installing meters at each home will be completed.

COMMUNITY:

- CAPS continues to work very hard with PCF/CENICA to get the final approval and certification for tax exempt status for the water project. The final approval is at the Nicaraguan version of the IRS (national agency) and this is ongoing.
- Land purchase and land title transfer. Still awaiting final title transfer for the land.
- The CAPS group is working closely with Julio to understand, plan, and manage community labor provided for construction of the pump house and preparations for the concrete slab for the retaining tanks. The level of ownership, authority, and involvement from the CAPS group and the community has been extremely good and very encouraging. This ownership and authority is the level of community responsibility that is a goal of the project, and will assure the long-term sustainability of the water system.



Construction of pump house – in the rain



Completed pump house



Completed wiring and control Panel in pump house



Prepping land for concrete slab for the retaining tanks
Labor provided by the community



Delivery of the retaining tanks