

## Partnership Efforts

Organization: Elks Run Watershed Group

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### **Abstract title:** Walking for the Water

For centuries indigenous people have cared for the water relating to it as a sacred gift central to life. A dozen years ago grandmothers of the Anishinaabe people, witnessing the accelerated degradation of the Great Lakes, began to walk for the water. To date they have walked around each of the Great Lakes, from the four directions (two years ago they carried water from the East, West and Southern Coasts and northern Canada to the Great Lakes), and the length of the Mississippi (1,752 miles). The story I offer in this session is that of the most recent walk from the headwaters of the Mississippi in Northern Minnesota, through Louisiana's "Cancer Alley," to the Gulf of Mexico. It is a story of inclusion, cross-cultural partnership, cultivating local leadership, impacting policy, and deep commitment to the health of our water for generations. Everyone has a story of connecting with water. This session offers an opportunity to explore those stories, thinking outside the box about what partnerships and water monitoring can look like.

Organization: Friends of the Cheat

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### **Abstract title:** Lessons learned from a collaborative approach to watershed restoration

Friends of the Cheat (FOC) is a nonprofit watershed association working to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat watershed in northern West Virginia. While FOC's primary focus has been the implementation of acid mine drainage treatment projects in collaboration with its regional partners, FOC staff and volunteers also work on rails to trails projects, brownfields site revitalization, water trail development, and citizen science and outreach programs. Years of implementing projects and programs with private, academic, and government partners have provided many challenges and learning opportunities. Challenges relating to communication, roles and responsibilities, and strategic planning will be reviewed using two case studies. The first is FOC's recently completed EPA Targeted Watershed Grant representing over \$1.5 million of restoration efforts in Muddy Creek spanning over seven years. The second is FOC's most recent partnership with the 3 Rivers Quest water quality monitoring and reporting program.

Organization: Delaware Nature Society

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**Abstract Title:** Partners for Protection

The White Clay Creek became the first entire watershed (rather than just a section of a river) designated into the National Wild and Scenic River system. Long-term partnerships between the National Park Service, local, regional, and state stakeholders have resulted in highly successful collaborative management and programs. This presentation highlights the role of volunteers and how volunteer monitoring partnerships are developing and growing to monitor chemistry, bacteria, mussels, and macroinvertebrates.