



**NPS 1578 Watershed Pilot Program**

**Final Report**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**



**Coal River Group**

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## 1. Summary

Since its inception, the Watershed Pilot Program has been essential to the operations of Coal River Group as a watershed association. Being that Coal River Group is a volunteer organization, the majority of members have full time jobs and therefore have other obligations. The Watershed Pilot Program has been used to fund the full-time position of Project Manager for Coal River Group. 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 Coal River Group, as well many other tasks and duties.

Coal River Group used the full amount of \$30,000 and supplied an additional \$2,000 for staff training and travel. Coal River Group has employed a Project Manager, funded by the Watershed Pilot Program, for 10 of the 12 months of the fiscal year. During the months of July through October of 2016 a Project Manager was present at Coal River Group. However, he resigned at the end of October, 2016 and the position was once again filled in January of 2017.

One of the Project Manager's main concerns has been financial sustainability for the position in the future. The Project Manager is constantly researching grant opportunities that offer funding for a full-time position. This position has allowed Coal River Group to excel as a watershed association in such a way that sustaining it has become a main priority for Coal River Group. This position has granted Coal River Group the ability to clean up the watershed in ways that weren't possible before as well as become more involved with the community and educating them on the importance of and how to sustain a clean watershed. Coal River Group strives to make The Coal River Watershed a clean environment that everyone can use and enjoy, without this position that would not be possible.

## 2. Accomplishments



*NPS 1583 post-construction. A full septic replacement has taken place. All operations of the project were coordinated by the Project Manager*

**A.)** 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 in order to reduce the high counts of fecal coliform that the streams have consistently shown. To date Coal River Group has replaced one failing septic system completely and has 3 others in line to be replaced. The project is currently ongoing.

**B.)** The Project Manager, planned and coordinated *The Coal River Group 2017 Water Festival*, which took place this year on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Water Festival is a now annual event hosted by Coal River Group in which children from different grade schools from the area participate in fun-filled events that teach the importance of and how to sustain a clean water-shed. This year The Project Manager could coordinate the event as a field trip with Andrew Heights Elementary and Lakewood Elementary. Over 100 students spent the day at Coal

River Group's Science and Learning Center at Meadowood Park in Tornado, WV, participating in educational events and games. Several WVDEP personnel, along with personnel from American Water.

- C.) The Project Manager, planned and coordinated *The Coal River Group 2017 Water Festival*, which took place this year on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Water Festival is a now annual event hosted by Coal River Group in which children from different grade schools from the area participate in fun-filled events that teach the importance of and how to sustain a clean water-shed. This year The Project Manager was able to coordinate the event as a field trip with Andrew Heights Elementary and Lakewood Elementary. Over 100 students spent the day at Coal River Group's Science and Learning Center at Meadowood Park in Tornado, WV, participating in educational events and games. Several WVDEP personnel, along with personnel from American Water, and Coal River Group volunteers were gracious enough to donate their time to The Water Festival which made it a successful event for Coal River Group and a successful field trip for both schools involved.



*WVDEP and Coal River Group Volunteers show 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 2017 Water Festival.*

- D.)** The Project Manager is in charge of scheduling and coordinating trash clean-ups in different areas within the watershed. The personnel for these clean-ups is made up of volunteers from throughout the local community. The local Boy Scouts are heavily involved in volunteering efforts for clean-ups and therefore are constantly in communication with Coal River Group's Project Manager. On May 6<sup>th</sup> of this year, after coordination with the Project Manager, boy scouts from Local Troop 17 conducted a clean-up along The Coal River in Meadowood.



Scouts from Local Troop 17, and Troop Leader Michael Braun Volunteered on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to pick up trash along The Coal River in Meadowood Park.

- E.)** Since its inception, the position of Project Manager, along with help from Coal River Group Volunteer Michelle Martin, has coordinated several tire clean-up efforts that occur monthly, or even bi-weekly. The personnel for these clean-ups is, once again, composed of volunteers. These clean-ups are rarely held in the same area within the watershed back to back. Since the beginning of the fiscal year these tire clean-ups have occurred on the majority of The Big Coal River, The Little Coal River, and The Coal River. As time goes on the tire-clean ups are becoming larger in volunteer manpower. In fact, the last Coal River Group tire clean-up was able to recruit the efforts of AEP who was gracious enough to bring company equipment to make the lifting of tires easier for volunteers.



The Project Manager has coordinated several tire clean ups. A few are pictured above. Several hundred tires are recovered from the rivers in each of these clean-ups.

- F.)** After March's coal slurry spill into Crooked Run, a tributary of The Coal River, at the Admiral Processing Plant, Coal River Group received several calls from concerned members of the public regarding the spill. This inspired the Coal River Group Board, with much assistance from the Project Manager to implement *The Eyes on the River* which is an early detection system that grants the public to a live view of the river, on Coal River Group's Website, via 5 cameras placed in Whitesville, Madison, Alum Creek, Tornado, and Saint Albans. Currently, the Project Manager has awarded the contract for the job to a bidding contractor and installation of the cameras is to begin shortly.
- G.)** In late September of 2016 the Project Manager organized the 'Coal River Clean Stream Project Fair', a public outreach event at which knowledgeable representatives from Kanawha County Health Department and WVDEP were gracious enough to donate their time to provide information to the regarding septic systems and nonpoint source pollution. Building contractors

and Coal River Group members were also available to answer any questions from the public regarding the \$319 Septic Repair Program and find potential users of the grant.



Members from Kanawha County Health Department, WVDEP and Coal River Group can be seen here providing information to the public about septic systems and the 319 Septic Repair Program

### 3. Routine Activities

- A.) The Project Manager has been conducted monthly water sampling of the Brown's Creek/Angel Fork area on the nine sites, designated in the \$319 Grant. After all samples are collected they are sent to a lab in order to get an accurate count of fecal coliform in the sample. The results are recorded and sent to WVDEP personnel for review. Coal River Group uses these results to pinpoint locations within Brown's Creek/Angel Fork area where the counts of fecal coliform consistently remain high and then the Project Manager is tasked with recruiting homeowners near that location for the septic repair and replacement program.
- B.) The Project Manager is present at monthly board meetings of Coal River Group where informs the board members of upcoming plans, the results of current or past projects, and addresses any questions the board may have.
- C.) The Project Manager is constantly searching for grant opportunities that align with Coal River Group's mission of cleaning up The Coal River Watershed.

#### 4. Points of Contact

- Bill Currey, Chairman, Coal Rive Group Board of Directors, [Bike1@suddenlink.net](mailto:Bike1@suddenlink.net); (304) 419-4417.
- Kris Radford, Coal River Group President, Coal Rive 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



Morris Creek Watershed Association  
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## 1. Summary.

The Morris Creek Watershed has been faced with many challenges this year. The closing and moving of West Virginia University Tech and the soon to be closing of Valley High school has and will continue to have a negative impact on our education and outreach programs. Our new 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.

There was the unfortunate experience firing and subsequent criminal report we had to file against our former WPP. He is accused of stealing our computer and our ancillary hard drive with all our data and files. This has caused a drain on our resources to re-establish our files, pictures and data. Thanks to the efforts of our new WPP we are making headway in getting most of our material back in order.

## 2. Major accomplishments

1. Completing a major over haul of our Upper Mainstem NPS-1529. Pre-and Post-water quality sampling is proving to show a great improvement.
2. Nelson Tank experiment using a Swedish mixing process is also improving the water quality.
3. Obtaining funding for NPS 1613 Sediment control project is under way and awaiting an engineering study to be completed.
4. 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. This year we had over 240 visitors for the fish release.
5. Power Grant the base line information is being put together with the City of Montgomery, Fayette County Commission and area stake holders.
6. Make it Shine this year we collected 2.3 tons of solid waste, removed four dangerous trees from the creek, cleaned the neighborhood park using some 30 volunteers.
7. Earth Day our WPP had volunteers from WVU Tech, Bridge Valley CTC and Watershed Volunteers to help plant 300 trees.
8. Hosted a researcher from Dartmouth College who is gathering information for her thesis.
9. Students for Concord, University of Charleston and WVU have been completing senior projects on Morris Creek
10. 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.
11. Partnership with Mountaineer Institute for self-reliance to provide outdoor education and outreach and generate revenue for the Watershed.
12. Partnership with Bridge Valley to provide training for the energy industry.

## 3. 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. Also, to learn more about the community and issues they may be facing.





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2. Contacting sponsoring organization to create opportunities for community volunteers to serve and participate in organizational activities. This summer we have had volunteers from Bridge Valley, WVU Tech and Valley High School.
3. Reach out to other Watersheds to get different perspectives on what they face and a chance to grow and learn about different problems in the area.
4. Find and apply for grants to remove AML.
5. Assists in facilitating outreach programs to local groups in the area.

#### 4. Milestone Accomplishments

With the loss of our former WPP it is hard to say what milestones he may or may not have met. For the past few months I can say that I have been actively engaged in the following matters.

- regular meetings held by UKV, community listening hosted by Bridge Valley and Virginia Tech.
- Ongoing communication with Fayette County Commissioner, Gabriel J. Pena.
- Meetings with fellow watersheds.
- Organizing many different volunteer opportunities with surrounding schools like Bridge Valley, WVU Tech, Valley High School.
- 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.

#### 5. Points of Contact

James E Grey	President	304-205-8561
Gary Deluke	Vice President	304-981-4437
Samantha King	Secretary	304-395-0067
Wanda King	Treasurer	304-442-4113
Mike King	Stream Restoration Chairman	304-442-4113
Leanne Marincil	Watershed Resource Specialist	304-442-4581

#### Thoughts on the WPP funding

The Morris Creek Watershed is made up 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. 60-70-hour 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



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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.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Limestone fine dump and data collection | 8 Contingency Plan  |
| 2 Upper Mainstem project                  | 9 Trout in The Classroom  |
| 3 Nelson Tank updates and reporting       | 10 Fall Water festival planning   |
| 4 Park repairs and clean up               | 11 Fish and benthic surveys   |
| 5 Make it Shine project                   | 12 Bird Counts  |
| 6 Lower Mainstem future upgrade plans     | 13 Academic connections, Concord, WVU Tech, Marshall, Dartmouth, OSU, UC. |
| 7 Power Grant                             |   |

For small rural Watershed, the WPP position is invaluable. The WPP is exposed to 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 getting ready to release the trout.



Bridge Valley Group that planted trees alongside the stream in Morris Creek.



Camouflaged tent built by Mountaineer Institute for Self-Reliance.

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



# PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

**NPS1579 Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program  
Year 2 of 3**

**Final Report  
July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**



**Piney Creek Watershed Association  
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**1. Summary**

The Watershed Association Staff Support Pilot Program (WPP) was essential to the ability of the Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) to take actions necessary to improve the watershed. PCWA used the funding to support a part-time Executive Director (ED) to manage the daily operations of the association and manage projects that improve the watershed.

The association used the full allotment of \$30,000 and supplied an additional \$2,500 in funds to cover other employee expenses including salary, travel, employer FICA taxes, and workers compensation insurance. The association employed an Executive Director for all 12 months of the fiscal year. The Executive Director worked 1,432.5 hours over the 12 month period.

**2. Major Accomplishments**

a. The Executive Director oversaw the YMCA Soccer Complex Barren Land Restoration and Enhancement Project (NPS 1535) which included the completion of the design, selection of a contractor, and supervision of construction. **PROJECT IS ONGOING.**



*Project site on July 10, 2017 after hydro seeding.*

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b. The ED oversaw the start of NPS 1586 at the Beckley-Raleigh County Convention Center. The project will construct green infrastructure at the convention center to address storm water issues from impervious surfaces at the site. The ED selected the design firm and coordinated with the land owner for the project. The ED also coordinated for the boy scouts to participate in the project as part of the 2017 Boy Scout Jamboree. **PROJECT IS ONGOING.**



*NPS 1586 pre-construction. Marking was done by the Executive Director and the Beckley Sanitary Board.*

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c. The ED coordinated, publicized, and executed a county wide cleanup and beautification effort in support of Earth Day 2017. The event involved over 300 volunteers from 25 different organizations conducting cleanups in Raleigh County. Overall the event resulted in the cleanup of over 4,000 pounds of trash and materials from the county. **COMPLETE.**



*Crews from United Bank and the Sophia Fire Department cleanup Route 16 in Sophia as part of the PCWA coordinated Earth Day 2017 event.*

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d. The ED initiated, coordinated, and implemented a monthly stream cleanup program in the watershed. During the reporting period PCWA conducted five cleanups since the start of the program in February 2017. Two were along Beaver Creek in Glen Morgan and three cleanups were along Piney Creek. The cleanups have removed well over 150 bags of trash and 50 tires from the watershed. **ONGOING.**



*Executive Director, Dave Stewart (far left), and association members at a cleanup of Beaver Creek on February 25, 2017*

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e. The ED served on a community committee to conduct a Household Hazardous Waste collection in Raleigh County in October 2016. The combined effort resulted in the removal of over \$66,000 worth of household hazardous waste (including paint, automotive fluids, batteries, and lawn chemicals) from areas in the watershed.

**COMPLETE.**



*A volunteer at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection on October 8, 2016*



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**3. Routine Activities and Accomplishments**

- a. Coordinated two quarterly general membership meetings to inform members of the activities of the association.
- b. Participated and represented the association with partner organizations including the Southern Conservation District, Beckley Sanitary Board, Crab Orchard-MacArthur Public Service District, Raleigh County Historical Society (Mill Committee), Raleigh County Make-It-Shine Committee, Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce, Beckley Events Committee, and City of Beckley Council meetings.
- c. Coordinated, publicized, and gathered documents and information in support of 12 monthly association Board of Directors meetings.
- d. Conducted public presentations with First Baptist Church of Beckley, Rise Up Southern West Virginia meeting, and the Three River Avian Center Migration Celebration.
- e. Maintained financial records and submitted reports to support grants and association operations.

**4. Milestone Accomplishments (IAW PCWA 2016-2017 Work Plan)**

Green indicates the milestone was accomplished or is ongoing and on schedule  
 Yellow indicates the milestone was partially met  
 Red indicates the milestone was not met

Status	Task	Frequency/ Measure	Remarks
	Public Presentations (any age)	1 per month or 3 per quarter	Opportunities for public presentations were limited but other outreach activities have achieved the goal of increasing the public profile of the association. The ED was available to present to targeted audiences
	Newsletters compiled and distributed	1 per quarter	3 of 4 newsletters published.
	Media Contacts	1 per month or 3 per quarter	PCWA received significant media coverage from the

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			newspaper, television stations, and radio stations
	Live interviews (Radio or Television)	2 per year	The ED conducted one radio interview and 8-10 television interviews over the year
	Updates to Board of Directors	Monthly	ED supported 12 monthly board meetings
	Updates to General Members	Quarterly	ED only coordinated two general meetings over the period. Two were canceled because of competing events in the community.
	PCWA events planned and executed	3 per year	ED planned and executed Earth Day 2017, monthly stream cleanups, Household Hazardous Waste Collection, and BSB plant tour
	Participation in non-PCWA public events	2 per year	Ed represented the association at the Mountain Heart Community Service "Super Saturday", Friends of Coal Auto Fair, NPS Outdoor Adventure Fest, Taste of Beckley, Beckley Kids Classic, Beckley Chili Night, NPS West Virginia Water Festival, Three River Avian Center Migration Celebration, Beckley Founder's Day, Beckley Rhodo-Boogie, Family Art Festival, and Beckley Car Show
	Represent PCWA with other organizations	2 organizations	Ed represents PCWA with in the Raleigh County Make-it-Shine committee, Beckley Events Committee, and Grist Mill Committee
	Non-319 related projects implemented	2 per year	ED planned and supported the Household Hazardous Waste collection and Earth Day 2017
	Increase in general members as assessed by dues	10% increase	Membership increased from 18 to 30 over the past year
	Increase in individuals attending general meetings and events	10% increase	General meeting were not well attended
	Increase in grants or	10% increase	The number of grants increased

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	funds from grants (year over year)	in funds or overall increase in number of grants	from two to five over the reporting period. Overall funds decreased as grants were for lesser amounts.
	Increase in projects implemented (year over year)	1 more project completed than in previous year	No construction projects were completed during this period but more projects were funded and started.

**5. Points of Contact.**

Matthew Wade, Chairman, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [cornerstonefg@aol.com](mailto:cornerstonefg@aol.com); (304) 929-7283.

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

Teresa Sopher, Secretary, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [fruitpancakes@gmail.com](mailto:fruitpancakes@gmail.com); (304) 252-0824.

Ellen Taylor, Treasurer, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, [ellenmtaylor@frontier.com](mailto:ellenmtaylor@frontier.com); (304) 252-7328.

Seth Burdette, Southern Basin Coordinator, [Seth.A.Burdette@wv.gov](mailto:Seth.A.Burdette@wv.gov); (304) 465-1938.

Tim Craddock, NPS Program Coordinator, [timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov](mailto:timothy.d.craddock@wv.gov); (304) 926-0499 x 1040.