

THE RE-CAP

Watershed Alliance of York's (WAY) newsletter with updates about the implementation of the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) for clean waters



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WAY BOARD



The WAY Board is in a season of change. At the start of the year, we welcomed three new Directors (Cathleen Mastrilli, Matt Leisses, & Ben Dinkel) to serve on the Board. There are still a couple of open seats and elections will take place next January if you or someone you know may be interested in joining us!

WAY is also currently undergoing Strategic Planning, a process which began in March and will last through October. We are working with an excellent consultant, Kelly Dearman, and feel we are in the right hands to enact positive change for WAY. We will come out of the process with renewed values, a more focused vision, and a plan that will guide our work over the next 5 years.

We are also looking forward to our 24th Annual Watershed Week events coming up from September 12-20. Our theme this year is "Adventures Through History" as a nod in celebration of America's 250th. Event announcements are coming soon!

WAY

BOARD OFFICERS

RACHEL STAHLMAN,

PRESIDENT

DUANE HYSON,

VICE PRESIDENT

VACANT,

TREASURER

CINDY PIZZIKETTI,

SECRETARY

BOARD DIRECTORS

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ETHAN DAVIAU

BEN DINKEL

TED EVGENIADIS

ROB HARVEY

MATT LEISSES

CATHLEEN MASTRILLI

JODI SULPIZIO

STAFF

EMILY NEIDEIGH,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Readers!

As 2025 ended, the Chesapeake Bay Agreement modifications were accepted by the Bay States. New targets are still being defined by Bay Program Workgroups, but the goal year has been cemented as 2040. There were several changes and additions to the Agreement but two that I find particularly valuable are around freshwater mussel restoration and researching of toxins (ex. PFAS). I have always had the opinion that these two subject matters needed to be included in the Agreement so I'm excited for the work that is to come. With the renewed and re-signed Chesapeake Bay Agreement, I'm assuming that at some point the Countywide Action Plan (CAP) will be revisited/revised/renewed and I'm eager to learn how the coming years will unfold for watershed work in York County.

Speaking of freshwater mussels... through a recently obtained National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, our work on surveying York County streams for freshwater mussels will continue this summer in partnership with the Western PA Conservancy. This project is exciting and fun and allows us to learn so much about the amazing freshwater mussel species that live in the Susquehanna River Basin. Our goal is to help increase freshwater mussel populations in our waterways. We are planning educational opportunities for interested individuals to learn more about our project and freshwater mussels. Keep your eyes peeled for those opportunities later this year.

CAP funded projects continue to be implemented through funding received by York County Planning Commission from PA Department of Environmental Protection. These days, the projects seem to be getting bigger! We recently wrapped up a Floodplain Restoration in Hanover Borough (see article on page 4) and will soon begin construction on Phase 2 of a Floodplain Restoration project in North Codorus Township. For the first time in CAP history, we are partnering with neighboring Adams County on a project that is situated half in Adams and half in York in the Borough of Abbottstown and Paradise Township. We are splitting the cost of this project with the Adams County Conservation District. I stand very firm in my belief that without good partnerships and willing landowners, watershed restoration work cannot be completed. The project coming up in partnership with Adams County Conservation District and their CAP Coordinator, Ricky Whitmore, is a showcase of just that! Look out for more project updates in future Re-CAP's.

I hope you are enjoying summer and find the information in this 24th issue of our newsletter to be insightful and informative.

In Stewardship,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Rachel Stahlman".

Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator / WAY President
rstahlman@ycpc.org | 717.771.9870 x 1763



Local Highlights:

Stream Studies with Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

Each year in the spring and fall, WAY volunteers assist our partners at Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association (LSRA) with educational field trips. This spring season, WAY's Executive Director, Secretary, and President were able to volunteer across all 14 days of field trips which amounted to 779 students from 6 schools. We assisted at the stream study station and found some truly awe-inspiring creek critters (macroinvertebrates and more). Students search by looking underneath rocks and working in teams to use kick nets. Finds from the rocks and kick nets are put into tubs of water along the streambank. Near the end of the session, we gather to identify and determine if the stream is healthy or not. Fishing Creek is a healthy stream as the biodiversity is vast under the creek's surface.

For one of the 14 days, we had a unique opportunity to lead a fun and educational station that focused on American Eels, their relationship to freshwater mussels, and the impacts that the four hydroelectric dams along the Susquehanna River have had on both creatures. WAY's Secretary and President played a game with the students to demonstrate the life cycle of an American Eel that happens to call the Susquehanna, home. The game mashed together components of tag, red light green light, and jump rope. Students had to make it through obstacles four times, just as American Eels must pass through four hydroelectric dam turbines to exit the Susquehanna on there was to the Sargasso Sea. It was great fun!

Thanks to our partners at Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association for hosting great field trips and allowing us to volunteer our time doing something so fun.



On the left, a Giant Stonefly. In the middle, a Hellgrammite with a stonefly riding on its back.



Multiple cranefly larvae intertwined.



Caddis Fly "stick hotel" - a portable, tube-like protective case built by caddisfly larvae with tiny sticks and special waterproof silk they spin themselves.

Local Highlights:

York's Water Quality Monitoring Program Wins National Award



Monitor station at Fishing Creek, Craley.



USGS discussing the operation of the monitoring supergauge.



USGS discussing data collected from the monitoring project.

Exciting news out of York County! Our innovative Water Quality Monitoring Program has been awarded a National Association of Counties (NACo) 2026 Achievement Award.

The NACo Achievement Awards recognize outstanding county government programs and services in 18 categories. York County's Water Quality Monitoring initiative was recognized in the category of "County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy, and Sustainability."

York County's Water Quality Monitoring Program is a partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) which enables the county to capture accurate data from six state-of-the-art water quality monitoring stations along the county's eastern boundary that capture about 80% of the county's total flow. The program began in 2019, after public input called for real data instead of computer-modeled data. The monitors collect data on key pollutants nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment which are what York County, other counties and states in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, and the Chesapeake Bay are graded on.

Having real data allows York County and key partners to implement innovative strategies to improve the quality of our waterways for local residents and the entire Chesapeake Bay.

You can view the Water Quality Monitoring dashboard, see all the data collected in real-time, and learn more about the program by visiting yorkcountywqm.org. If you're interested in this program, consider coming to our stream side demonstration event with USGS during Watershed Week. Look for event details further on in this newsletter.

Projects Around the County:

UNT Slagle Run Floodplain Restoration



Before construction.



During construction in April.



After construction in July.

In partnership with Hanover Borough and the Borough of Hanover Stormwater Authority, two unnamed tributaries to Slagle Run have been restored. This project was supported with funding from the York County Stormwater Consortium and the York Countywide Action Plan.

The project work included the removal of approximately 3,500 cubic yards of legacy sediment and other historic fills from the floodplain, restoring of approximately 3 acres of natural/historic wetlands, and restoring of approximately 1,665 linear feet of unnamed tributaries to Slagle Run.

Additional restoration activities included the placement of rock stream and valley grade control structures, log sills, woody debris, and other aquatic habitat structures within the restoration areas. Trash racks were added to the intake piping to assist with minimizing trash that enters the restored area due to its urbanized setting. Modifications were made to an existing stormwater outfall structure, for the purpose of avoiding and minimizing adverse effects of stormwater discharges to the restored natural resources. The project reach is located within a publicly owned land parcel on Wilson Avenue in Hanover Borough. The location of the project is parallel to Eisenhower Drive and is situated behind the ModWash car wash.

It's a unique project and the first time we have restored a stream to this degree in such an urbanized setting; a shocking contrast to the surrounding developed areas. We thank Hanover Borough for their partnership and the great work accomplished!

Event Highlight:

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Visits WAY

It was a seemingly typical week until WAY's Executive Director and President received an email from our partner at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation connecting us with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) folks for a potential visit to York County to learn about projects. We were completely taken aback when we learned that the EPA visitor would be none other than Administrator Lee Zeldin. We didn't want to get our hopes up, as the EPA folks expressed that due to scheduling the visit might not happen at all. We went ahead with planning, and it quickly began to seem like things were coming together when a day-of itinerary was shared with us. We found ourselves filled with excitement and wondering how all of this was happening for our little organization.

We met at a landowner's property who is a partner of WAY, has planted around 20 acres of riparian forest buffer through WAY's Watershed Forestry Program and who has allowed us to survey freshwater mussels in Conewago Creek via his lands. It was extremely gracious of him to allow this visit, and we cannot express our thanks enough!

The goal of the visit was to highlight federally funded projects that WAY works on and the importance of local water quality project implementation through partnerships. Our Watershed Forestry Program has received much federal funding through PA's Department of Environmental Protection.



Administrator Zeldin with Emily (Executive Director, right) and Rachel (President, left).



Conewago Creek as it runs through the landowners property.

Event Highlight:

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin Visits WAY



Showing freshwater mussels found in Conewago Creek and discussing their life-cycle, challenges they face, and our project goals.



Left, Yellowlampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*) and right, Eastern Elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*).

Our freshwater mussel work and the expansion of our Watershed Forestry Program is currently being funded through a federal National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. We discussed both projects with Administrator Zeldin while walking the land. Before the site visit, we searched the Conewago Creek for freshwater mussels and located Eastern Elliptio (*Elliptio complanata*) and Yellow Lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*). We were able to share them with Administrator Zeldin while discussing their importance for water quality, reproductive cycle and its relationship to fish, and challenges that they face such as dams and pollution. Administrator Zeldin was completely engaged in the conversation and asked great questions about our projects, successes and challenges.

We greatly appreciate this opportunity and thank our partners at the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for making the connection for us, our EPA partners for setting the event up, the landowner for such great partnership, the partners who were involved in the visit, and the press for great coverage. We look forward to continuing our work around Watershed Forestry, freshwater mussels, and other federally funded water quality projects!

24th Annual WATERSHED WEEK WAY

brought to you by WATERSHED ALLIANCE OF YORK

SEPTEMBER 12TH

SATURDAY

**FARM & NATURAL LANDS TRUST
SASQUATCH PRESERVATION
5K & 10K TRAIL RUN**
9am-12pm
South Branch Farms
5944 Reynolds Mill Rd, Seven Valleys, PA US 17360
Registration Required

NATIVE PLANT SALE

9am-2pm
John Rudy Park
400 Mundis Race Rd York, PA 17402

MUDDY CREEK TROUT UNLIMITED NURSERY TOUR

9am-3pm
MCTU Nursery
13840-13996 Ted Wallace Rd, Brogue, PA 17309

SEPTEMBER 13TH

SUNDAY

**RAMBO RUN STREAM STUDY AT
WALLACE CROSS MILL**
12:30pm-1:30pm
15759 Cross Mill Rd, Felton, PA 17322

WALLACE CROSS MILL OPEN HOUSE

1:30pm-4:30pm
15759 Cross Mill Rd, Felton, PA 17322



SEPTEMBER 14TH

MONDAY

ENVIROSCOPE (WATERSHED PROGRAM)

10:30am-11:30am
Village Library
35-C North Main Street, Jacobus, PA 17407
*Event Registration

LANCASTER CONSERVANCY CREEK STOMP

5pm-7pm
Graham Nature Preserve
524 Hillview Rd, York, PA 17406
*Event Registration

HOPEWELL FISH AND GAME EVENT

6:30pm-8pm
Hopewell Fish and Game
5456 Austin Ln, Stewartstown, PA 17363
*Event Registration

SEPTEMBER 15TH

TUESDAY

**ELECTROFISHING WITH
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN
COMMISSION**
3:30pm-4:30pm
Fishing Creek
2140 Fishing Creek Rd, Wrightsville, PA 17368
*Event Registration

DRINKING WATER CLINIC

6:30pm-8pm
Penn State Extension Office
2401 Pleasant Valley Rd, York PA 17402
*Event Registration

LANCASTER CONSERVANCY WATER LIFE PRESENTATION

6pm-8pm
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Office
338 South Front Street, Wrightsville, PA 17368
*Event Registration

SEPTEMBER 16TH

WEDNESDAY

**WATER QUALITY MONITORING
FIELD DAY WITH US GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY (USGS)**
10am-12pm
Fishing Creek at Goldsboro
Etters, Valley Green, PA 17319
*Event Registration

LAKE LEHMAN PROJECT TOUR

6pm-7:30pm
2028 Lake Club Rd, Spring Grove, PA 17362
*Event Registration

RIPARIAN BUFFER TREE TENDING

6pm-7:30pm
Horn Farm Center
4945 Horn Road, York, PA 17406
*Event Registration

SEPTEMBER 17TH

THURSDAY

ENVIROSCOPE (WATERSHED PROGRAM)

10:30am-11:30am
Hufnagel Library
32 Main Street, Glen Rock, PA 17327
*Event Registration

TAP TALKS: MILL DAMS AND LEGACY SEDIMENT

6pm-8pm
The Side Show @ Collusion Tap Works
105 S Howard St York, PA 17401
*Event Registration

WILD & UNCOMMON WEEKEND

Sept 17th - 20th
Regional Celebration Featuring
Various Activities



SEPTEMBER 18TH

FRIDAY

**YORK COUNTY CONSERVATION
DISTRICT SPORTING CLAYS
FUNDRAISER**
9am-3pm

Central Penn Sporting Clays
75 Quarry Road, Wellsville, PA 17365
Registration Required

LANCASTER CONSERVANCY WATERSHED EXPERIENCE HIKE

5pm-7:30pm
Mill Creek Falls Nature Preserve
318 E Telegraph Rd, Airville, PA 17302
*Event Registration

SEPTEMBER 19TH

SATURDAY

PAWPAW FESTIVAL

9am-5pm
Horn Farm Center
4945 Horn Road, York, PA 17406
Registration Required

SEPTEMBER 20TH

SUNDAY

CODORUS CREEK CLEANUP

1pm - 3pm
Meet at Crist Field
441 Emig Rd, York, PA 17406
*Event Registration

Where in the Watersheds?!



Interactive fun about York's watersheds! On this page are photos & clues about a place located in one of our 11 main watersheds. Play along by trying to guess the location & watershed.

Feeling extra playful? E-mail your answer along with mailing address to watershedallianceyork@gmail.com to get a WAY prize delivered to you if your answer is correct.

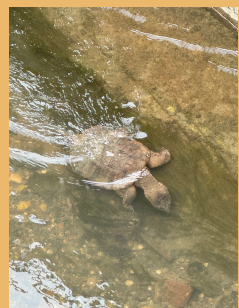
We also take submissions! Send in some sneaky photos from a favorite spot in one of our watersheds along with clues to the location to be featured!

Find the answer to 'Where in the Watersheds?!' in our next newsletter.



Clues

- Clean ups happen annually in my waters
- ALLARM water quality testing is done on my waters
- During last years Watershed Week, freshwater mussels were found in my waters
- My namesake had a connection to the Underground Railroad





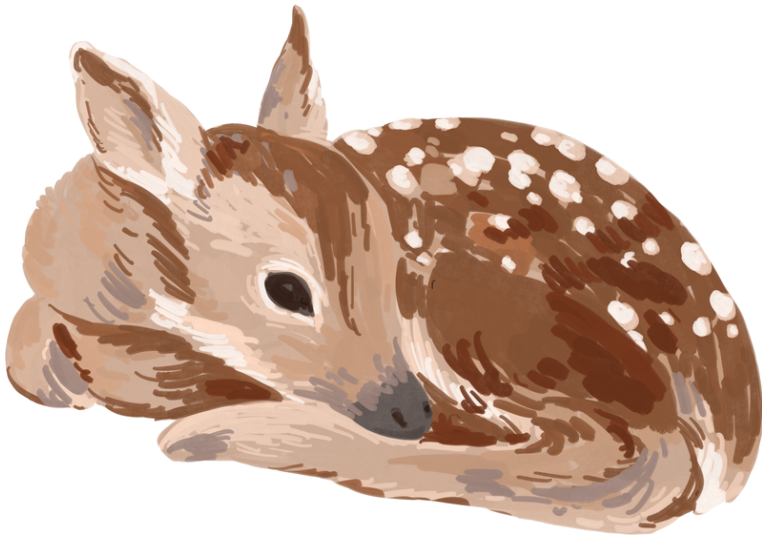
Upcoming Events

Visit the 'events' tab on WAY's website to keep up-to-date with water quality events!

24th Annual Watershed Week is September 12th-20th, see page 8 for details and register for events via our websites Watershed Week tab.

August 17th, WAY Board Meeting, 6:30-8:00pm at 338 S Front St, Wrightsville

October 19th, WAY Board Meeting, 6:30-8:00pm at 338 S Front St, Wrightsville



Scan with your phone's camera to go right to our events tab to see all events and register!

WAY

Contact us if...

- You have a water quality project and you are unsure if it's being counted for credit in restoration efforts
- You want to be part of WAY or any of the Committees of WAY
- You have any questions or comments



/WatershedAllianceOfYorkPA



@WAYorkPA



WatershedAllianceYork@gmail.com



www.watershedallianceofyork.org

Connect
with
WAY!

The WAY Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the 3rd Monday in person at 6:30pm at the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association 338 S. Front St. Wrightsville, PA

Join us virtually via TEAMS
Find the link under the 'About' section at watershedallianceofyork.org

The Watershed Alliance of York (**WAY**) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local waterways for the betterment of the County and to meet clean water goals.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Rachel Stahlman at rstahlman@ycpc.org



YCPC is the primary entity responsible for implementing the CAP, with support from York County Conservation District. The public partner in this undertaking is WAY.