

2015



Environmental Awards



Earl Ray Tomblin,
Governor

Randy C. Huffman,
DEP Cabinet Secretary



west virginia department of environmental protection

CONGRATULATIONS

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection's annual Environmental Awards recognize the accomplishments of state industries, municipalities, educators and community leaders who strive to protect the environment, work to be good corporate neighbors, and educate the state's citizens.

The DEP's mission is to promote a healthy environment. These awards are being presented to those who share our mission and practice environmental stewardship.

Eligibility for the industrial awards includes exemplary environmental performance, a history that shows no outstanding violations and a record of compliance with regulatory authorities. Award winners were nominated by the environmental inspectors who work to ensure their compliance with the law and by other DEP personnel who work with volunteer efforts.

CLEAN ENERGY

Eastwood Elementary School

Morgantown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gene Coccari

Eastwood Elementary is the first LEED certification candidate for Monongalia County Schools. Eastwood's unique design is reducing its environmental impact daily. Energy savings are achieved through the use of enhanced wall and roof insulation, a geothermal heating and cooling system, and other energy-saving features. These sustainable qualities allow Eastwood to use about 25 percent less energy than a conventional school of the same size. The school also is designed to maximize the amount of natural daylighting in classrooms through classroom orientation, oversize windows with light shelves and sunscreens, sloped ceilings, light classroom wall colors, and electronic sensors to adjust the output of artificial lighting. Water savings are achieved through the use of waterless urinals, dual-flush toilets, and reduced-flow fixtures, which result in water use of over 31 percent less than in a traditional elementary school.

In addition to the Indoor Air Quality Construction-Management Plan followed during construction of Eastwood, Monongalia County Schools also has implemented a green cleaning program for Eastwood, which will reduce the use of harsh, ecologically unfriendly and unsafe chemicals. The recycling program at Eastwood inspires an understanding of the importance of the creation of new materials from recyclable products.

Eastwood teachers are committed to educating students about their environment. The school has received a grant to participate in the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) Program. All classroom teachers participated in GLOBE training, and the first through fifth grades participated in GLOBE's cloud protocol and surface temperature field campaigns. In addition to the many features embedded in the construction and operation of the school, the campus contains two unique and distinctive renewable energy teaching tools. The windmill and solar panels at Eastwood are used to help demonstrate how the energy from the sun and wind are converted into electricity. Students also use rain gardens to observe and study various animal habitats.

SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT GREATER THAN 400,000 GPD

Shepherdstown Waste Water Treatment Plant

Shepherdstown, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Michael Kanehl

Along the banks of the Potomac River, and nestled in the lower Shenandoah Valley, Shepherdstown, the oldest town in West Virginia, is home to nearly 1,200 residents and 4,000 Shepherd University students. With a growing population and new federal regulations that

set strict pollution limits to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, this environmentally active community jumped at the opportunity to make changes to help the Bay. By borrowing \$9.2 million, Shepherdstown was able to upgrade the wastewater plant to a state of the art facility. Rates were increased to pay for this upgrade, but citizens accepted the higher costs, partly because of an extensive education process through the local media and other outlets.

The Shepherdstown plant has been in operation since 1980. Originally functioning as an extended aeration plant, the facility consisted of two activated sludge tanks, two circular clarifiers, an aerobic digester and chlorine for disinfection. From 2010-2012, the plant underwent the \$9.2 million upgrade and since has received outstanding effluent results for nitrogen and phosphorus levels. As part of the upgrade, the plant's capacity was expanded to 0.8 million gallons per day with a peak flow of 2.2 million gallons per day. Currently, the plant is meeting the Chesapeake Bay watershed requirements and has not had any violations in the past three years.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Mullican Flooring

Ronceverte, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: John Hendley

Mullican Flooring is a small, privately owned manufacturer of wood flooring in Ronceverte. The company holds a WV/NPDES Multi-Sector Industrial Storm Water Permit. The facility has approximately 10 outfalls that discharge into the Greenbrier River and one of its tributaries. In 2013, after several inspections, it was apparent the facility was having trouble keeping in compliance with certain aspects of its permit. The nature of this industry presents many challenges for controlling pollutants, large outdoor wood storage areas and heavy truck/equipment traffic being primary. As a small company, it is challenging for Mullican to both survive in today's economy and focus on regulation compliance. Still, the company was willing to change and improve.

Its staff worked very hard to make improvements both on site and in administration. By the end of 2014, there were many achievements made toward compliance with its NPDES permit and improving the quality of storm water discharges from the site. The achievements on site included: curtailing an unpermitted process water discharge; installation of sediment control BMPs, including several large settling basins; redefined diversion of storm water throughout the site; secondary containment for all chemical storage; and stabilization of large previously disturbed areas. Administrative achievements included: the establishment of a monitoring and sampling schedule and the drafting of a new Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

Mullican Flooring is to be commended for the vast improvements it has made at this facility. In just over a year, the quality of storm water entering the Greenbrier River from Mullican Flooring has improved dramatically.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES

Warren Distribution Inc., Warren Northeast

Glen Dale, W.Va.

DEP Sponsors: Melisa Powers, Stanley Wolfe

Warren Northeast is part of Warren Distribution, a company founded in 1922 in Iowa by James Schlott, the grandfather of current Chairman/CEO Robert N. Schlott. The original business catered to the agriculture business. The company established Warren Northeast in 2006 by purchasing a building that housed an aircraft manufacturing facility in the 1920s and early 30s and later the Marx Toy Factory. Warren's renovations included many environmental safeguards. The total capacity for the facility is around seven million gallons of base oils and additives.

The facility has five tank farms with high water alarms and fixed, concrete secondary containment. Additional containment is also provided for the rail car and truck unloading

areas. Containment inside the plant is provided by a grated trench that surrounds blending and production lines. All flows from containment areas go to an oil/water separator located inside the building. Each storage tank has high level alarms which will shut the facility down if they exceed capacity. The facility has an inspection protocol for the five-, 10- and 20-year mark depending on the tank. The inspections are completed by an outside engineering firm. Continuous, documented inspections are completed by plant personnel. Tanks are less than eight years old.

Additional safeguards include backflow prevention for barge unloading and the use of a boom for all barge unloading operations. There is a fuels manager database that includes ingredients for all products that are made. Safety data sheets are available through a computerized system that is updated monthly. The facility has complete written plans for spill prevention controls and countermeasures, facility response, storm water and ground water. Monthly, documented environmental inspections are completed by the EHS Coordinator. The facility successfully completed an unannounced Coast Guard drill in 2013, responding to a simulated spill while unloading a barge.

INDUSTRY GREATER THAN 100 EMPLOYEES
Norfolk Southern Corp., Bluefield Rail Yard
Bluefield, W.Va.
DEP Sponsor: Michael Puckett

The Bluefield Yard is a rail facility owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway Company. The facility is covered by a WV/NPDES Individual Permit for wastewater and stormwater discharges. The facility has three outfalls that discharge into the headwaters of the East River, and two internal monitoring outfalls. The nature of the facility operations, including petroleum and material storage, fueling and maintenance operations, and vehicle and equipment traffic, presents challenges for controlling potential pollutants. In addition, portions of the City of Bluefield stormwater conveyance system are connected to the Bluefield Yard system. As a result, stormwater discharges from offsite can run onto adversely affect the facility and its ability to comply with the WV/NPDES Individual Permit conditions.

Over the past several years, Norfolk Southern has completed facility improvements, implemented process changes, and maintained best management practices to ensure compliance with the WV/NPDES Individual Permit. In 2014, structural improvements were completed on the secondary containment areas for several petroleum storage tanks. These improvements provide additional spill control to prevent oil from impacting facility discharges. In 2013, process changes were implemented for the on-site wastewater treatment plant. These changes included a schedule for cleaning the oil/water separator, dissolved air flotation, and carbon filters, and modifying the chemicals used in the treatment process. The facility has also continued to maintain the best management practices that have been implemented. Facility personnel conduct weekly inspections of the facility, including fueling areas, petroleum and material storage areas, and loading and unloading areas. These inspections ensure that good housekeeping practices are maintained and spills of potential pollutants are promptly cleaned to prevent impacts to facility discharges.

Through its commitment to environmental stewardship, Norfolk Southern Railway Company has maintained compliance with the WV/NPDES Individual Permit to help improve the quality of the waters of the state of West Virginia.

MUNICIPAL LANDFILL
Republic Services, Short Creek Landfill
Wheeling, W.Va.
DEP Sponsors: Jason Ely, Stanley Wolfe

Short Creek Landfill is a non-hazardous, municipal solid waste disposal facility located just north of Wheeling. It is situated upon approximately 400 acres, with 115 acres permit-

ted for solid waste disposal. The facility has over 25 years of remaining life, and is currently constructing a new disposal cell which will provide two years of constructed life.

During 2014, Short Creek made many improvements to the facility, including both operational and aesthetic improvements. The facility upgraded its surface water management features, which has enabled the facility to more effectively manage surface water, resulting in a reduction of infiltration of storm water and subsequent generation of leachate. The facility also maximized the use of its compaction equipment and practiced good working face management, ultimately increasing the efficiency of the available airspace and improving overall aesthetics at the facility. Each year, Short Creek expands its landfill gas collection system, ensuring effective landfill gas collection, years sooner than required by federal regulations.

As a testament to its commitment to be a good neighbor, Short Creek successfully received an increase in its maximum allowable tonnage from 30,000 tons/month to 50,000 tons per month during 2014. This was made possible by a referendum vote. Short Creek prides itself on its relationship with the community, its immediate neighbors, and its regulatory entities, and believes this was a major contributing factor to a successful referendum.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Lethea Smith, Concord University

James Rye, West Virginia University

Melissa Luna, West Virginia University

Morgantown, W.Va., Athens, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Kim Maxwell

These individuals do some of the most important and impactful work on the planet... they TEACH. Not only do they teach, but they teach teachers. The impact of their instruction is magnified exponentially. Dr. Jim Rye and Dr. Melissa Luna instruct pre-service teachers at West Virginia University. Ms. Lethea Smith teaches at Concord University.

These professors go well beyond what is simply required, and teach what is necessary for the future of our children and the future of our planet. They incorporate environmental education into their curriculum and create space on their syllabus for Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) training and certification for their students every semester. They educate, empower, and inspire positive action in their students and in all of the children that those students will ultimately reach as teachers. The effect of their work ripples far and wide throughout our state and beyond.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Joe and Vonda Gumm, Randolph County Recycling Center

Elkins, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Callie Sams

Joe and Vonda Gumm are the owners of the Randolph County Recycling Center in Elkins. This facility repeatedly receives very high marks for being a clean and efficient recycling operation from the West Virginia DEP recycling facility inspectors and has successfully implemented a Rehabilitative Environmental Action Plan (REAP) grant to purchase a baling machine. The Gumms contribute to the local community and state by teaching about recycling at schools and youth organizations, sharing their knowledge and experience with other recycling start-ups, and serving on the boards of numerous conservation organizations.

The Randolph County Recycling Center accepts plastics 1 and 2, paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel. When another area recycler recently stopped accepting recyclables, the Gumms picked up the slack, taking over the operation of three recycling collection trailers and strategically placing them in high traffic areas in the county. In addition to providing

clean and pleasant recycling drop-off sites for Randolph County, the center also accepts and picks up materials from sites in Barbour and Tucker counties. The Gumms have traveled beyond the local area to support the recycling program in Marion County by sharing their accumulated knowledge of the industry.

The Gumms also participate in recycling education efforts in the community. They travel to local schools and teach students about recycling and encourage them to start a recycling program if one is not already in place. They offer to pick up recyclables from schools, as long as the students collect, clean and sort the materials.

In addition to his work at the Randolph County Recycling Center, Mr. Gumm also is a district supervisor at the Tygarts Valley Conservation District and initiated a recycling program at the district office. He also has participated in the effort to have the conservation district establish Adopt-A-Highway routes for cleanup in each of the district's five counties.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Greenbrier River Watershed Association

Lewisburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Dennis Stottlemeyer

Early in 2014, the Greenbrier River Watershed Association learned from concerned landowners that a large-diameter, interstate natural gas pipeline had been proposed to cross the Greenbrier River and numerous tributaries in its upper reaches. The watershed group began researching the project, met with concerned landowners, and was introduced to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and its processes to certify the proposed pipeline.

Shortly thereafter, another proposed pipeline in the area was made public. This proposal caused much concern among watershed group members in and around Pence Springs. Citizen concerns included construction impacts to air and water quality, long-term operational impacts, introduction of invasive species, and watershed issues. The watershed group began networking with fellow advocates of the watershed and held an awareness fundraiser in the summer of 2014 at Lost World Caverns near Lewisburg.

The sheer magnitude of the proposed pipeline projects across the 173-mile long Greenbrier River and the four counties that the river passes through prompted the watershed group to hire a full-time person to gather information, address concerns, network with other groups, and fully understand the environmental and social concerns. Elise Keaton began work in the fall of 2014 as Outreach and Education Coordinator with a mission to organize and host community meetings, research pipeline impacts, understand applicable regulations, attend FERC and gas company meetings, and to address landowner concerns. She has made contact with law firms that are willing to help landowners understand their rights and has helped community members understand the FERC process. As pipeline projects of this magnitude have never been built in this region, the Greenbrier River Watershed group is striving to educate its members and the public.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Friends of Mill Creek

Ripley, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

In 2011, a group of concerned citizens applied for and received a grant from the state Department of Transportation to develop a water trail 22 miles of Mill Creek, from Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley to the Ohio River at Millwood. The limited development of this trail has resulted in the increasing use and awareness of Mill Creek as a recreational asset to the community. As local citizens have begun kayaking the trail, interest has generated in cleaning up and improving the water quality and environment of the trail. This resulted in the formation of Friends of Mill Creek.

The group knew it couldn't do this without committed community partners. Friends of Mill Creek formed partnerships with the City of Ripley, the Solid Waste Authority, local Scout organizations, and Main Street Ripley. The group also is developing a relationship with the local FFA chapter, community college, the Pilot Club, and other civic organizations in the community. With the help of its partners, the Friends of Mill Creek has already successfully led several community stream cleanups to remove tires and other solid waste items.

This spring, the group conducted a "Try-A-Tri" at Cedar Lakes, where children ran, kayaked, and biked to the finish along Mill Creek. Friends of Mill Creek also is hosting its first "Mill Creek Adventure Day" on Aug. 15 for the community to learn how its watershed and community is connected to birds, fish, mussels, aquatic bugs, trees, and much more. The Friends of Mill Creek group knows that education and community involvement are keys to getting the Mill Creek Water Trail completed.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP
City of Huntington, Stormwater Division

Huntington, W.Va.
DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

Built at an elevation of 564 feet, the City of Huntington has been battling with effectively managing its stormwater for years. As do many cities in the United States, Huntington has a combined sewer overflow system (CSO), which was designed to collect rainwater runoff, domestic sewage, and industrial wastewater in the same pipe. As the city grew, more regulations were put into place.

In June of 2014, the Water Quality Board and Stormwater Utility were created by a unanimous vote of Huntington City Council. Huntington's mayor immediately signed the ordinance into law, and it became effective on July 1, 2014. Each month, the Stormwater Utility meets to discuss upcoming issues and concerns. All of the meetings are televised live on Comcast channel 24 and streamed live on the City of Huntington's website.

The Stormwater Utility has been successful partially due to local partnerships formed and its involvement in community activities. So far in 2015, it has demonstrated how rain barrels help with stormwater runoff at several different events, including the WSAZ Home and Garden Show. Additionally, the Stormwater Utility is serving on an advisory board for a nonpoint source pollution reducing project at a local business.

Where the Stormwater Utility has made the biggest environmental impact is its post construction stormwater program. It is requiring runoff volume reduction at new and re-development projects that are 5,000 square feet or more.

LAND REVITALIZATION
Business Development Corp. of the Northern Panhandle

Weirton, W.Va.
DEP Sponsor: Casey Korbini

Formed in 1993 and chartered as a 501(c)3 (private, not for profit) organization, the Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle (BDC) is the designated economic development organization for Brooke and Hancock counties. Under the leadership of Director Patrick Ford and Assistant Director Marvin Six, the BDC has embraced brownfield redevelopment as a means to provide otherwise unattractive land to developers, attract private investment to the region, create local jobs in an area devastated by economic decline, and improve the quality of life for residents.

The BDC has actively partnered with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Northern West Virginia

Brownfields Assistance Center, and the West Virginia Economic Development Authority to repurpose and redevelop over 700 acres of abandoned mills and surplus land in Brooke and Hancock counties over the past five years. The BDC recognizes the value of brownfields and has aggressively pursued and obtained hundreds of thousands of dollars in brownfield grant funds for properties in Brooke and Hancock counties.

The BDC leadership is hands-on with many projects — from technical site visits to community engagement and local history preservation activities — and is always eager to learn in order to improve with each new brownfield property acquisition. In addition, BDC has shared its experiences and lessons learned with other economic development authorities and business development corporations throughout the state by giving presentations at the annual West Virginia Brownfields Conference and meeting one-on-one with any groups interested. The BDC has provided significant economic development and community revitalization to the Northern Panhandle through its promotion of brownfield reuse.

OUTSTANDING LITTER CONTROL OFFICER
Patricia Blevins, McDowell County SWA

Welch, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Sara Prior

Patricia Blevins is taking a three-pronged approach to combat the litter problem in McDowell County: education, enforcement and community service. During the past year, she has visited the elementary schools in McDowell County and has given presentations to the younger children, hopeful of changing their attitudes toward litter, while attempting to instill a sense of pride for their community. When speaking to the middle and high school students, Ms. Blevins attempts to do the same, as well as incorporate the consequences of violating state litter laws.

She has worked extensively with the local police departments within the county to enforce litter statutes. The municipal officers have limited experience in dealing with litter code violations and she feels working in conjunction with them expands the McDowell County Solid Waste Authority's impact in the county. Ms. Blevins worked in conjunction with the McDowell County Sheriff's Department in obtaining criminal warrants for individuals who failed to appear on citations issued by the McDowell County Solid Waste Authority.

She has written grants to obtain funds to continue the county's E-Cycling and Make McDowell Proud days. Two E-cycling events conducted in McDowell County last year led to over 50,000 pounds of electronics being collected.

Ms. Blevins was recently chosen to represent the McDowell County Solid Waste Authority on the local Emergency Planning Committee and is now the vice chairman. And, as another component of the community service piece, she participated in the McDowell County Water Festival. The McDowell County Solid Waste Authority will be responsible for the planning and implementation of this festival in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Hometown Elementary School

Red House, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Tom Aluisse

Hometown Elementary School in Putnam County is a national Green Ribbon School, West Virginia School of Excellence and an award-winning member of the DEP's Youth Environmental Program. The school also has received accolades from the Putnam County Solid Waste Authority.

With 85 students in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade, Hometown is a whirlwind of learning and activity, and continually strives to promote a healthy environment. Its enthusiastic students are involved in a number of different projects, from raising trout in the school hallways and growing vegetables in a high-tunnel greenhouse on school property, to planting apple trees and composting with red wiggler worms.

The students planted their first vegetable crops in March 2014 and produced over 200 pounds of vegetables during the first harvest. The excited students eat what they grow — lettuce, peas, spinach, celery, cabbage and radishes, just to name a few. What they don't eat is shared with a local homeless shelter or fed to the thousands of hungry worms hanging out in four different classrooms' composting containers. Compost juice and soil is, in turn, used in Hometown's greenhouse as a fertilizer. Hometown is the only school in the county actively composting and plans to continue the practice next school year.

Recently, Hometown students hosted parents and other community members as part of the Leader In Me Program. Students highlighted many of the school projects and shared their leadership skills with the visitors. The school's second-graders even opened a mini farmers' market, offering fresh vegetables from Hometown's greenhouse for sale.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Petersburg Elementary School
Petersburg, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Harmony Dressler

Petersburg Elementary School, in Grant County, participated in an initiative to label the stormwater drains in Petersburg. The initiative was sponsored by the West Virginia Conservation Agency and the Chesapeake Bay Program. The stormwater drain signs are meant to inspire the citizens of the town to refrain from littering and dumping. Anything discarded on the sidewalk or lawns could be washed into the drains when it rains. The stormwater drains in Petersburg lead straight to the North Branch of the Potomac River, which drains into the Chesapeake Bay.

Also, the fifth-grade class at Petersburg Elementary started a school-wide paper recycling program this year. The class works with Hott Disposal Service, which provides the boxes for the recycling and also provides regular pick up services for the collected paper. Fifth-graders also provide classroom education as needed to help younger students understand the importance of recycling and to review the list of items that can and cannot be placed into the paper recycling boxes. To date, students have collected approximately 1,000 pounds of paper that would have ended up in a landfill if not for their efforts.

Petersburg Elementary participates in several other environmental activities, including pulling invasive garlic mustard weed around Seneca Rocks Discovery Center, monitoring the water quality of Lunice Creek, and planting and maintaining a rain garden and raised vegetable garden beds. This spring, the students participated in a watershed awareness stream snorkeling program. During the 2012-13 school year, Petersburg Elementary was recognized as a West Virginia Sustainable School and as a U.S. Green Ribbon School. The school partners with several different federal, state, and local agencies to effectively teach and promote environmental stewardship.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
Paint Creek Watershed Association
Gallagher, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Tomi Bergstrom

The Paint Creek Watershed Association is one of the oldest watershed groups in West Virginia and has achieved many goals since its initiation in 1995. Annually, it participates in

West Virginia Make It Shine Day and is a past winner of the West Virginia Watershed of the Year. In 2014, the group removed 115 bags of trash, six tires, and miscellaneous pieces of plastic, mine belts, swimming pool pieces and wooden pallets from Paint Creek during one cleanup.

To generate community involvement, a permanent handicap park fishing deck was built next to Paint Creek, two miles south of Standard, W.Va. The deck allows handicapped individuals access to Paint Creek and shows off the beauty of the creek. The park has a handicapped accessible bathroom, a paved parking lot, a paved walking track, and three covered picnic sheds with electricity. The park hosts many local gatherings, including Cub Scouts, family reunions, and community and family picnics.

The PCWA utilizes this park by hosting approximately 130 children for a “Kid’s Day” each May. This year, the group awarded each child with a fishing pole, food and prizes during the fishing event.

SAFE DAMS

West Virginia Conservation Agency

Charleston, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Brian Long

The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) represents the sponsors of 170 watershed flood control dams in many watersheds of the state. The dams represent considerable long-term investment by federal and state government partners and provide flood savings of approximately \$76 million per year for downstream communities in West Virginia. Following construction of the dams from pilot projects in the 1950’s to the present, watershed dams developed maintenance issues that degrade the flood control function of the dams, ranging from high grass to mature trees on embankments and in channel spillways.

In 2014, the WVCA committed to accomplish deferred maintenance on many watershed dams to correct the deficiencies. WVCA expended \$896,700 to address maintenance issues. It represented the first time the WVCA had addressed all of the dams in one year. For several dams, it was the first time maintenance had been performed in several years.

WVCA’s efforts to address maintenance issues at many watershed flood control dams has restored effective flood control functions at the dams and has resulted in enhanced public safety for the nearly 60 percent of the state’s 1.8 million residents who live below one of these small watershed flood-control dams.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Warm Springs PSD

Berkeley Springs Volunteer Fire Dept.

Vince Cichocki, Morgan County Commission

Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Gerald Crispino

On Oct., 16, 2014, 260 gallons of home heating oil leaked from an outside tank, into the ground, and migrated into Warm Springs Run. The oil also seeped into a broken sewer lateral belonging to the Warm Springs Waste Water Treatment Plant. Wastewater treatment plant personnel, public service district employees, county officials, and emergency response organizations responded to the area and prevented 260 gallons of oil from entering the Potomac River.

On the morning of Oct. 16, Warm Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Terrance Cross, observed a quantity of home heating oil pooling in the headworks at the treatment plant. Operator Cross contacted and briefed General Manager Scott Crunkleton of the Warm Springs Public Service District. Crunkleton provided direction to Cross who shut down the

Warm Springs Treatment Plant to contain the oil and prevent it from entering Warm Springs Run -- a tributary of the Potomac River. An examination of the plant revealed that none of the home heating oil had escaped the plant. Emergency personnel and the WVDEP were notified. Simultaneously, oil was reported seeping into Warm Springs Run in downtown Berkeley Springs.

Emergency response personnel from the Berkeley County Volunteer Fire Department and surrounding jurisdictions responded to downtown Berkeley Springs to identify the source of the oil and to stabilize the situation. Fire Chief Jamie Clark assumed the role of On-Scene-Commander. Chief Clark marshalled the available resources and synchronized the efforts of all emergency response personnel who ultimately contained and captured about 95 percent of the oil that spilled into Warm Springs Run.

Morgan County Facilities Director Vince Cichocki responded to the scene and served as the primary local contact between local officials, WVDEP, and EPA. Mr. Cichocki also organized the hazard material response to abate the oil spill. Over the next few days, Mr. Cichocki continued to assist in locating the source of the oil leak and ultimately discovered how the oil leaked into Warm Spring Run. During the months afterward, Mr. Cichocki coordinated the efforts of town, county, state, and federal agencies in cleaning up the oil spill.

The decisive actions of these individuals and agencies clearly demonstrate how teamwork and cooperation can prevail over a crisis.

CABINET SECRETARY AWARD

Coal River Group

St. Albans, W.Va.

DEP Sponsor: Randy Huffman

In 2014, the Coal River Group (CRG) completed the first Watershed Based Plan for the Coal River watershed, which was approved by the EPA in October of 2014. The CRG developed an innovative process using geographic information systems to calculate the number of septic tanks in the Lower Coal watershed. The DEP's Nonpoint Source Program and Watershed Assessment Branch have been major partners in this planning effort. CRG is currently working on a grant proposal to fix failing septic tanks and reduce fecal coliform contamination in Browns Creek.

The CRG is committed to educating its community, which it demonstrates each year. The group conducted education events for 450 students in 2014. These events included a water festival for fifth-grade students from three Boone County elementary schools, presentations at Marshall University, and fall and winter festivals at the CRG's Science & Education Center in Tornado.

Thanks to the hard work of CRG volunteers over the last decade, the 88-mile Coal River Water Trail has become one of southern West Virginia's top recreational destinations. In 2014, CRG programming alone brought over 1,000 recreational boaters to the Coal rivers, including 600 paddlers in the annual Tour de Coal, 240 paddlers in the Big Coal's Kevin's Lazy River Adventure, and over 400 renters at Coal River Kayak.

Since 2012, the CRG has partnered with the DEP'S REAP Program, AmeriCorps, and communities throughout the watershed in removing approximately 40,000 pounds of tires from the Coal and Big Coal rivers.

The CRG will partner with the DEP in 2015 on a \$1 million study of sedimentation on the main-stem Coal River, which will be used to develop a restoration program for the river channel. This study will be the first of its kind to evaluate the extent to which sedimentation is impairing the Coal River from Alum Creek to St. Albans.



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