

## WPP Final Reports

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The Watershed Improvement Branch's NPS Program has provided funding for watershed group staff support since 2014. The original program, known as the Watershed Pilot Program (WPP) is now in Phase II. The intent of WPP is to assist in managing and implementing §319 projects and improve watershed organization sustainability. To qualify for this funding opportunity, the watershed organization must complete an application and meet eligibility requirements.

WPP details are available at: <https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsources/WBP/Pages/pilot.aspx>

Included here are the final reports from each WPP organization in 2020.

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**NPS 1710 Watershed Pilot Program**

**Final Report**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



**Coal River Group**

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## **Narrative and General Administration**

The Coal River Group (CRG) has now been a part of the WPP program for the past five 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 five years the CRG has taken on various projects and grants that could not 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 2020. Project Manager, Justin Hunt, has taken on the responsibilities of this position since August 2017.

## **Project Updates**

The Project Manager oversees NPS 319 grants for the CRG. The Brown's Creek/Angel Fork Septic Remediation Project has been a part of the WPP position since 2016. 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 stream. The current Project Manager has completed the first 319 grant, NPS1619, with sixteen repairs and replacements of failing septic tanks and four pump-outs for failing septic tanks within the WPP program. The success with NPS 1619 has made it possible for the CRG to be awarded with NPS 1724 for a Phase 2 grant within the Browns Creek and Angel Fork watershed area. This 319 Phase 2 grant is underway and to date the CRG has replaced one failing septic system and one pump-out. The CRG has a list of residents and landowners that need septic replacements in the next few months.



Figure 1, Images of completed septic replacement projects.

### **Outside Engagement Activities**

With the help of the WV Department of Environmental Protection's (WVDEP), Tomi Bergstrom and Klancey Burford, the Project Manager planned and coordinated *The Coal River Group 2019 Water Festival* for Boone County schools, which took place this fiscal year on October 9<sup>th</sup>. The Water Festival is hosted by CRG at the CRG headquarters in Meadowood Park. Three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes from Sherman Elementary attended the water festival with an all-around attendance of 70 students. The event's purpose is to teach the students about their water resources and how to properly manage it and understand why it is important for all life. With personnel from the Coal River Group, WVDEP and WV Division of Forestry, the Water Festival was a successful event for CRG and a successful field trip for all students that participated. The annual event that is ordinarily held in the spring for local elementary schools was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID- 19 pandemic.



Figure 2, 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 elementary schools at The Coal River Group 2019 Boone County Water Festival.



### **Fundraising and Capacity Building**

Due to the recent COVID 19 virus limitations have been an issue on the typical outreach and education for the WPP Staff member. Fundraising events, Earth Day events, Tourism Day at the Capital, and career days were postponed for 2020 and will be attended by the WPP staff member next year. WPP staff member is continuing to reach out by telephone and video conferences to different watershed groups, different non-profit organizations, and businesses for education and grant opportunities. Connections for various grants and fundraising techniques for the CRG will allow the group to become closer to sustaining a permanent position without administration grant funds.



*Figure 3, Coal River Groups Project Manager, Treasurer, President and Chairman attend the 2019 Watershed Celebration Day.*

### **Updates on Key Priorities**

Further on the matter of sustaining the CRG Staff member position, the present Project Manager is working with multiple organizations for long term grant projects with administrative funds. CRG expanded the 319 Grant Program into a phase 2 project within the Browns Creek and Angel Fork area in November of 2019. 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. With three more years of the Phase 2 project the CRG Project Manager looks to expand the 319 projects into the Smith Creek watershed area. The Smith Creek watershed area will be the second major tributary that the CRG has implemented a remediation project. Project Manager will be pursuing this grant opportunity within the year.

### **Key Tasks**

- A. The Project Manager conducts monthly water sampling in the Brown Creek/ Angel Fork Area. There are nine locations where water samples are taken and sent to a lab to be analyzed 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, [bike1currey@gmail.com](mailto:bike1currey@gmail.com) ; (304) 419-4417.
- Kris Radford, Coal River Group President, Coal River Group Board of Directors, [Texascrzd@yahoo.com](mailto:Texascrzd@yahoo.com); (304) 549-1348.
- Tomi Bergstrom, WVDEP Western Basin Coordinator, [Tomi.M.Bergstrom@wv.gov](mailto:Tomi.M.Bergstrom@wv.gov), (304) 926-0499 x 1098
- Timothy Craddock, NPS Program Coordinator, [Timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov](mailto:Timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov); (304) 926-0499 x 1040



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Morris Creek Watershed WPP

Morris Creek Watershed Association



## Year Request for Funds

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>\$22,500</b>
Match	\$13,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,500</b>

Stream Code: WVK-70

Hydrological Group: A

Morris Creek

Composed of four sub-watersheds that drain into the  
Upper Kanawha River (HUC 8, 05050006)

Mike King

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## **WPP Position July 1 2019 to June 30 2020**

### **Summary**

The Morris Creek Watershed continues working through many challenges. The closing and moving of West Virginia University Tech, closing of Valley High school, closing of the YMCA , major rain events and last but not least the Coronavirus has and will continue to have a negative impact on our volunteer and education and outreach programs. Our Watershed Pilot Program (WPP) position has been working to establish other academic partnerships as well as working with WVU to continue with the research on Morris Creek. Our partners are as committed as ever to supporting our Watershed and community. This year we had two WRS associate: Mr. Beach Vickers July 2019 to February 2020 and Mr. Larry Villiareal March 2020 to June 30.

Special Note: it is difficult to keep good folks if you cannot pay them, Last WPP reimbursement was for March 2020. We are behind 2 full months making it difficult for a small Watershed like ours.

### **Major accomplishments**

- **319 Projects**
  1. Completed a major over haul of our Upper Mainstem NPS-1529 with the planting of the riparian zone.
  2. Nelson Tank experiment using a Swedish mixing process continues improving the water quality.
  3. Completing the major construction of our NPS 1613 Sediment control project. Final report due in November.
  4. AGO Grant NPS 1674 Lavender planting was completed, and this project was responsible for engaging more Volunteers interested in the Morris Creek Watershed.
  5. Limestone fine project 100 tons in 4 locations
  6. Water sampling on three occasions with WVU.
  7. Working with Workforce WV to provide work opportunities for 3 workers.

### **Outreach and education**

1. Trout in The Classroom is continuing to be one of our best education and outreach projects. We have 5 schools that raise trout eggs to fingerling and releasing their fish on Morris Creek. Due to the virus, we could only use the teachers from 2 schools to release the trout.
2. Project Wet Fall Festival
3. Hosted the Audubon event with the Three Avian Center and Butterflies with Heather followed the Bird Walk with Deb Beutler into Morris Creek with 110 attending.
4. Submitted a Power Grant the base line information with the City of Montgomery, Fayette County Commission, and area stakeholders.
5. Make it Shine this year we collected 1.8 tons of solid waste, removed several dangerous trees from the creek, cleaned the neighborhood park following guidelines for the virus.





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6. Earth Day our WPP had volunteers from WVU Tech, Bridge Valley CTC and Watershed Volunteers to help plant 200 trees. Conducted following CDC Guidelines
7. Hosted researchers from Washington and Lee College gathering water quality information.
8. Students for Concord, University of Charleston and WVU have been doing research projects on Morris Creek.
9. Continued working with local concrete plant to use the AMD to add coloring to concrete and using the high ph. discharge for their operations to treat low ph. AMD run off.
10. Partnership with Mountaineer Institute for self-reliance to provide outdoor education and outreach and generate revenue for the Watershed.
11. Partnership with BridgeValley Community and Technical College to provide training for the energy industry.
12. Worked with the Forest Service Camp and volunteers to conduct stream assessments.
13. South Charleston High School Advanced Placement Program with Dr. Deb Beutler
14. Hosted Camp Drift a Bit outing 1
15. Participated with the YMCA Summer Camp introducing a host of folks to the Morris Creek Watershed
16. Camp Drift a Bit outing 2
17. Set up a booth for The Montgomery General Hospital Children's Health Fair
18. Set up Booth for Montgomery General Hospital Senior Fair
19. Education Hayride for the YMCA senior citizens group
20. SOS Outing with Malden Elementary
21. Participated with Malden Elementary Science Fair
22. Working with Malden Elementary on the Firefly Study with WVDNR
23. 2<sup>nd</sup> 100 tons of Limestone Fines for 4 locations
24. Met with WVDEP Aaron Legg to work on repairs to the Upper and Lower Mainstem sites caused by high water event and falling trees on site.

### **Routine activities and accomplishments**

1. Attend monthly MCWA meetings, UKV meetings and local community meetings. To keep members up to date on current and future activities of Morris Creek Watershed. In addition, to learn more about the community and issues they may be facing.
2. Contacting sponsoring organization to create opportunities for community volunteers to serve and participate in organizational activities.
3. Reach out to other Watersheds to get different perspectives and advice.
4. Find and apply for grants for AML and AMD remediation.
5. Assists in facilitating outreach programs to local groups in the area.
6. Secured **\$3967.00** in Donations

### **1. Milestone accomplishments**

The WPP has been actively engaged in the following matters.

- Regular meetings held by UKV, community listening hosted by Bridge Valley and Virginia Tech.



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- Ongoing communication with Fayette County Commissioner, Gabriel J. Pena.
- Setting up contacts with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy coming to our area.
- Meetings with fellow watersheds.
- Organizing many different volunteer opportunities with surrounding schools like Bridge Valley, WVU Tech, and Malden Elementary.
- Attended a few fairs on behalf of Morris Creek. Such as River Fest and the Pediatrics Fair in Montgomery.
- Outreach programs for Trout Unlimited.
- MCWA hosted a few guests this summer. Katie from Dartmouth came to Morris Creek to research for a book she is writing, and Alex came all the way from Russia to lend a helping hand.
- Proposed possible research topics for students to conduct this fall.

**Points of contact**

James E Grey	President	304-205-8561
Roger Mitchell	Vice President	304-640-0165
George John	Secretary	304395-1471
Wanda King	Treasurer	304-442-4113
Mike King	Stream Restoration Chairman	304-442-4113
Larry Villiareal	Watershed Resource Specialist	304-442-4581

**Thoughts on WPP funding**

The Morris Creek Watershed composed by all volunteers with most folks that are 55 or older. The officers and the stream restoration chair all have demanding full time jobs that require most their time. 60-70hour weeks are the rule rather than the exception. Trying to fit in work, family and the Watershed activities is a juggling act every day. The WPP position is a great and extremely valuable help in getting the work of the organization done.

Without the help of our present position, it would have been extremely hard to recover from the loss of our computer and data. Having a person that can meet daily with agencies, contractors, school groups, volunteers and civic organizations makes for more successful and productive Watershed. The WPP can connect with a host of folks that our volunteer staff would have trouble meeting. The continuous forms, data and reports are difficult at best for the volunteers that work full time at their regular jobs. This summer with the help of volunteers or WPP has been able to start and complete a host of much need projects.

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- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Limestone fine dump and data collection | 9 Contingency Plan              |
| 2 Upper Mainstem project                  | 10 Trout in The Classroom       |
| 3 Nelson Tank updates and reporting       | 11 Fall Water festival planning |
| 4 Park repairs and clean up               | 12 Fish and benthic surveys     |



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- 5 Make it Shine project 13 Bird Counts
- 6 Lower Mainstem future upgrade plans 14 Academic connections, Concord, WVU Tech,
- 7 Power Grant Marshall, Dartmouth, Ithaca, OSU, UC.
- 8 Work on the Energy Tour report with Dartmouth.

For small rural Watershed, the WPP position is invaluable. The WPP workers are faced with challenges and rewards that will carry through for the rest of their career. It helps them grow and have a real-life opportunity to put their academics to work for them. Meeting professionals from different agencies, contractors and other groups has a great impact on their securing future jobs. It also lets them see the inside working of a non-profit operation.



Students from WVU Tech are sampling water from the Upper Mainstem.



Students at WET 9/2019.



Bridge Valley Group that planted trees



Kids in the Creek.

Learn more at: <http://www.morriscreekwatershed.org/>

Facebook: Morris Creek Watershed Association





# PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

**NPS 1712 Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program**

**Year 5 of 6**

**Annual Report: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**



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**Piney Creek Watershed Association**  
**NPS 1712 Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program**  
**Annual Report 2019-2020**

**1. Narrative**

The Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) completed the fifth 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 continue to support the association with their time and monetary donations. Our success in gaining financial support from local public agencies reflects the recognition of our contribution to our community. The City of Beckley has increased its support from \$10,000 during 2019-2020 to \$20,000 for the current 2020-2021 fiscal year. We also have continued funding of \$5,000 from the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority. Our presentation to the Raleigh County Commission was delayed beyond their budget development period due to Covid-19 restrictions and therefore we were not included in the upcoming budget. However, the presentation was well received and provided hope for funding support in future years.

This past year saw a change in leadership at PCWA. We hired a new part-time executive director on December 1, 2019. This hiring date provided some overlap and training with the outgoing executive director who officially resigned on December 31, 2019. We continue to support a part-time associate director and a new 2020 Ameri-Corps Summer Associate. A lower starting wage for the new director relative to the departing director allowed some of the WPP funds to be utilized to supplement the salary of the Associate Director who saw his work hours increase as he assisted and guided the new director during his initial weeks on the job.

Ellen Taylor, a long-time board member and PCWA treasurer, resigned last fall due to her planned relocation out of the community. She will be missed. Teresa Sopher has agreed to be acting treasurer in addition to her continuing role as secretary. The board is currently considering several candidates to fill empty board positions.

The WPP is critical in supporting our efforts in implementing our watershed-based plan. We are making ongoing progress on three, previously funded 319 projects as described in section 2 below. We recently were awarded another 319 grant for phase II of the Beckley Little League/Raleigh County Convention Center storm water management project.

Due to the support provided by the Watershed Pilot Program, PCWA was able to support a number of related projects in our watershed. We continue support of trail development through extension and maintenance of trails at the YMCA soccer fields, near Raleigh County Airport, and at Little Beaver State Park. We see the promotion of recreational activities in and around Piney Creek as a means of engaging the public in a

**Piney Creek Watershed Association**  
**NPS 1712 Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program**  
**Annual Report 2019-2020**

way that will lead to increased awareness and appreciation of our natural heritage with a heightened understanding of the need to protect and preserve our local environment and waterways. PCWA is also coordinating with a local landscape firm to continue rehabilitation of the constructed wetland at the Shady Spring Library where an educational sign explains the role of wetlands in moderating runoff and improving water quality. PCWA coordinated a number of litter cleanups during the year, but these have been curtailed since March due to volunteer safety concerns associated with Covid-19. The virus also caused us to cancel Earth-Day events in the spring and to reschedule to the Fall our inaugural 'Pickin for Piney' membership drive and fund raising event. Numerous donations have already been received for a silent auction for this event. A venue has been selected and volunteers are lined up to provide music and food.

We continue to have productive partnerships with the West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) and the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) in our efforts to monitor the health of our watershed. Monitoring teams composed of PCWA staff and volunteers, students and faculty of WVU Tech, and BSB staff visit 20 sites throughout the watershed on a monthly basis. (Sampling in March, April, and May were canceled due to virus concerns but sampling was restarted in June.) The teams use state of the art multi-meters funded through grants from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Mountain Resource Conservation and Development, and the Beckley Area Foundation to monitor the health of our streams. The teams test chemical properties (pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, etc.) at each site. Water samples are collected and fecal coliform and E. Coli bacteria are cultured and counted at the lab at WVU Tech.

We used a grant from Mountain Resource Conservation and Development to hire a professor from WVU Tech to draft a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Association. This plan details the procedures that we utilize in our monitoring effort. The first draft of the QAPP was reviewed by EPA this year. Revisions based on EPA feedback have been completed and the new draft is currently in review again by EPA.

A MOU among PCWA, BSB, WVU Tech, and the New River Conservancy is currently in the approval stage. The MOU will allow data from our monitoring efforts to be available to the general public on PCWA and New River Conservancy websites. PCWA plans to participate in the recently formed New River Clean Water Alliance. This group of government, non-profit, and industry professionals has met to begin an effort to study and document water quality in the lower New River drainage with the goal of developing plans and projects to improve water quality in our area. Our efforts with this group are still undefined but will likely include sharing our water quality data, continuing to educate our community on water quality issues and serving on Alliance committees.



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## **2. General administration and capacity building**

Our overall capacity continued to increase over the reporting period. The work of staff and board members has resulted in increased public funding of our association. The new executive director has personal ties with a new group of young and energetic, outdoor enthusiasts. These folks care about the environment and water quality issues as well as share a vision of Piney Creek as a recreational hub for hiking, trail running, kayaking, biking, rappelling, and rock climbing. New members have joined the association and gotten engaged in litter cleanups and other activities.

The financial reporting system developed by the former executive director is in the process of being restructured. A professional accountant has been hired to assist in managing the books for the association. Conversion of our accounting system will be ongoing over the coming year.

## **3. Project updates**

NPS 1612 New River Drive. The long-stalled revegetation project of barren areas along New River Dr in Beckley has shown progress through the development of a relationship with the private landowner. We anticipate that a MOU will be in place shortly. This project is complicated by historical, unauthorized use of the site for off-road vehicle recreation. Bids for establishing exclusion barriers have been received and a plan for signing, fencing, and hydroseeding the area is nearing completion. We anticipate work to begin on site this summer and fall.

NPS 1685 WWHS Stream Restoration. Plans for the stream restoration project on the campus of Woodrow Wilson High School were completed recently by the local USDA-NRCS office and approved by the Raleigh County Board of Education. Bid requests were submitted to five local contractors for the project while waiting for permitting approval from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Covid-19 and the permitting requirements have delayed the project longer than expected. Work on the project may start as early as this fall depending on permit approval and weather conditions. The principal is still enthusiastic about the project and a cooperating teacher at the school is excited to get students and others involved in the planting phase of the project.

NPS 1705 Crescent Elementary Refit. A MOU with the Raleigh County Board of education has been drafted for this storm water retrofit project on the campus of Crescent Elementary in Beckley. Plans for the project have been discussed including an on-campus watershed festival at the project's conclusion but further progress is pending

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completion of the MOU. It is anticipated that the MOU will be signed in the coming months with project design occurring over the winter and construction next summer.

NPS 1718 Data Loggers stations have been installed on Cranberry Creek and Little Beaver Creek. Finding suitable locations and mounting techniques to establish the stations proved more difficult than expected. Covid-19 also delayed some of the installation steps. Loggers for water depth, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity are currently operating on Cranberry Creek. Loggers for water depth and conductivity are operating on Little Beaver Creek. We hope to soon add pH loggers to both sites along with dissolved oxygen at the Little Beaver site.

NPS 1736 Little League Convention Center Stormwater Detention. We recently learned that Phase II of the Beckley Little League/Convention Center storm water management project received 319 funding. Planning for the project will be begin soon.

#### **4. Other grant updates**

Our primary focus currently for grants is sustaining and improving our water-monitoring program. Additional funding for more data loggers has been secured by WVU Tech and through the Beckley Area Foundation. We hope to establish more logging stations in the coming months to cover more of the major tributaries in the watershed. Mountain Resources and Conservation Development provided a grant to develop our Quality Assurance Project Plan, which as mentioned previously, we hope will be approved soon by EPA.

As of July 15, 2020, we applied for a \$6,000 319 AGO grant from WVDEP to fund development of a project implementation plan for Whitestick Creek and Little Whitestick Creek watersheds. We also applied for a \$3,000 grant from Mountain Resource Conservation and Development to provide some of the match required for this grant.

#### **5. Fundraising**

We continue seeking funds from government and quasi-government agencies to fund our staff. As previously mentioned, we successfully lobbied the City of Beckley for \$20,000 for FY2021 (a 100% increase from 2020) and the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority for \$5,000 for calendar year 2020. Although the Raleigh County Commission was not able to include PCWA in their 2021 budget as mentioned above, it is hoped that a small allocation similar to their 2020 contribution of \$500 or more may be possible.

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We have garnered new memberships and donations derived primarily from the personal connections of the new executive director with interested community members. A low-key, inaugural social media fundraiser brought in \$590 and 27 new memberships. This successful experience provides encouragement to engage in similar on-line donation events in the year ahead. A 'Pickin for Piney' fundraiser in the fall has a goal to raise approximately \$5,000 for PCWA through new memberships, a silent auction, sponsorships, donations, and food sales. We are excited to try this approach to fund raising and look forward to a fun evening of music, food, and fellowship. If successful we plan to build up the event in future years.

## **6. Education and Outreach**

Both our executive director and associate director assisted in four days of outreach activities in conjunction with the New River Gorge National River on October 1, 2, 10, and 11, 2019. We demonstrated the effects of aboveground and subsurface water pollution using watershed and groundwater models. Presentations were made to three or four groups of local middle school students each day at the Grandview overlook location.

PCWA presented a 'Stream Stomp' and fifteenth anniversary celebration event for the general public on September 14, 2019. A variety of environmentally- and outdoor-focused groups participated, including the Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority, WVDEP, BSB, Active Southern West Virginia, PCWA, and others. The event took place at Fitzpatrick Park near Beckley, WV. Family-friendly, environmentally focused activities were provided by the participating organizations along with door prizes and birthday cake. It was a free, fun activity designed to showcase and celebrate our watershed.

Corey Lilly appeared on WOAY television news in mid-December, 2019 discussing his goals as the new executive director of PCWA. WOAY and WVNS broadcast stories on a PCWA litter cleanup where over 20 volunteers collected 32 bags of trash and other debris from the banks of Cranberry Creek on February 23, 2020. Corey Lilly was interviewed for a West Virginia Public Broadcasting "Inside Appalachia" podcast highlighting environmental success stories in West Virginia.

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

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**7. Budget**

PCWA used the entire \$22,500 provided by this grant. The lower, initial hourly rate for the newly hired executive director freed money that was used to supplement the pay for the part-time associate director. None of the WPP funds were used this year for travel or training expenses.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budget Amount</b>	<b>Actual Expense</b>
<b>Executive Director Salary</b>	<b>\$20,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,432.50</b>
<b>Associate Director Salary</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,700.30</b>
<b>Employer FICA Match (7.65% of salary)</b>	<b>\$1,530.00</b>	<b>\$367.20</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>\$470.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Training</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,500.00</b>	<b>\$22,500.00</b>

This grant provided 1232 hours of labor for the association.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Jul-19	Exec. Director	80.0
Aug-19	Exec. Director	80.0
Sep-19	Exec. Director	80.0
Oct-19	Exec. Director	80.0
Nov-19	Exec. Director	80.0
Dec-19	Exec. Director	61.0
Jan-20	Exec. Director	94.5
Jan-20	Assoc. Director	62.5
Feb-20	Exec. Director	83.0
Feb-20	Assoc. Director	53.0
Mar-20	Exec. Director	82.0
Mar-20	Assoc. Director	46.5
Apr-20	Exec. Director	62.5
Apr-20	Assoc. Director	93.0
May-20	Exec. Director	85.0
May-20	Assoc. Director	58.5
Jun-20	Exec. Director	50.5
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1232.0</b>

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Note: The WPP funds paid all of the salary expense for the executive directors for the year as well as some of the salary expense for the associate director. Other salary costs for the associate director were paid from other sources.

**8. Points of Contact.**

Tom Lemke, Chairman, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [tlemke@suddenlink.net](mailto:tlemke@suddenlink.net); (304) 763-3260.

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Teresa Sopher, Secretary/Acting Treasurer, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [fruitpancakes@gmail.com](mailto:fruitpancakes@gmail.com); (304) 222-9444.

Corey Lilly, Executive Director for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [clilly.pcwa@gmail.com](mailto:clilly.pcwa@gmail.com); (304) 228-1680.

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Save the Tygart Watershed Association  
Watershed Pilot Program  
Annual Report 2019-2020  
[savethetygartwatershed@gmail.com](mailto:savethetygartwatershed@gmail.com)

#### A. Summary

In the second year of the Watershed Pilot Program funding, the Save the Tygart Watershed Association Inc. (STTWA) has built upon its first year efforts and seen additional growth despite setbacks from the Covid-19 pandemic. Employees have continued to develop projects surrounding water quality from the Barlow and North portals. We have also obtained funding for work in the Beaver Creek watershed along the Barbour-Randolph county line. We have published two semiannual newsletters (attached) and increased community involvement with a virtual “BioBlitz” and plans for a k-12 monitoring program. While the pandemic has prevented many of the outreach activities for the 2020 year, STTWA personnel and volunteers have spent the time making plans for the future.

#### B. Major Accomplishments

1. We have obtained a 319 grant for a Watershed Based Plan for Beaver Creek Watershed in Barbour County and have begun working with college students on sampling the site.
2. We have submitted a WCAP application to support a previously obtained 319 grant for passive remediation at the North portal site on Roaring Creek and work with partners to secure the necessary permits for construction.
3. We have worked with DEP personnel to develop plans for a WCAP for the Barlow portal flowing into the Left Fork of Little Sandy Creek.
4. We have worked with Experience Learning to design a watershed-wide K-12 education and sampling program and have applied for grant funding to support the initiation of the program.
5. We have obtained a \$3,650 Ledford scholarship for an Alderson Broaddus students to conduct a water quality study on Beaver and Roaring creek watersheds.
6. We carried out a publicity effort to notify affected residents of issues surrounding the Lexington borehole discharge and attended associated public meetings.
7. We have published 2 issues of an organizational newsletter (attached) to inform our membership and the public of accomplishments and future activities as well as to increase future membership. The newsletter is available in hard copy and electronic formats.
8. We have used a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. EPA to enter the WVDEP VRP program. This was a major step toward the cleanup of the site and the construction of an office, laboratory, and education center.
9. We organized a Tygart River Watershed Virtual BioBlitz in honor of Earth Day.



### C. Routine Activities and Accomplishments.

1. We attend monthly STTWA meetings. As of March 2020, meetings have been held virtually via Zoom due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and health concerns. 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 have continued 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.

### D. Milestone Accomplishments

The following WPP milestones for 2019-2020 were addressed by the following activities. The Covid-19 Pandemic prevented some of the activities related to these goals.

- **Goal 1: Increase membership and community awareness of STTWA mission and activities and expand STTWA presence to include more of the Tygart River Watershed**
  - WPP staff have increased public awareness through media outlets.
  - WPP staff have published and distributed two semiannual newsletters.
- **Goal 2: Increase opportunities for educational outreach in K-12 and adult populations**
  - WPP staff have developed a plan for watershed-wide education and monitoring in K-12 schools in conjunction with Experience Learning.
  - WFF staff have conducted watershed sampling with college students from Alderson Broaddus University.
  - WPP staff organized a Tygart River Watershed virtual BioBlitz.
- **Goal 3: Maintain and enhance the watershed monitoring program**
  - WPP staff have continued participating in volunteer monitoring efforts and maintaining a database of water quality data.
- **Goal 4: Work toward further developing the Carr China property in Grafton (further actions depend on the result of EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant)**
  - WPP staff have worked in cooperation with a licensed remediation specialist to enroll the Carr China site into the WVDEP VRP program.
  - WPP staff has worked to obtain additional funding for redevelopment of the Carr China site.
- **Goal 5: Develop a Watershed-Based Plan for Beaver Creek Watershed (additional actions depend on the result of §319 Project Funding)**
  - WBP funding was not obtained until June 2020. However, sampling of Beaver Creek watershed has begun.

- WPP staff has applied for an AGO grant to obtain funding for additional chemical testing of Beaver Creek and tributaries.
- **Goal 6: Continue Partnerships on existing §319 Projects: Barlow Project**
  - STTWA personnel attended meetings with DEP personnel to determine the best course of action to pursue remediation of the Barlow Portal water. Many avenues have been pursued and a “final” plan is currently being discussed.
- **Goal 7: Continue Partnerships on existing §319 Projects: North Portal**
  - WPP staff have submitted a WCAP proposal for funding to remediate the water from the North portal.
  - WPP staff have cooperated with partners in obtaining the appropriate permits for construction.

E. Points of Contact

Name	Title	Phone Number
Dr. Kelley Flaherty	Executive Director	724-562-7074
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

F. Final thoughts on the 2019-2020 WPP funding period



Martin Christ shows the Fellowsville students the wonders of the local stream insect community

Like many other watershed organizations, the STTWA experienced a period of slow activity due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and concerns. However, WPP employees were able to continue work on several key goals. The difficulties posed by the pandemic have led to a variety of creative solutions that STTWA employees plan to build on in the future. In addition, several changes in organizational leadership took place that we believe will allow the association to move further away from its strictly volunteer beginnings to accomplish larger and more diverse projects in the future. 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.