



NPS 1666 Watershed Pilot Program

Final Report

July 1st, 2018 – June 30th, 2019



Coal River Group

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The Coal River Group has now been a part of the WPP program for the past four years and remains a crucial component in the many achievements the group has accomplished. The WPP program has allowed the CRG to establish a project manager and has provided the important next step for the group to grow to become a financially sustainable river restoration entity. This position's duties include coordinating public outreach events, coordinating volunteer events, such as tire clean-ups, managing the 319 Septic Repair Grant, applying for and administering grants that are crucial to the funding and ability of the CRG, as well many other tasks and duties. As have many non-profit groups, the CRG has struggled in the past to create permanence with all the programs it has taken on. The WPP Program provided the missing link in terms of being able to coordinate and legitimize the group's efforts to grow environmental awareness in the 840 square miles of the mostly rural and coal dependent Coal River Watershed.

The past four years the CRG has taken on a multitude of various projects and grants that couldn't be implemented before the WPP program. Seeing that the CRG is a non-profit organization fundraising is key to sustaining the life of the group, undoubtedly the WPP program has enhanced these efforts as the CRG is experiencing the highest success since established in 2004. The group has a great base of reliable volunteers, but with many volunteers there needs to be direction. The WPP program allows the CRG to have someone there to accomplish more projects and manage more of the river issues in the Coal River Watershed. Not only helping with managing different volunteer events, the staff position has helped grow the number of volunteers that have joined the CRG Team. This position has granted the ability to help keep up a clean watershed and get the community involved more than ever.

The CRG has used the full amount of \$22,500.00 and supplied an additional \$2,000 for staff training and travel. The WPP Program position has been filled by the CRG the full Fiscal year of 2019. Project Manager, Justin Hunt, has taken on the responsibilities of this position since August 2017.

Accomplishments

The Project Manager oversees NPS 1583, which is The Brown's Creek/Angel Fork Septic Remediation Project. The goal of this project is to remediate failing septic systems in the Brown's Creek/Angel Fork area to reduce the high counts of fecal coliform that the streams have shown consistently. The CRG also recruits homeowners to use the pump-out program. To date, CRG has replaced 13 failing septic systems and 3 pump-outs are completed. Also, the CRG has composed a list of residents and landowners that need systems either replaced or pumped out in the future. The Project Manager continues to recruit for more Septic Replacement Applicants and promoting the 319 programs in hopes of implementing a phase 2 319 project.

Images of Completed Septic Replacement Projects.



With the help of the WVDEP's, Tomi Bergstrom, the Project Manager planned and coordinated *The Coal River Group 2019 Water Festival*, which took place this year on May 14th. This annual event is hosted by CRG at the CRG headquarters in Meadowood Park. Two different grade schools attended the water festival this year: Anne Bailey Elementary, and Andrews Heights Elementary. The grade levels were students in the 5th grade; all around attendance was about 95 students. The event's purpose is to teach the students the importance of how to sustain a clean watershed. With personnel from American Water, Coal River Group, WVDEP and WV Forestry, the Water Festival was a successful event for CRG and a successful field trip for all schools involved.



The support of many great agencies and groups showing the importance of a clean watershed and the effects it has on biology within the watershed to students from local elementary schools at The Coal River Group 2019 Water Festival.

Due to the participation of the WPP Staff member in fundraising events, Earth Day Events, Tourism Day at the Capital and Career days, the awareness of the programs and achievements of the CRG have been promoted immensely. WPP staff member has traveled to different watershed groups in the state for connections and to be educated on various grants available for the CRG. The WPP staff member has also spoken to multiple organizations such as Lions Clubs and Rotary clubs within the watershed to educate

the communities on the efforts and the goals of the CRG and the importance of the projects that the CRG undertakes each year. Reaching out to these groups and communities has not gone unnoticed with a larger number of volunteers and higher success rates of fundraising events. This effort allows the CRG to become closer to sustaining a permanent position without administration grant funds.

Coal River Groups Project Manager, Justin Hunt, meets with the Friends of the Cheat Executive Director Amanda Pitzer.



Further on the matter of sustaining the CRG Staff member position, the present Project Manager is working with the WVDEP on expanding the 319 Grant program into a Phase 2 project within the Browns Creek and Angel Fork area. This project, Browns Creek and Angel Fork Septic Remediation Project Phase 2, will create a permanent feel in the area and allow CRG to really impact the stream in a positive way by reducing the high amounts of fecal coliform. The Browns Creek and Angel Fork Remediation project will provide administration funding and projects for the next three years.

Routine Activities

- A. The Project Manager conducts monthly water sampling in the Brown Creek/ Angel Fork Area. There are 9 locations that water samples are taken and sent to a lab for fecal coliform counts. This water sampling allows the Project Manager to pinpoint locations to target the Septic Replacement projects for success of the program. The goal is to reduce the fecal coliform counts at each sampling location.
- B. The Project Manager continues to help CRG volunteers in developing new fundraising ideas and opportunities.
- C. The Project Manager is present at monthly board meetings of Coal River Group where he/she informs the board members of upcoming plans, the results of current or past projects, and addresses any questions the board may have.
- D. The Project Manager is constantly searching for grant opportunities that align with Coal River Group's mission of cleaning up The Coal River Watershed.
- E. The Project Manager will reach out to communities and speak on CRG's behalf about the impacts we have in our watershed and educate to help others do the same.

Points of Contact

- Bill Currey, Chairman, Coal River Group Board of Directors, Bike1@suddenlink.net; (304) 419-4417.
- Kris Radford, Coal River Group President, Coal River Group Board of Directors, Texascrzd@yahoo.com; (304) 549-1348.
- Tomi Bergstrom, WVDEP Western Basin Coordinator, Tomi.M.Bergstrom@wv.gov, (304) 926-0499 x 1098
- Timothy Craddock, NPS Program Coordinator, Timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov; (304) 926-0499 x 1040

TRAINING AND TEACHING

Employee transition and training with former specialist Leanne Marincil and Mike and Wanda King, lead MCWA founders and management volunteers, to pass job of Watershed Resource Specialist to Beach Vickers.

Met Tim Craddock and Tomi Bergstrom at the DEP, Charleston, for basic training about the Watershed Pilot Project and Watershed Resource Specialist duties including reporting.

Took daylong class in WET teacher training from Tomi M. Bergstrom, Western Watershed Basin Coordinator & Project WET Coordinator, and used some student learning exercises learned and educational handouts from her with presentations to the public at the Montgomery General Hospital Kid's and Seniors fairs, the State Conservation Camp at Camp Caesar for teens, the Charleston Y regional teens' summer day camp in Montgomery and Camp Drift-A-Bit elementary students field trip to the Morris Creek Watershed.

Got trained on raising trout in the classroom from Trout Unlimited, Charleston division, in several sessions with them, including attending the setup of the annual outdoor recreation fair at the Charleston Coliseum.

Participated in a two-day Small Communities/Big Solutions conference conducted at BridgeValley Community and Technical College in South Charleston (school also has a Montgomery campus MCWA collaborates with). Focus of speakers and panel discussions was economic, tourism and community development efforts. Headed by the presidents of colleges and universities in Southern WV and other entities.

RESEARCH

Began researching history of Levi Morris (European-born settler for whom creek is named) and possible West Virginia Humanities Council grants to produce re-enactment show. Researched grant opportunities, including project mentorship program offered by National Park Service.

LAVENDER PATCH

Coordinated with lavender experts for ordering plants and planting patch. Helped plant with volunteers. Continuing collaboration with lavender consultants on health issues of 1,000 lavender plants MCWA volunteers planted late April and early May, as a soil retention and cash crop demonstration along the creek. They grew and blossomed very well, but later are mostly dying. Trying to see if it's too much rain and if something can be done to revive or replace plants or if they will come back on own, since they are perennials. To be continued.

PARTNERS

UKV Economic Development Corporation

Handled incoming and outgoing mail for the Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation, archived record boxes and participated monthly board meeting as MCWA representative.

Handled incoming and outgoing checks as board treasurer for the economic development corporation and served as de facto building manager the corporation runs during lack of a manager.

Represented MCWA at a meeting with Region 3 and the Mayor of Montgomery, plus another meeting with Terrell Ellis representing the Kanawha County Commission about economic development efforts affecting MCWA and the area.

Guided potential leasees on tours of the economic development office building on Front St. where Morris Creek Watershed Association keeps an office.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Attended swearing in of new Smithers Mayor Anne Cavalier for MCWA and several meetings with Montgomery Mayor Greg Ingram as well as representing MCWA at multiple meetings of both their city councils to promote MCWA interests.

Represented MCWA at some meetings of Montgomery planning board, parks board, Lions Club and Montgomery Arts Group.

Represented MCWA as volunteer, greeting and serving lunch to new students arriving for new semester at BridgeValley College in Montgomery.

Met with Montgomery YMCA Director Larry Villareal to discuss partnering on Scout programs and a potential bicycle, running, kayaking (on the Kanawha) and swimming (at the Y) race.

Arranged and assisted touring watershed with Bernice Deakins, director for BridgeValley College of the Art Space at the GRID, an arts and design educational center at the college in Montgomery, and her husband Jim Deakins, an avid mountain biker and later MCWA board member, to discuss potential partnerships with local painters to paint creek views to create a publicity and fund-raising calendar and regarding developing mountain-biking interest and trails in the watershed. Held a subsequent meeting Jim Deakins with others professionally or personally involved in biking to think about developing mountain biking trails.

WATERSHEDS AND OTHER STATE PARTNERS

Toured Coal River Watershed with Director Bill Curry and Watershed Resource Specialist Justin Hunt to learn about their projects, procedures and fund-raising, and to discuss potential shared efforts.

Coordinated with Tomi Bergstrom for Mike Huff representing the DEP to video a background of visiting university students doing a creek study and to interview board members/volunteers of the watershed to be used in the video about watersheds later shown at the state Watershed Celebration.

Took part with MCWA board members in DEP's state Watershed Celebration and training/networking conference over two days at Adventures on the Gorge resort, Lansing.

Assisted hosting representatives of the Abandoned Mine Lands program on tour of potential sites for watershed remediation grant projects and at another time DNR representatives conducting water shocking to monitor fish population.

Discussed watershed with Gary and Bonnie Brown of the Greenbrier River Watershed and Alice Hypes, head of Midland Trail (Rt. 60) tourism development association in Charleston.

Helped host the West Virginia DEP leadership training tour at the watershed that included representatives from the State Department of Natural Resources and other water-related groups.

Arranged for and accompanied Washington and Lee University (Lexington, VA) undergrad student to interview DEP and other state environmental agency representatives, state legislators and Capitol lobbyists in environmental fields as part of his college student group's capstone thesis report.

EDUCATE WHILE YOU RECREATE

Helped Mike King arrange and host visiting field study groups including but not limited to:

1. Camp Drift-A-Bit of New River Gorge area elementary school
2. Valley High Smithers STEM summer school
3. Lighthouse Academy of Learning, Charleston
4. Recruited and coordinated four visits from the Environmental Studies department at Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA
5. Ithaca College, NY (first weeklong stay-over at creek)
6. Dartmouth College, NH (10th weeklong stay-over at creek)
7. National parks work-study group out of Camp Caesar, Webster County *(more details below)
8. WVU Morgantown soil ecology student and WVU Tech Beckley water monitoring
9. Dr. Deb Beutler, WVU Beckley biology, bought university professors to work on water monitoring with annual visit of South Charleston High School Baccalaureate (advanced placement) students
10. Blennerhassett Trout Unlimited organization
11. University of Charleston environmental professors
12. Leadership from Girl Scouts statewide (and larger) Black Diamond region

Assisted hosting New Haven Elementary School from Mason County stocking trout they had raised in the classroom.

Helped host the national conservation corps college-age campers housed at Camp Caesar in Webster County on a day field trip to Morris Creek to observe DNR fish shocking (to survey MCWA fish population) and to learn about stream monitoring procedures, including invertebrate survey with Glenn Nelson of Save Our Streams.

DISPLAYS

Made and personally presented MCWA displays to the public, operating the display and talking to visitors at:

1. annual public Kids Health and Safety Fair day at Montgomery General Hospital. Operated with a MCWA volunteer's help.
annual public Senior Citizens Health and Wellness Fair day at Montgomery General Hospital.
2. pre-Christmas public art sales days on two Saturdays at the GRID, a community "makers space" for arts, crafts and technologies at BridgeValley Community and Technical College, Montgomery. MCWA volunteer helped man display.
3. annual DEP-sponsored, state-wide, two-day Watershed Celebration at Lansing
4. Montgomery's annual public FallFest street fair day. MCWA volunteers helped set up and take down display.

OFFICE WORK

Handled incoming and outgoing MCWA mail, emails and calls and at times getting notary public imprints when needed.

Cleaned, organized rooms and files at watershed buildings, running office including phone, computer and printer there. Also got new printer installed at the MCWA office in the UKV Economic Development Corp. building in downtown Montgomery.

Worked with MCWA founders/volunteers/leaders Mike and Wanda King on composing grant progress reports including submitting 1964 Lavender Patch AGO report, WPP 1613 yearly goals report and semi-annual 319 Sedimentation Control Project report. Also, with MCWA leadership spent up to approximately 40 hrs. preparing Quality Assurance Project Plan for the sedimentation control project and continued to work with volunteer students and others to plan grass seeds and hundreds of tree seedlings to help restore and brace the recently reconstructed creek flow banks on that project site. Prepared monthly and yearly Watershed Resource Specialist work reports for MCWA and DEP.

Helped engender public lending and donations of bedding supplies, such as sleeping bags, pillows, air mattresses and cots for overnight stays by visiting college field study trips.

Assisted inviting board members to monthly MCWA board meetings, participated in the meetings, including making reports about grants, programs and events and took down and reported minutes whenever the board was without a secretary.

PLANNING AND EVALUATING

Lots of time on own and countless meetings with Mike and Wanda King (and at times other board members) to come up with/discuss/coordinate MCWA ideas, programs, plans, grants and reports to DEP.

PROJECTS AND EVENTS

Took part in oversight Sedimentation Control new stream and K-dams construction and replanting trees and grass in area with volunteers.

Initiated and helped conduct Montgomery Lions Club picnic and watershed tour, including Montgomery Women's Club, representatives of the UKV Y in Montgomery and other members of the local public.

Communicated with and sometimes visited in person local elementary principals and teachers to bring students to MCWA's annual educational Water Festival day, coordinating with Tomi Bergstrom, DEP.

Preparations (including getting canoe moved to river, buying paddle and life jackets, etc.) and then taking part as watershed representative with other volunteers to remove trash along shoreline of river in Montgomery as part of a Kanawha River cleanup day.

Took a leadership role in Make It Shine cleanup day with volunteers along Morris Creek.

A couple of meetings in Charleston with Mike and Wanda King and organizers of summer day camp in Montgomery that MCWA is helping plan and host with Charleston and Montgomery Y's, Cabin Creek Health, Kanawha County Schools et al. in July 2019.

Organized this partnership event: Montgomery and Charleston visual artists recruited by Bernice Deakins of the GRID community arts and design education center at BridgeValley College, Montgomery, met for a picnic lunch and a tour of watershed sights. Artists are going to paint En plein air (that is, outdoor) representations of the watershed to create twelve paintings, one for each month, to produce a calendar the watershed can sell. Unusually high humidity and temperatures kept the painters from spending the afternoon painting, but they toured and took photos to paint from at home. They will be invited back for outdoor painting for the calendar project in the future.

Collaborating with volunteer/leaders Mike and Wanda King to work up 2019 AML Economic Community Development Pilot Program Application re: educational outreach building and program support, including getting letters of support from the Cabin Creek Health Clinic and the Charleston regional YMCA.

Met with Mayor of Montgomery and Downstream Strategies (consultants) about assisting MCWA grant for establishing and supporting a watershed educational building with housing and other features in the old, closed Montgomery swimming pool building on the Kanawha River by the mouth of Morris Creek. However, the city decided to drop out of that grant, and focus on trails in the city, instead, and MCWA continued on own to write a grant request through Abandoned Mine Lands support for educational facilities and outreach programs at another locaton.

Spent some oversight and welcoming to the watershed of utility linespersons classes of BridgeValley College and of installation of new furnaces, lights and insulation in the main watershed building.

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Conducted watershed tours and volunteer recruitment for individuals from the public. Two of them – George John and Jim Deakins eventually joined the MCWA board of directors and another volunteer, Amy Hartline, from the volunteer lavender patch planting also became a board member.

At teachers' request, arranged and helped moved aquarium equipment for Trout in the Classroom program at perennial MCWA Water Festival participating school Pratt Elementary when they decided not to continue the program there this school year and cooperated with Trout Unlimited in Charleston to relocate the tank and program to the Lighthouse School of Learning in Charleston, visited several times for the program.

Arranged and hosted a watershed tour and discussions about potential partnerships with Christie Bailey, head of the state agency West Virginia Mine Heritage Trail.

Met with Mike King of MCWA with Glenn Nelson, who has done multiple stream lessons with visiting students at the watershed this year and in the past, about future reports, goals and plans. Nelson is the state Save Our Streams coordinator.

Represented MCWA at a planning meeting with John Giroir, the then-new Economic Development Director for the joint Strategic Initiative Council of the Cities of Montgomery and Smithers, along with Bernice Deakins, BridgeValley College's GRID Artist-in-Residence.

Contacted and began communications with FOOTMAD, the Friends of Old Time Music and Dance of Charleston about planning a future public square dance party with live music to draw visitors to the watershed, promote its goals and raise funds from donations.

Helped initiate and organize with others a public John Audubon's Birthday celebration at the watershed to draw visitors, promote watershed conservation goals, educate the public and raise donation in combination with: MCWA board members Jeanne Smith, a major benefactor to the event, Dr. Deb Beutler, WVU Tech Beckley, who created a brochure on birding at the watershed for the event and led a walking and also a driving bird-watching tour, Three Rivers Avian Center of Hinton who brought and gave a talk on local rescued birds of prey, Heather Tokas who ran an informative, audience-interactive display of live butterflies and Montgomery and Charleston visual artists who displayed, sold and auctioned off (for watershed benefit) art. Around 75 attendees for the day-long event which was the largest attendance of any MCWA event in the past 12 months. Produced photographs, newspaper stories, Facebook posts and a promotion flier distributed free by the city inside bills to some 600 town households to publicize this event.

Preparations, meetings and eventual served as 24/7 for seven days and nights as counselor, cabin chaperone, watershed basics and stream monitoring instructor and arts in nature instructor at the 78th annual State Conservation Camp for teens at Camp Caesar in Webster County, plus took a watershed volunteer who was selected as a sponsored (paid for) camper. The camp is run by WVU Extension and including participants from the DNR, State Forestry and Parks agencies and others.

PUBLICITY

Cooperated with Fayetteville-based Youth Environmental group to place MCWA volunteer recruitment and invitation to the watershed in their newsletter.

Opened and began to operate a MCWA volunteer recruitment portal on Fayette Connected website.

Created MCWA publicity by photographing and posting MCWA sights and activities online on Facebook and writing stories and including photographs that got front-page coverage in The Montgomery Herald paper and online editions averaging coverage at least once every two months – and placed two stories with photographs carried by the Metro East edition of the Charleston Gazette-Mail.

Publicizing MCWA in programs and onstage announcements at several public theatrical productions presented in Montgomery and the area and at two displays by the non-profit community theater group, The Shakespeare Studio of Montgomery, in the State Capitol during Women's and Girl's Day and Arts Day.

Represented the watershed as a volunteer children's book reader along with Montgomery City Council member Carol Vickers at a City of Smithers public street fair.

Represented the watershed at the grand opening of BridgeValley Montgomery's GRID, two stories of dedicated galleries, workshops, office, and meeting, lessons and marketing spaces for community and student arts, crafts, design and technology.

Represented MCWA along with other watershed representatives at Veterans Day commemoration at BridgeValley College, Montgomery, with participants from several UKV towns.

Represented the watershed at party for opening renovated offices of City National Bank in Montgomery.

SIGNED:



Mike King, Operations Manager

DATED: 7/29/2019



Beach Vickers, Watershed Resource Specialist

DATED: July 25, 2019



PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

**NPS 1665 Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program
Year 4 of 6**

**Final Report
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019**



**Piney Creek Watershed Association
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1. Narrative

The Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) completed the fourth year of the Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program and the benefits continue to be great for the association, the community, and the watershed. Businesses, individuals, and families have increased their donations to the association. We also began receiving limited financial support from the City of Beckley, the Raleigh County Commission, and the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority. With the additional support, we hired an additional part time employee and we applied for and received an AmeriCorps Summer Associate to help with the association's summer programs. PCWA turned the \$22,500 WPP investment into over \$18,000 in donations plus over \$235,000 in grants (1,024% return on investment). Our WPP staff individual coordinated and supervised over 2000 hours of volunteer support to the association.

The WPP is critical in supporting our efforts in implementing our watershed-based plan. We completed two §319 projects, one each at the Paul Cline Memorial Youth Sports Complex and the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center, totaling over \$75,000 in §319 project funds (Sign-a-Bration event highlighted some of the work: <http://bit.ly/2LuoSjB>). We continued work on two other approved §319 projects representing \$94,000 in §319 project funds at Woodrow Wilson High School and near New River Drive in Beckley. We received approval for a new §319 project for Crescent Elementary with \$90,000 in funding and we submitted another §319 project proposal requesting \$97,000 in §319 project funds for the second phase of a project at the Beckley Little League Fields.

PCWA worked on other projects supporting our watershed because of the WPP. We continued development of a trail network in the watershed, completing another 1.5-mile trail and emplacing direction signs on all trails. We also supported two Eagle Scout projects that resulted in the construction of benches and rest stations along the trails. PCWA rehabilitated the constructed wetland at the Shady Spring Library and continued our monthly stream cleanup program throughout the watershed. <http://bit.ly/2O5Jz7l>

We again coordinated and hosted the Raleigh County Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration, our third year hosting the event. This year we had 23 groups representing 263 volunteers. Those volunteers provided 730.5 volunteer hours in picking up trash along over 33 miles of roads and trails in the watershed. Combined, they picked up over 400 bags of trash and 39 tires. Overall, this event provided a financial impact of \$18,036.26 for the community. <http://bit.ly/30I0ONE>

One of our greatest accomplishments over the reporting period is our partnership with the West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) and the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) to monitor the health of our watershed; the results of a multi-year effort by our WPP funded staff. The combined team composed of PCWA staff and volunteers, students and faculty of WVU Tech, and BSB staff sample 20 sites throughout the watershed every month. The teams use state of the art equipment funded through grants from the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D), and the Beckley Area Foundation (BAF) to monitor the health of our streams. The teams test chemical properties (pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, etc.) at each site test the levels of fecal coliform and E. Coli bacteria at the lab at WVU Tech.

While we have had great success in the past, we have our eyes on the future and the WPP program is vital to those plans. The staff funded through the WPP program will continue managing the §319 projects we have and request more based on our watershed based plan. Our WPP staff member is important to maintaining the continuity of our water-monitoring program - especially as we seek to

develop and get approved an EPA level Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and begin a partnership with the New River Conservancy. Our education and outreach efforts will continue as we support all the communities in our watershed.

2. General administration and capacity building

Our overall capacity continued to increase over the reporting period. Our WPP funded staff member increased our ability to handle projects throughout the time of the program to the point the association is now capable of handling several projects simultaneously as well as supervise additional employees. Our WPP funded staff member put into place financial management practices that allow us to manage our funds more efficiently. We now routinely process an average of \$15,000 in combined revenue and expenditures each month.

3. Project updates

NPS-1535 Soccer Field Land Restoration is now complete. It took longer to complete this project because of unanticipated issues with the landowner but the project met its goal of reducing sedimentation entering Piney Creek.

NPS 1586 Little League Complex is complete. This project again took longer than anticipated but because of the extensions we received, we were able to address an additional storm water issue that arose after the Department of Highways completed road maintenance near the site.

NPS-1612 New River Drive continues to be stalled. Since the grant was approved, the landowner decided to try to sell the property and has not been open to discuss the project. Other stakeholders are reaching out to the landowner to try to get this project moving forward.

NPS-1685 WWHS Stream Restoration is moving into the design phase. We have approval and a signed memorandum of agreement with the Raleigh County Board of Education to begin work. We plan to work on the design over the 2019-2020 school year and complete construction during the summer of 2020.

NPS-1705 Crescent Elementary Refit was approved and funded this summer. We will continue our relationship with the Raleigh County Board of Education on this project with the goal of getting the project designed during the 2019-2020 school years and construction during the summer of 2020, provided the RCBOE can support two projects in their schedule.

NPS-1718 Data Loggers was approved and funded this summer. This is a proof of concept to use continuous data loggers to monitor certain chemical properties in two creeks in the watershed. We are still developing our plan of action for this project but our goal is to have them installed in the spring of 2020.

4. Other grant updates

Our primary focus currently for grants is sustaining and improving our water-monitoring program. We received funding from the BAF to purchase two flow meters and 6 months of Coliscan kits for the

program. Mountain RC&D provided a grant to develop our QAPP, which we hope, will be approved by EPA by January 2020.

5. Fundraising

We continue seeking funds from government and quasi-government agencies to fund our staff. We successfully lobbied the City of Beckley for \$10,000 for FY2020 and the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) for \$5,000 for calendar year 2019 (though we cannot use the SWA funds for salary expenses). The Raleigh County Commission did not provide the amount of funding we had requested but they did contribute \$500 to the association; we hope increased visibility of our efforts to improve the watershed will result in additional funding in 2020. We are currently talking with the Beckley Sanitary Board about contributing \$15,000 to the association to fund our Assistant Director for calendar year 2020.

We have placed a renewed effort on soliciting business donations to fund our operations and outreach efforts and we are beginning to see success. We increased our business memberships from three to eight from January to June 2019 and the average donation increased from \$100 to \$200. We believe our continued effort in this area will fund our annual operations and outreach expenditures.

6. Education and outreach

Our WPP funded staff is the key individual to our outreach efforts. Our staff typically work one or two community events every month. Some of the events we supported were the Kids Classic and Taste of Beckley by the City of Beckley, New Student Orientation Projects and MLK Day of Service projects with WVU Tech, the Migration Celebration with the Three River Avian Center, and the Keep America Beautiful Litter Index with the Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce.

Our WPP staff also coordinated special events with the primary event being the 3rd Annual Raleigh County Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration. The event continues to grow in participation and impact. In addition, the staff coordinated two general meetings with topics ranging from the proper disposal of hazardous waste to best management practices for stormwater runoff.

In addition to participating and hosting events, our staff are members of the Raleigh County Make-it-Shine and Beckley Events Committees. We also routinely attend the Southern Conservation District monthly meeting as well as various meetings hosted by WVDEP.

7. Budget

PCWA used the entire \$22,500 provided by this grant.

Line	Item	Budget Amount	Amount Spent	Percent Spent
1	Salary	\$20,778.75	\$ 21,051.13	93.6%
2	Employer FICA	\$1,721.25	\$ 1,448.87	6.4%
Total		\$22,500.00	\$22,500.00	100.0%

This grant provided 1039 hours of labor for the association.

Month	Hours	Percent
Jul-18	109	10.5%
Aug-18	100	9.6%
Sep-18	93	9.0%
Oct-18	101.5	9.8%
Nov-18	90	8.7%
Dec-18	85.5	8.2%
Jan-19	95	9.1%
Feb-19	90	8.7%
Mar-19	90.5	8.7%
Apr-19	117	11.3%
May-19	67.5	6.5%

Note: PCWA used other funding to pay salary expenses for the remainder of May and all of June 2019

8. Points of contact

1. Phyllis Farley, Chairman, Board of Directors PCWA, phyll.farley@gmail.com; (304) 255-4002.
2. Tom Lemke, Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors PCWA, tlemke@suddenlink.net; (304) 763-3260.
3. Teresa Sopher, Secretary, Board of Directors PCWA, fruitpancakes@gmail.com; (304) 252-0824.
4. Ellen Taylor, Treasurer, Board of Directors PCWA, ellenmtaylor@frontier.com; (304) 252-7328.
5. Danielle Stewart, Executive Director PCWA, dstewart.pcwa@gmail.com; (304) 228-1680.
6. Tim Craddock, NPS Program Coordinator, timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov; (304) 926-0499 x 1040.



Save the Tygart Watershed Association
Watershed Pilot Program
Annual Report 2018-2019
Savethetygartwatershed@gmail.com

Summary

The Save the Tygart Watershed Association Inc. (STTWA) has seen much growth since the hiring of two Watershed Pilot Program (WPP) employees. We obtained a piece of property along the Tygart River at the former site of the Carr China factory in Grafton. We have pursued and were awarded a large grant from the U.S. EPA that will allow us to cleanup said property and prepare it for the location of a community center and STTWA offices and water testing laboratory. In doing so, we have cemented existing community partnerships and formed new partnerships that will carry us into the future. The two WPP employees have expanded media outreach through the development of an STTWA website and semiannual newsletter. STTWA volunteers have continued their water quality monitoring program and a WPP employ has enhanced data management through the development of a monitoring database.

Major accomplishments

1. We have created a database to keep track of all water sampling done throughout the Tygart Valley Watershed. This database produces custom reports for each tributary and stream. The reports can also compare samples of water quality over a certain time period.
2. We have established an online presence through the creation of an STTWA website in order to inform members and the public of activities and accomplishments and to increase future membership. The website has been updated: www.savethetygartwatershed.com
3. We have created and continue to update a list of possible grants that Save the Tygart could apply for. These grants cover water cleanup, environmental safety, education, recreation and beautification projects. By partnering with WVU we now have access to the Foundation Center grant database.
4. We have increased the recognition of STTWA as a leader in the community when comes to water quality and public health by networking with other local organizations.
5. We have initiated an organizational newsletter to inform our membership and the public of accomplishments and future activities as well as to increase future membership. The newsletter will be available in hard copy and electronic formats.
6. We have obtained a Brownfields Cleanup grant of 200,000 from the U.S. EPA to complete remediation of the former Carr China site in preparation for creating a community space as well as office and laboratory space for STTWA.
7. We have submitted a 319 grant proposal for a Watershed Based Plan for Beaver Creek Watershed in Barbour County.

Routine activities and accomplishments

1. We attend monthly MCWA meetings. We also attend meetings and/or maintain contact with other local organizations including:
 - Rotary
 - All Aboard Grafton
 - Greater Morgantown Convention and Visitors Bureau
 - WVU School of Public Health
 - WVU Reed College of Media
 - WVU Service and Learning, Grafton City Council
 - Taylor County Economic Development Authority
 - Taylor County Commission.
2. We participate in and maintain a database for water quality sampling in the Tygart Valley River watershed.
3. We maintain the STTWA website.
4. We research and apply for appropriate grants for education, cleanup and sampling in the Tygart Valley River watershed.
5. We organize and participate in educational events for students regarding water quality and stream health in the watershed.
6. We have developed a relationship with the STM program at Alderson Broaddus University and are working with students to develop research projects (one completed) that support the mission and objectives of STTWA.

Milestone accomplishments

The WPP milestones for 2018-2019 were not explicitly described in the WPP proposal submitted for that time period. However, the following were WPP activities that supported those activities described in the proposal.

1. WPP staff have developed a database and participated in educational outreach activities that support the extensive STTWA water quality monitoring program.
2. WPP staff have participated in the planning and coordination with WV DEP for the passive treatment systems on the Barlow Portal.
3. WPP staff have participated in educational outreach with students in the Tygart Valley River watershed.
4. WPP staff have written a 319 proposal to support current monitoring and remediation activities within the Beaver Creek watershed.
5. WPP staff have increased public awareness through media outlets.
6. WPP staff have organized and participated in fundraising opportunities.
7. WPP staff have pursued an obtained significant grant funding toward the Carr China property cleanup and development.
8. WPP staff have participated in the STTWA efforts towards planning and monitoring for the Roaring Creek remediation project.

Points of contact

Name	Title	Phone Number
Mr. Paul Baker	Executive Director	304 363 7338
Mr. Stan Jennings	President	304 892 3270
Mr. Jeff Kresch	Vice President	304 940 1106
Mrs. Fran Baker	Treasurer	304 363 7338
Mrs. Barbara Earl	Secretary	304 366 4407
Mr. Bryan Smith	Media and Outreach Coordinator	304 709 0164
Dr. Kelley Flaherty	Watershed Resource Specialist	724-562-7074

Final thoughts on the 2018-2019 WPP funding period

Like many other watershed organizations, the membership of STTWA has been strictly voluntary before the hiring of WPP employees. Thus, the level of participation in activities and active recruitment was relatively low as a few key members did the lion's share of the work. Although the WPP employees got off to a relatively slow start, the level of work has been steadily growing as these employees assume more responsibility within the organization and are recognized as a point of contact by the public and other organizations. We anticipate that, in the next funding year, the WPP employees will be able to significantly increase the STTWA membership, allowing the organization to accomplish more of its goals.



Martin Christ shows the Fellowville students the wonders of the local stream insect community. (Picture by WPP employee)



Paul Baker instructing education outreach coordinator, Katie Wolpert in Beaver Creek. (Picture by WPP employee)



Alderson Broaddus University students sampling stream macroinvertebrates. (Picture by WPP employee)