

Watershed Pilot Program’s 2023 Final Report

The Watershed Improvement Branch's NPS Program has provided funding for watershed group staff support since through the Watershed Pilot Program (WPP) since 2014. 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.

[Click-Here](#) to learn more about the WPP. Included here are the final reports from each of the 2023 WPP organization.

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COAL RIVER GROUP WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM NPS1710

Final Report July 2022 – June 2023

COAL RIVER GROUP
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Narrative

The Coal River Group (CRG) has now been a part of the Watershed Pilot Program for eight years. Its inclusion in the program is crucial to the many achievements the group has accomplished. The WPP program has allowed the CRG to add staff to oversee grants and expand capacity, providing the important next step for the CRG to grow to become a financially sustainable river restoration entity.

The WPP is staffed by our designated employee, Andy Spradling. The employee coordinates outreach and volunteer events such as the CRG Water Celebration event in April – Project WET - and provides administrative and building capacity for the group and its board members. As a non-profit organization, the CRG relies heavily on its grants, fundraising efforts, and volunteers to thrive. This makes the staff's position crucial in keeping the group running and guiding its volunteers.

During August of the 2022-2023 fiscal period, the CRG's new staff person, Andy Spradling, was hired and trained under the tutelage of former grant manager and now-Board Member Justin Hunt, and the guidance of CRG Chairman Bill Currey. He began in August of the new fiscal year, representing the Coal River Group in workshops, outreach programs, and volunteer events while acknowledging the group's mission statement: to preserve and protect the watershed, its history, and develop recreation and tourism for the Coal River Center.

Project Updates

After successfully carrying out two phases of the NPS 319 Grant, the CRG, unfortunately, missed a renewal opportunity in April of 2022. But the CRG has applied for, and expects to receive, funding for a third phase of its septic remediation project. The project encompasses the Browns Creek and Angel Fork area of St. Albans, and its goal is to reduce the high counts of fecal coliform flowing from defective septic systems in that area before it reaches the Coal River. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the CRG replaced fourteen septic systems for homeowners (See *Chart 1*) and has replaced a total of 36 over the six years of the two phases. One other applicant had their septic tank replaced as the organization's 319 grant ended in September, after the WVDEP granted an extension due to completion difficulties due to rising costs for the CRG's primary contractor.

Septic Worksheet

Location	# Units	gal/person/day	Conversion	persons/household	household/day	cfu/100mL	Days of year	Eff	Load Reduction
Total Browns	14	50	3.79E+01	2.4	4.54E+03	1.00E+04	365	0.99	2.30E+11
2022 Browns	4	25	3.79E+01	2.4	2.27E+03	1.00E+04	365	0.50	1.66E+10

The Coal River Group will continue its clean water efforts through additional septic replacements and a dam removal/riverbank restoration project. Spradling will plan an outreach program to add to its current homeowners' waiting list discuss the processes that will take place in 2024.



Beginning in June, the WPP staff collected water samples along the Coal River for the Stream Partners Grant and at the assigned sites along the Browns Creek/Angel Fork tributaries. CRG's goal is to reduce the counts by $1.07E+12$. As shown in shown the chart below, one can see the progress on the fecal coliform count.

Outreach



In the past twelve months, the Coal River Group has participated in numerous community outreach opportunities. In March, a Coal River Road cleanup yielded over 50 bags of trash. In April, 325 school kids visited Meadowood Park for Coal River Group Water Festival, also known as Project WET. The weekend prior, WPP staff manned a booth at the St. Albans "Walk on the Wild Side" Event at City Park, promoting the Coal River Group's purpose, and its upcoming fundraising event, the Tour De Coal, and volunteer recruitment.

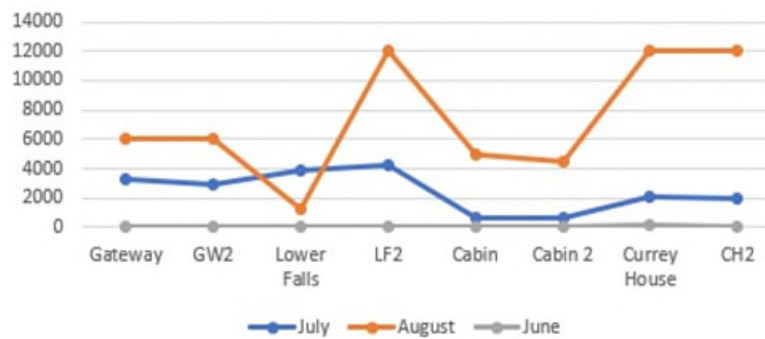
	July	August	June
Gateway	3300	6000	72
GW2	2900	6000	74
Lower Falls	3900	1200	59
LF2	4200	12000	62
Cabin	680	5000	64
Cabin 2	700	4500	66
Currey House	2100	12000	112
CH2	2000	12000	96

Chart 2: NPS1724 Browns Creek Water Sampling Results



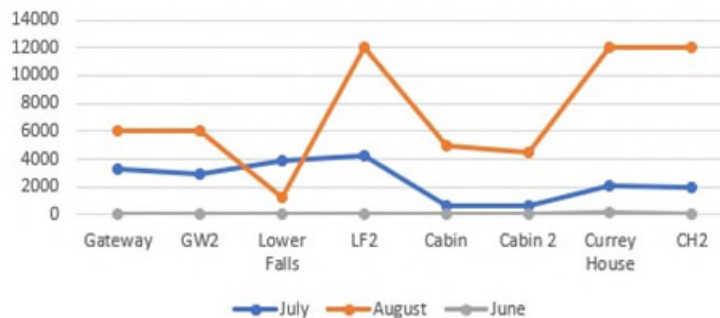
CRG Intern and Marshall senior Alyson Sergent tests the creek water on Angel Fork along with WPP staff.

Stream Partners Water Sampling Fecal Coliform Results (CFU/100mL) July 2022-June 2023



	July	August	June
Gateway	3300	6000	72
GW2	2900	6000	74
Lower Falls	3900	1200	59
LF2	4200	12000	62
Cabin	680	5000	64
Cabin 2	700	4500	66
Currey House	2100	12000	112
CH2	2000	12000	96

Stream Partners Water Sampling Fecal Coliform Results (CFU/100mL) July 2022-June 2023



Fundraising & Capacity Building

In fall of 2022, Bill Currey, Spradling, and the CRG Board conducted a successful end-of-year fundraising program. In January, two dozen volunteers worked a booth at the WV Fishing & Hunting Show in Charleston, representing the Coal River Group and the great recreational opportunities it has to offer.

Key Tasks & Priorities

- A. The WPP staff conducts monthly water sampling in the Brown Creek/Angel Fork Area and on the lower Coal River. There are nine locations in the Browns Creek/Angel Fork area and four locations on the Coal River from the Coal River Center to Saint Albans Gateway Shopping Center. Water samples are taken and sent to a lab to be analyzed for fecal coliform counts. This water sampling allows the staff 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 WPP staff continues to help CRG volunteers in developing new fundraising ideas and opportunities.
- C. The WPP staff is present at monthly board meetings of Coal River Group where he informs the board members of upcoming plans, the results of current or past projects, and addresses any questions the board may have.
- D. The WPP staff is constantly searching for grant opportunities that align with Coal River Group's mission of cleaning up The Coal River Watershed and for awareness. The staff and Currey work with the board members and consultants to research, apply for, and obtain grants that support the organization's mission statement and vision.
- E. The WPP staff reaches out to communities in Kanawha, Boone, and Lincoln Counties during civic meetings, outreach events, in the neighborhoods, and on site speaking on CRG's behalf about the impact the CRG has had to the watershed and educate to help others do the same.

Points of Contact

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2. Kris Radford, Coal River Group President, Coal River Group Board of Directors, Texascrzd@yahoo.com (304) 549-1348.
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DEP PILOT 2022-ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTREACH SPECIALIST
FY22 CWA §319 NPS PROGRAM
NPS 1794
FRIENDS OF DECKERS CREEK FINAL REPORT

CONTACT

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Narrative:

FODC has reached and occasionally exceeded the limit of what it can successfully do to operate and implement remediation systems given its staff size. This has been made clear through continued unresolved landowner issues, treatment systems that could not be implemented and a maintenance backlog of constructed treatment systems. These persistent organizational shortcomings could be mitigated or resolved with an additional staff member. The additional staff member would foster landowner and community relationships through invested time, improved visibility and trust built paying dividends for the watershed. Through these Strong relationships and sense of community, more landowners would be willing to have treatment systems built on their land, more donations and improved health of Deckers Creek.

This proposal is based on hiring an additional staff member to spearhead the maintenance and upkeep of treatment sites and social media outreach. Both ongoing tasks are far too often overlooked due to the dynamic nature of the organization. This additional staff member will make a significant impact on both social media presence and the treatment site maintenance backlog. In summer of 2022 FODC applied for and was awarded a grant to hire an additional seasonal staff member. FODC was unable to hire a staff member until Late December of 2022. Due to this shorter timeline, FODC opted to increase the hourly wage to meet the grant value and adjust the goals outlined in the workplan. This position received the most applicants out of any previous FODC job listing. FODC hired Katie Cooley, she began working in late December of 2023.

Activities during the reporting period

- Ongoing maintenance and repair of AMD treatment sites
- Within 2 weeks of being Hired, both of FODC's active sites were operational.
- Planned and completed FODC's first ever Moth Lighting event held June 5
- Supported a co-led FODC's Arts in the Park week June 12-16
- Led the FODC weekly gardening at the OLP.
- Expanded community outreach and improved social media presence.
- Organized two invasive species removal events.
- Planned and carried out FODC's first ever "save the Frogs Day" held April 29
- Completed the WVDEP vernal pool training event and trained FODC on vernal pools Completed March 23
- Improved the trails at the FODC OLP with mulch donations.
- Installed a new Pollinator Garden at the OLP.
- Installed a secure storage shed at the OLP.

Steps to accomplishment or setbacks

- KCS1 has been backing up with lime; Katie has been shoveling it away, but it is going to need to be pumped soon.
- The pump Has been repaired and picked up.
- FODC is looking to schedule a sludge pump day for one active site and has the second active site scheduled for DEP maintenance.
- FODC had to condense the position into a 6 month position.
- FODC increased the hourly wage and created overtime hours to expend the funds in the timeline.
- FODC adjusted the goals from the work plan to make accomplishing them feasible in the condensed timeline.
- FODC removed the goal of recruiting and training three new citizen scientist and refocused the other goals around the OLP and additional community events.
- One of the FODC passive sites has developed a new seep.
- Future AGO funds will be pursued to address this seep.
- FODC could not practically transport the secure storage container from its drop off point to the OLP.
- Rented and operated an off road forklift to transport the container to the OLP.

Staff or board updates

- Over the duration of NPS 1794 FODC lost and replaced the Operations Manager and the AmeriCorps VISTA
- Over the duration of NPS 1794 FODC lost five board members and was able to replace two of them
- FODC continues to seek out and recruit new board members.

Recent publications, evaluations, articles, or the like

- FODC was featured in an article in *The New Yorker* focused on AMD and Rare earth element recovery, Published August 2022
- [Could Coal Waste be Used to Make Sustainable Batteries in the New Yorker](#)
- FODC printed the annual State of the Creek Report covering the annual happenings at FODC, Published approximately December of 2022
- [The 2022 FODC State of the Creek Report](#)

Variance of proposed spending and actual spending

- Katie completed all the available hours based on the Pilot Project budget.
- Katie fell sick to COVID and made up missed hours through overtime as indicated on her final paycheck.

Main report

Admin or capacity building

- Administrative and capacity building was carried out with the implementation of three community events that FODC has never hosted.
- Moth lighting event
- Save the Frogs Day.
- Archeology orientation of the Deckers Creek watershed

Further capacity was built.

- With the increased presence and active engagement at the OLP
- Improved pollinator gardens
- Improved walkways at the OLP
- Two invasive species removal days
- Improved reliability at FODC’s AMD treatment sites through inspections and maintenance
- Recruiting a lead volunteer to organize volunteer programming.
- Creating checklists for treatment site inspection and organization

Project updates

- The Pilot project was completed on time and was able to expend all granted funds over the project’s timeline.

Other grant updates related to the sustainability of the organization.

- The successful completion of the *Save the Frogs Day* created the opportunity for FODC to apply for grant funding in 2024.

Fundraising activities

- Over the duration of the Pilot Project Katie supported fundraising for FODC. No DEP pilot funds were spent on fundraising events.
- Appalachian voices in February of 2023
- The Spring Meltdown in April of 2023

Outside engagement activities

- FODC and the Morgantown Utility Board Partnered for the Rain Barrel workshops held - May 17 and June 7.

Hours worked.

12/27/2022- 06/30/2023		Hourly wage hours	Overtime hours
Total Hours worked	994.75	930.75	64
Compensation		\$17.00 per hr	\$25.50 per hr
Total		\$15,822.75	\$1,632.00
total			\$17,454.75
Back pay			\$3,353.25
Gross pay			\$20,808
Employer contributions			\$1,718.12
Grand total			\$22,526.12

Events and brief description during the period.

1. Save the Frogs Day: Held at the OLP to raise awareness of the herpetofauna in the Appalachian region to highlight their value and sensitivities to the ecosystem.
2. Moth Lighting Event: Appreciate diversity, raise awareness for and better understand the ecological importance of Lepidoptera.
3. Arts in the Park: Foster ecological curiosity, inspire future environmental scientists and understand the value of a healthy environment as presented by industry professionals.

4. Invasive removal days: Direct action to improve the local ecosystem through the removal of non-native invasive species.
5. Spring Meltdown: Raise financial support and expand the community footprint of FODC.
6. Archeology Orientation of the Deckers Creek Watershed: Create a learning opportunity for the history and cultural significance of the Deckers Creek watershed.
7. Appalachian Voices: Present and highlight the different stories and viewpoints of Appalachians through poetry, music and storytelling.
8. Rain Barrel Workshop: Expand awareness of the environmental impacts of urbanization and housing developments around Morgantown. Provide a means to improve the water quality directly and easily through reducing urban runoff in the community.

Figure 1. A picture of the Moth lighting event that Katie organized.



Figure 2. Crowds enjoy the Save the Frogs Day at the OLP.





PINEY CREEK
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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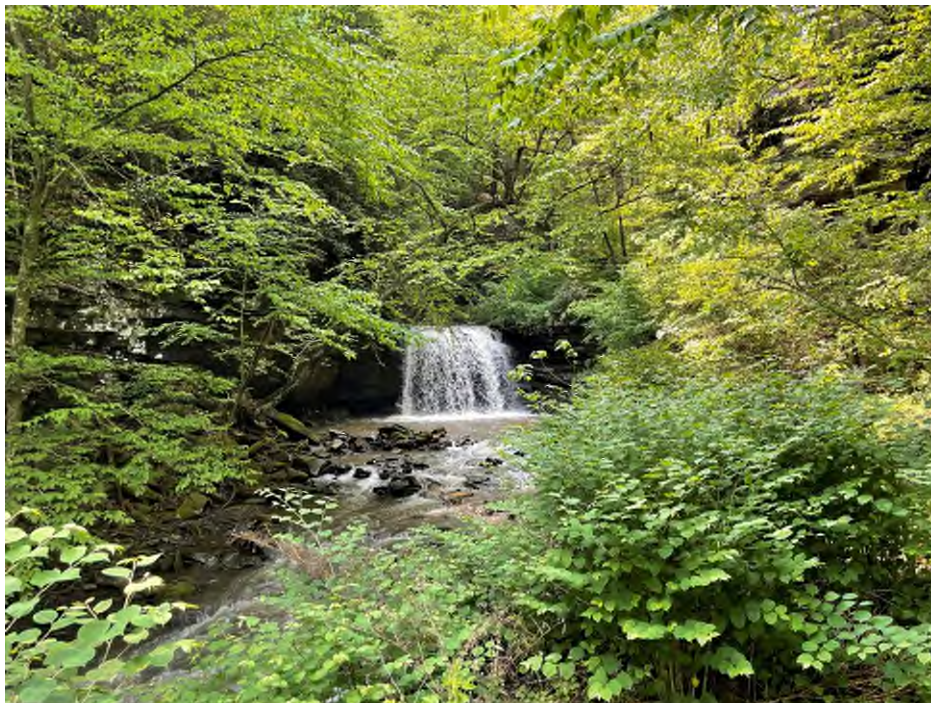
"Partnering to Protect Piney Creek - We All Live Downstream"

**WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM
FINAL REPORT**

WV Fiscal Year 2023
July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023
Requested Funds: \$22,500.00

Piney Creek Watershed HUCs: 050500040103, 050500040102, 050500040101

303d Stream Codes: WVKN-26, WVKN-26-A, WVKN-26-E, WVKN-26-E-1, WVKN-26-F, WVKN-26-F-2, WVKN-26-G, WVKN-26-K, WVKN-26-N, WVKN-26-M



Cranberry Creek Falls

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**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT 2023**

Narrative

The Piney Creek Watershed Association (PCWA) completed the eighth year of the Watershed Pilot Program (WPP) during the 2022-2023 period. The WPP has allowed PCWA to continue implementing and managing projects identified in the Piney Creek Watershed Plan to improve water quality in the Piney Creek Watershed.

PCWA pays a part-time Executive Director to manage and execute watershed improvement projects, associated support activities, and administrative duties. The departure of the Executive Director and Community Relations Director in January 2023 resulted in personnel changes. PCWA now has a paid part-time Executive Director and Associate Director. The Associate Director's primary duties are project management.

The board of directors meets monthly to review and guide PCWA's watershed projects. PCWA has twelve dedicated volunteer board members with various knowledgeable backgrounds and skill sets.

PCWA has a very successful water monitoring program and a committed Water Monitoring Committee. The Water Monitoring Committee meets and monitors 23 sites in the Piney Creek Watershed every quarter. Monitoring teams are composed of PCWA staff and volunteers, West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU Tech) staff and students, WV School of Osteopathic Medicine staff and students, and the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB). Our success is made possible with the ongoing support from the Beckley Sanitary Board and Dr. Matthew Williams with the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. PCWA, BSB, and WVU Tech won the 2023 National Environmental Achievement Award from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for a successful water monitoring collaboration.

The Technical Advisory Committee meets monthly to discuss progress, updates, and next steps for PCWA's project. The committee is comprised of members from community water-related agencies who offer technical advice. Attendees include the Executive and Associate Director, PCWA board members, the Crab Orchard-MacArthur Public Service District, the Beckley Sanitary Board, and USDA-NRCS.

PCWA's successes can be reflected in ongoing relationships with many government and non-government organizations to support the long-term sustainability of the association. PCWA received continued funding of \$20,000 from the City of Beckley. Businesses, individuals, and families continue to support the association with their time and monetary donations.

PCWA also participates in bi-weekly New River Clean Water Alliance meetings to create unity in improving the community and protecting the watershed. The New River Clean Water Alliance facilitated uploading three years of monitoring data to the Water Quality Exchange (WQX). The data is now available on a web map hosted on the New River Conservancy's Website.

General Administration and Capacity Building

Piney Creek Watershed Association hired Brittany Chaber as the new Executive Director in January 2023. Brittany is responsible for the organization's day-to-day management, primarily related to grant management and project oversight. Jim Fedders, previous Executive Director, continued his work with PCWA as Associate Director. Jim has years of experience with the organization and plays a key role in project management. Kate Sopher, Community Relations Director, resigned in February 2023. PCWA continues to use an accountant to assist with financial management. PCWA's books and required filings with the IRS and state government are current.

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT 2023**

§319 Project Updates

NPS 1705 Crescent Elementary Environmental Retrofit: A Right of Entry Agreement between the Raleigh County Board of Education (RCBOE) and the Beckley Sanitary Board (BSB) was completed in the fall of 2022. Test pits were dug and surveyed on the campus, where an underground stormwater detention structure is planned. Test pit results revealed a need for design modifications. The design plans and an MOU among RCBOE, BSB, and PCWA were completed in March 2023. PCWA solicited bids in April 2023 and selected a contractor in June 2023. Construction began in July 2023 and is currently ongoing. The project will be completed in August 2023 with an educational component at the school’s open house. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the Piney Creek Watershed, nonpoint source pollution, and the importance of clean water.



The construction site at Crescent Elementary, where the stormwater detention system will be located.

NPS 1736 Little League Convention Center Stormwater Detention: This project is a phase two extension of the effort to detain stormwater runoff from the parking lot and Beckley-Raleigh Convention Center to reduce flooding of the adjacent baseball fields. PCWA’s Technical Advisory Committee continues discussing bioretention options at the project site. PCWA plans to finalize the design in the fall of 2023 and begin construction in the early spring 2024.

NPS 1802 Wastewater Improvement Project – PCWA secured matching funds from the Beckley Area Foundation and the Southern Conservation District for septic repair and remediation. The Raleigh County Commission is also in support of the project. PCWA has created a mailer to distribute to homeowners in Abbey, Pemberton, Sullivan, Jonben, Whitby, and Firco and plans to distribute it in the early fall of 2023.



NPS 1808 AGO Rain Barrel Workshop: A rain barrel workshop was held in May 2023 at the Raleigh County 4H Camp. Participants learned about nonpoint source pollution, the benefits of rain barrels, and rain barrel care and maintenance. Participants built their rain barrels and attached all necessary components. Participants also received a PCWA trifold brochure and rain barrel fact sheet. In a follow-up survey, when asked about what they enjoyed most, participants said they enjoyed “the step-by-step instructions both in person and the sheet you gave us,” “the relaxed learning atmosphere,” and “assembling the barrel apparatus.”

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
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NPS 1612 New River Drive Soil Erosion Remediation: This project successfully revegetated 0.92 acres of barren and erodible land adjacent to Little Whitesitck Creek in Beckley. PCWA submitted the final report for the completed project.

NPS 1771 AGO Expanded Monitoring Project: This project allowed PCWA to regularly sample five additional monitoring locations in the Upper Piney watershed. This process followed the procedures outlined in the QAPP for sampling the regular 21 sites in and around the Beckley area. PCWA submitted the final report for the completed project.

Other Grant and Project Updates

Trout in the Classroom: PCWA was awarded a Beckley Area Foundation Field of Interest Grant from the Nancy R. Smith Family Fund to implement a Trout in the Classroom project at Woodrow Wilson High School. Students raised brook trout from eggs in their classroom aquarium while learning about various environmental stewardship topics, including the need for clean streams, nonpoint source pollution, water chemistry, animal husbandry, and outdoor recreation. A trout release took place in May 2023. Attendees included Mr. Peters, a Woodrow Wilson High School biology teacher, Woodrow Wilson High School students, PCWA board members, a Raleigh County Board of Education board member, and a Southern Conservation District board member. The trout were released into Beaver Creek.



A student from Woodrow Wilson High School released trout into Beaver Creek.

The Trash Trout full of trash in Cranberry Creek



The Trash Trout located on Little Whitestick.



Trash Trout: PCWA was awarded a Beckley Area Foundation Field of Interest Grant from the Buckner Woodford Clay, III Memorial Fund to install a litter catchment device called a Trash Trout into Cranberry Creek. The Beckley Sanitary Board secured additional funding from the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to install a second Trash

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
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Trout in Little Whitestick Creek. The two Trash Trout were installed in February 2023. Since February 2023, 186 pounds of trash have been removed from the Trash Trout. The litter collected includes over 260 plastic bottles and four large bags of Styrofoam.

Beckley Area Foundation Community Grant: PCWA was awarded a Community Grant from the Beckley Area Foundation to combine with West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) grant funds to help homeowners pay for necessary septic repairs and maintenance. The DEP grant targets remote areas of the watershed, including Abbey, Pemberton, Sullivan, Jonben, Whitby, and Firco, where no public sanitary sewer systems exist, and household incomes are low.

Woodrow Wilson High School (WWHS) Wetland Project: PCWA was awarded a grant from the WV Transportation Alternatives and Recreational Trails Program administered by the WV Department of Transportation and funded by the Federal Highway Administration to build a boardwalk and nature trail at the Woodrow Wilson High School Wetland. The boardwalk will serve as an outdoor classroom space and an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the wetland area. Two talented and hard-working WWHS students, class President Ram Asathambi and Vice-President Thomas Spencer, continue to help with fundraising efforts. This project was nominated for an EPA Success Story and is expected to be published by late summer or fall of 2023.

Shady Spring Library: Piney Creek Watershed maintains the Shady Spring Library by planting aromatic herbs in raised beds, replacing mulch, weed eating, and removing invasive species such as knotweed.



Raised beds with aromatic herbs at the Shady Spring Library

Litter Cleanups: PCWA coordinated litter cleanups in the Piney Creek Watershed throughout the year with the help of numerous volunteers. Volunteers included PCWA board members, the Raleigh County Make-It-Shine Committee, the Beckley Sanitary Board, the Beckley Area Foundation, United Bank staff members, the Beckley-Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Beckley Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol, WVU Tech students, and the Stewards Individual Placements. The Raleigh County Solid Waste Authority also assists with traffic control on busy roads.

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT 2023**



Volunteers pose after picking up litter in the Piney Creek Watershed.

Trout Stocking: PCWA participated in trout stocking in April 2023 along Piney Creek. Trout Unlimited partnered with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources to obtain trout for the release. CSX Transportation allowed the group to meet at their rail yard in Beaver, WV, and ride along the train tracks toward McCreery, stopping to release trout. Attendees included Beaver Coal, the City of Beckley, UPS, and the Raleigh County Commission.



Trout stocking volunteers on Piney Creek. (Photo by Go Duck Media)

Fundraising

PCWA continues to seek funds from government and non-government agencies to fund watershed improvement projects. As previously mentioned, the City of Beckley will continue its support of \$20,000 for FY2023. PCWA continues

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT 2023**

to receive monetary donations through membership levels available on the PCWA website. PCWA also raised \$960 during a virtual fundraising event on Giving Tuesday in November 2022.

Education and Outreach

As mentioned, PCWA held a Rain Barrel Workshop where participants learned about nonpoint source pollution, the benefits of rain barrels, and rain barrel care and maintenance. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the Piney Creek Watershed, PCWA’s mission, and the importance of clean water.

PCWA held a “Trash Trout Celebration” to demonstrate how the Trash Trout traps floating litter from traveling further downstream. This was also an opportunity to educate the community on the importance of clean water and the Piney Creek Watershed.

Tabling opportunities through the City of Beckley also provided PCWA educational opportunities to advocate for and educate others on the importance of clean water. PCWA participated in Beckley’s Coffee and Tea Celebration and the Piney Creek Preserve Kick-Off Party.

PCWA installed an interpretive sign at the Beckley Area Foundation Rain Garden and the Beckley-Raleigh Convention Center Rain Garden. The information on both signs explains how rain gardens filter pollutants from runoff before they enter our local streams.



Dena Cushman (BAF) and Tom Lemke (PWCA) stand next to interpretive signage at the rain garden at the Beckley Area Foundation.

Budget

PCWA used the entire \$22,500 provided by this grant for salary and FICA match. None of the WPP funds were used this year for travel or training expenses.

**PINEY CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
WATERSHED PILOT PROGRAM - FINAL REPORT 2023**

Line	Item	Budget Amount	Actual Amount
1	Executive Director Salary	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 21,327.94
2	Employer FICA Match (7.65% of salary)	\$ 1,530.00	\$1,172.06
3	Travel	\$ 470.00	\$ 0
4	Training	\$ 500.00	\$ 0
		\$ 22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00

Points of Contact

-
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 4. Carolyn Hefner, Secretary, Board of Directors for Piney Creek Watershed Association, wvharley8@yahoo.com; (304) 541-9819.
 5. Brittany Chaber, Executive Director, Piney Creek Watershed Association, brittanychaber@pineycreekwatershed.org; (304) 228-1680
 6. Jim Fedders, Associate Director, Piney Creek Watershed Association, jimfedders@pineycreekwatershed.org; (304) 673-9530
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Save the Tygart Watershed Association
 Watershed Pilot Program
 Annual Report 2022-2023
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Summary

The fifth year of the Watershed Pilot Program has been the most successful year for the Save the Tygart Watershed Association Inc. (STTWA) yet. In the second half of 2022, STTWA accomplished the management of two large water treatment projects. These remediation projects had been a long-time in the works and the STTWA Board and Staff are proud of the work done on projects on the Left Fork of Little Sandy Creek and the first phase of projects on Roaring Creek. STTWA also made progress toward phase II of the Roaring Creek North Portals project and work on the Mars portals in the same drainage. STTWA personnel successfully planned and executed their first major outreach event in July of 2022. The Fish and Float Festival celebrated the recreational opportunities in the Tygart Valley River Watershed as well as the water quality remediation work, we do. This event was attended by over 100 individuals and helped to build support for our organization in the community. We built on the success of this effort and rebranded in 2023 to hold the Tygart Valley River Rally in July.

Major Accomplishments

1. We have obtained WCAP funding to support a previously obtained 319 grant for passive remediation at the North portal site on Roaring Creek and have secured the necessary permits for construction.
2. We have worked with DEP personnel to toward a finalized watershed-based plan for the Beaver Creek watershed.
3. We participated in trainings conducted by the Appalachian Regional Commission regarding nonprofit management. We have also obtained a \$24,970 capacity building grant from the ARC through this program.
4. We have supervised two students from Fairmont State University in using GIS to prioritize AML sites within the Tygart Valley River Watershed. These students presented their findings at the West Virginia Geospatial Professionals Conference.
5. We have published monthly blogs on various topics within the watershed.
6. 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.
7. We participated in a large outreach event at the 2023 West Virginia Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor show. Over a thousand visitors viewed the Save the Tygart booth.
8. We cooperated with Fairmont State to host the first Women on the Water Workshop pairing girls interested in and Environmental Science Career with women working in the field.

Routine Activities and Accomplishments.

1. We attend monthly STTWA meetings. We also attend meetings and/or maintain contact with other local organizations including:
 - Create Philippi
 - WV DEP
 - WV DNR
 - Northern Brownfields Assistance Center
 - Taylor County Arts Council
 - Grafton City Council
 - Taylor County Economic Development Authority
 - Taylor County Commission.
 - WVU Water Research Institute
 - Barbour County Commission
 - Eight Rivers Council
 - Taylor County Adventure Club
 - Fairmont State University
2. We participate in and rebuild a database for water quality sampling in the Tygart Valley River watershed.
3. We maintain the STTWA website and social media (Facebook Pages).
4. We research and apply for appropriate grants for education, cleanup, and sampling in the Tygart Valley River watershed.
5. We have developed a relationship with the natural sciences department at Fairmont State University.

Milestone Accomplishments

The following WPP milestones for 2022-2023 were addressed by the following activities. The Covid-19 Pandemic prevented some of the activities related to these goals.

- **Goal 1: Complete work on existing §319 Projects: Barlow Project**
 - STTWA WPP staff worked with DEP personnel to complete work on the Left Fork of Little Sandy project. STTWA used 319 funds to contribute an access road to a larger treatment facility to remediate the Left Fork of Little Sandy.
- **Goal 2: Continue Partnerships on existing and future §319 Projects: Roaring Creek**
 - WPP staff completed work on Phase 1 of the North Portals project although still working with WVWRI and WVDEP personnel to add additional limestone to the ponds and to ensure adequate vegetation on site.
 - WPP staff have worked with WVWRI personnel to submit two more 319 proposals for work on Roaring Creek remediation at the North Portals and Mars portals.
 - WPP staff submitted and were awarded a WCAP to support phase 2 of the North Portals project.
- **Goal 3: Develop a Watershed-Based Plan for Beaver Creek Watershed (additional actions depend on the result of §319 Project Funding)**
 - STTWA WPP staff are working with WVDEP personnel to complete the plan by the closure of the grant in September 2023.
 - WPP staff have continued participating in volunteer monitoring efforts and maintaining a database of water quality data.
 - STTWA has continued its support of treatment of Beaver Creek outflows with lime sands funded, in part, by the Barbour County Commission.

- WPP staff met with WV DEP environmental personnel and WV DNR personnel in the planning of potential changes to the current treatment program on Beaver Creek.
- **Goal 4: Increase opportunities for educational outreach in K-12 and adult populations**
 - WPP Staff held a Women on the Water (WOW) workshop designed to connect young women in high school and college with professional women in the environmental science field. The workshop was held in June 2023.
 - STTWA worked with Fairmont State students to use GIS to map priority sites for AML treatment within the watershed. Students presented their findings at the 2023 WV Geospatial Professionals Conference.
- **Goal 5: Expand organizational sustainability through increased membership and community awareness of STTWA mission and activities and funding opportunities.**
 - WPP personnel have initiated a monthly blog on their website highlighting water quality issues, remediation actions and recreational opportunities.
 - WPP staff held the Fish and Float Festival in July 2022 and planned the Tygart Valley River Rally held in July of 2023. This event is designed to highlight recreational opportunities on the water in the Tygart Valley River watershed while spreading the word about water quality issues and STTWA remediation work.
 - 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 6: Maintain and enhance the watershed monitoring program.**
 - WPP staff have continued participating in volunteer monitoring efforts and maintaining a database of water quality data.
 - WPP Staff expanded monitoring to include collection of baseline data in the Tygart Valley River headwaters in anticipation of a proposed underground NIOSH facility.

Points of Contact

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Mr. Devin Bokey	Media and Outreach Coordinator	304 629 9268

Final thoughts on the 2022-2023 WPP funding period

During the 2022-2023 year, STTWA saw many of its long-term projects approaching fruition. We learned a lot and positioned ourselves to grow in the future. STTWA personnel are looking forward to additional remediation and education projects in the coming year. Looking back at what we have accomplished, we anticipate that the next year see even more growth as an organization to provide more opportunities for resident of the watershed and for a greater positive impact on the Tygart Valley River.



STTWA personnel provide some watershed education to visitors at the WV Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Show



Participants in the first Women on the Water Workshop



STTWA founding and board member, Paul Baker and WIB's Northern Basin Coordinator Martin Christ, collect a suite of water quality parameters from one of many sites throughout the Tygart River watershed.



AL CON construction manager and Martin evaluate the treatment systems constructed at the Roaring Creek project.



Tygart Tubers ready for launch during STTWA's 2022 kayak race and river float.