

THE RE-CAP

Watershed Alliance of York's (WAY) bi-monthly newsletter about the implementation of the County wide Action Plan for clean waters



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WAY BOARD

We welcomed three new WAY Board of Directors at the August meeting: Mark Lentz, Rob Harvey, and Ethan Daviau. Our September meeting was a fun "Meet & Greet" during Watershed Week at Collusion Tap Works. You might have also noticed some of our Board members popping up in the new WAY photography... keep an eye out for more of that in our social media campaigns in October! We are looking forward to be involved in the last LUMI photoshoot and videography as well. The October WAY meeting is the 28th, come check us out all are welcomed!

WAY

BOARD OFFICERS

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September was reporting season for the Countywide Action Plan (CAP). For the second year of reporting, Counties were allowed to make changes to reports such as updating goal numbers, adding in new best management practices (BMP's), or making changes to recommended State and Local programmatic changes. The dedicated staff of York County Planning Commission and York County Conservation District met several times over the past month to work through this reporting and decision making around updating for year two. In the end, we decided it was best to keep goal numbers, BMP's, and programmatic changes all the same. We certainly appreciate the opportunity from DEP to make updates and did decide to consolidate our report slightly.

You may recall that our "old" CAP had three Priority Initiatives of focus, "Programmatic Initiatives", "Achieve Pollutant Reductions", and "York County Conservation District". The York County Conservation District Priority Initiative listed separate BMP's that are achieved through Conservation District programs. We decided that since ultimately these are BMP's that will get CAP credit, we can renumber these Actions in the report and integrate them into Priority Initiative Two "Achieve Pollutant Reductions". So, if you find yourself reading the year two CAP report once it's approved by DEP, you will notice that slight change. Our desire is that year three reporting will be met now with even more ease.

In addition to reporting on the CAP, WAY was busy planning events, planting BMPs, and working on other water quality projects. Read on to learn all about them!



NEW

**KEEP UP-TO-DATE
WITH US AND
FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**


@WAYORKPA


/WATERSHEDALLIANCEOFYORKPA

Rachel Stahlman
CAP Coordinator
rstahlman@ycpc.org





Making Progress Together


Are you stormwater ready?

York County has a new tool in its CAP toolbox! As one of only two counties in the new Center for Water Quality Excellence (CWQE) pilot area, York County has access to the Center's advisory services on stormwater management and funding strategies. Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights into financial and technical assistance opportunities -- at no cost to you.

Staff work one-on-one with customers to help them determine how to best leverage available resources, select the most cost-effective stormwater practices, and consider alternative financial strategies and partnerships. The Center also offers a virtual Support Hub at <https://support.cwqe.org>, which houses a growing library of resources on funding and stormwater topics. Registered users can submit individual requests for assistance.

The CWQE serves local governments, farmers, and owners of large parcels of land, such as businesses and institutions. CWQE "coaches" provide guidance on funding strategies and programs that meet local needs in controlling runoff and reducing nutrient and sediment pollution. The Center "unsilos" program information and helps customers navigate the dozens of federal, state and local programs that offer grants and loans for planning and implementation of stormwater practices.

The CWQE office is located in Columbia Borough in Lancaster County (430 Walnut Street, Suite 303). The Columbia office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; walk-ins are welcome and appointments can be made by calling 855-227-1202 Monday - Friday. Stay tuned for upcoming workshops on a variety of stormwater topics. An educational van will also be targeting special events to offer its services – call the Center if you have an event request.



The Center is funded by the Pennsylvania Investment Infrastructure Authority, otherwise known as PENNVEST. For more information, visit www.cwqe.org or call 855-227-1202.

Stay ahead of program opportunities and be stormwater ready!

COMMITTEE COMMITMENTS



The **E&O Committee** was busy planning Watershed Week and what a week it was! Now they will turn their focus to municipal outreach.

The **DM Committee** is awaiting clarification from other entities regarding BMP reporting information.

The **PI Committee** members are continuing to implement projects and they have launched the very productive Riparian Rangers subcommittee!

The Watershed Alliance of York (WAY) is always looking for new partners to help implement the York CAP. There are six (6) Committees and one Subcommittee all working together to help implement different aspects of the CAP. Contact Rachel at rstahlman@ycpc.org to join a committee!

Education & Outreach Committee (E&O) <i>Spread the word about why we need to clean up York's streams</i>	Data Management Committee (DM) <i>Develop ways to calculate our progress</i>	Project Implementation Committee (PI) <i>Put projects on the ground</i>
Revenue Building Committee (RB) <i>Grant writing and collaborating with sponsors to find funds</i>	Legislative & Programmatic Changes Committee (L&P) <i>Policy changes</i>	Agricultural Committee (Ag) <i>Help us form this new committee</i>

The **RB Committee** was responsible for securing sponsorship donation and opportunities for support for Watershed Week. The search for money continues.

The **L&P Committee** is revisiting the Sustainable Landscaping Ordinance and reviewing the Stormwater Management Ordinance (Act 167).

The **Ag Committee** is a work in progress. A brainstorming session was held to determine goals and objectives for this committee.

19TH ANNUAL WATERSHED WEEK

In case you missed it (although we hope you didn't!) September 16th-25th was Watershed Week in York County. So many events and so much fun that we can't reCAP everything, but here are a few highlights!

Street 2 Creek Walking Tour: Watershed Week kicked off with a walking tour of the Street 2 Creek public art exhibition. This year was the 4th installment of the project and we welcomed four new uniquely painted storm drains, all by local Artists, that raise awareness to the fact that water runoff goes down the storm drain untreated and directly into our streams. The Street 2 Creek project is an effort brought to the City of York by the Master Watershed Stewards with WAY as a key partner each year. Huge thank you to our Street 2 Creek sponsor, York Water Company! Visit www.street2creek.org to check it all out!



Tap Talks & Treevia



“Woods and Water” Tap Talks and Treevia: Tap Talks is where a group of folks meet at a brewery and there is a subject speaker. The “Woods and Water” Tap Talk was the first in York and a huge success! Ryan Davis, PA Forests Project Manager at Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was our speaker and got all the attendees excited about the important connection between our woods and our water in PA. About 50 people were in attendance! After the Tap Talks, Ryan hosted the first ever Treevia game. Competition was dense for this forest themed trivia game, lots of laughs were had and Watershed Week beer was enjoyed. The winners walked away with lots of swag from Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, WAY, Lower Susquehanna River Keeper, and Master Watershed Stewards. Thank you to Collusion Tap Works for hosting and brewing the Watershed Week beer!

PawPaw Festival



PawPaw Festival: Horn Farm hosted their annual PawPaw Festival on September 18th and 19th and WAY was so happy to be a part of this year's festivities with our Booth and Clean Water Pledge set up at both days. About 1,800 people visited Horn Farm over the weekend to celebrate North America's largest native fruit, the PawPaw! PawPaw opportunities at the festival included tastings of different pawpaw varieties, pawpaw chutney, pawpaw trees, pawcicles, and more. Much fun was had and we are already looking forward to next year!





19TH ANNUAL WATERSHED WEEK

The Importance of Beavers Seminar: Wilson Alvarez is the Woodland Steward at Horn Farm and is extremely well versed in the importance of Beavers. On September 20th, Wilson taught about fifteen of us how vital the Beaver is to our ecosystems. The mighty Beaver is a keystone species and for at least a million years, and up to maybe 24 million years, have been the ecological engineers of North America. At one point in time, before the fur trade decimated them, over 60 million Beavers called North America home. Today it's estimated that there are less than 20 million Beavers, some estimates are as low as 10 million. The room was enamored by Wilson's knowledge! If you're interested in the Beaver, check out the book recommended by Wilson titled "Once They Were Hats". Thank you Wilson and Horn Farm!

Poorhouse Run Stream Restoration and History Tour:

In February of 2021, the restoration of Poorhouse Run was completed. During our Watershed Week Tour of the site, Reid Garner, PE for Land Studies, explained to us how they restored the deeply eroded creek bed of Poorhouse Run back to its historical flood plain level. Next, Mark Lentz, Master Watershed Steward, North Eastern Teacher, Story Teller, and longtime York resident, told the story of Poorhouse Run's history which is completely fascinating. Perhaps a nod to the beautiful restoration project, a Great Egret joined us for the tour. Thank you Reid and Mark!



York County Parks Native Plant Sale: We closed out Watershed Week with a mega fun closing celebrating at Shank's Mare in Wrightsville and by hanging out at the York County Parks Native Plant Sale. There was a rain barrel talk right on sight and folks who attended the virtual rain barrel lesson during Watershed Week stopped by to pick up their new rain barrels. WAY was able to proudly cross the goal mark of our Clean Water Pledge at these closing events. It was a beautiful day for WAY! Also at the Native Plant Sale was Science Teacher and Children's Book Author Josh Brandstadter with his book "The Adventures of Fuzzy and Buzzy". If there are littles in your life check out this adorable story about a bear and a bee on an adventure to learn of ways to make a difference in their local ecosystem.

19TH ANNUAL WATERSHED WEEK

Thank You!

The 19th Annual Watershed Week and the 24 events that occurred would not have been possible without our volunteers and partners. With deep gratitude we thank the Watershed Week Workgroup:

- Alyssa Swartz
- Emily Neideigh
- Diane Oleson
- Lindsay Gerner
- Cindy Pizziketti
- Lettice Brown
- Alexis Campbell
- Jodi Sulpizio
- Rachel Stahlman

We express our many thanks to our partners that helped execute these events:

- Horn Farm
- Shank's Mare
- York County Parks
- Hartwood Nursery
- Collusion Tap Works
- USGS
- Master Watershed Stewards
- Lower Susquehanna River Keeper
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- York County Conservation District
- York County Planning Commission
- Land Studies
- Mark Lentz
- Wilson Alvarez
- Caroline Rose
- Duane Hyson,
- Audubon of York

WAY also expresses our appreciation to our Sponsors:

Watershed Warrior Sponsors:

- PA American Water
- HRC Engineering

Ecosystem Advocate Sponsors:

- Ecotone Ecological Restoration and
- Anonymous Donor

Clean Water Champion Sponsors:

- York Traditions
- York County Solid Waste Authority.

WAY also thanks the York County Community Foundation, the Powder Mill Foundation, and York Water Company for their generous contributions to this year's Watershed Week. THANK YOU!

Event Spotlight: 2nd Annual Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna

On **October 30th, 2021 from 9am-3pm** the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association and partners, including the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards of York, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Dauphin Counties, WAY, and others will be hosting the 2nd Annual Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna. This large scale cleanup will take place around Lake Clarke on both sides of the Susquehanna River and everywhere in between. Lake Clarke is a 10 mile reservoir or "Lake" formed by the hydroelectric Safe Harbor Dam. Plastics, tires, litter, and other debris continue to get flushed into the Susquehanna River. Join us to help protect our aquatic, avian, and downstream neighbors. We will have registration tables and trash containers at the Lock 2 Lower Boat Ramp and at Susquehanna Boat Works in Wrightsville, York County.

Things to Know

- Register for the event & choose your location
- You may walk the banks or cruise in your boat/kayak, or canoe to clean up.
- BYO water bottle, PFD, and mask (when necessary).
- Dress for the weather!
- Snacks and water refill stations available for volunteers
- Tools such as extended pickers, trash bags, and gloves will be provided

Questions contact Ted @ 717-487-1780 or lowsusriver@hotmail.com or Jeff @ 717-495-2015 or jdmler89@gmail.com



NOW ACCEPTING: CAP PROJECTS

The York County Planning Commission (YCPC) will soon be applying to PA DEP for 2022 CAP Project Implementation funding. This funding is for the construction of ag and urban Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce nutrients and sediment, resulting in improved water quality.



Examples of ag BMPs include:

- nutrient management,
- exclusion fencing,
- cover crops,
- non-urban stream restoration,
- grass or forested buffers, and
- barnyard runoff controls.

Urban BMPs include, but are not limited to:

- tree plantings,
- bioswales,
- urban stream restoration,
- basin retrofits,
- bioretention/raingardens,
- forest buffers, and
- wetland restoration

Do you have a Best Management Practice (BMP) project that is shovel ready for construction? In general, this means that the project is designed and any required permits have either been requested or are in hand.

If yes, please submit the project to Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator (rstahlman@ycpc.org), **no later than October 22nd**. Include your name and contact information; type, extent, and location of the BMP; and a brief description of the project. If you know the estimated nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions, please submit those numbers as well.



KEYSTONE 10 MILLION TREES Partnership



The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership is a collaborative effort of national, regional, state and local agencies, conservation organizations, outdoors enthusiasts, businesses, and citizens committed to improving Pennsylvania's communities, economy, and ecology by planting 10 million trees throughout the Commonwealth. 10 Million Trees by 2025 is the goal – and it only gets closer **one tree at time**.

The Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership is slowly but surely making an impact on York County. The current partners in York include: York County Conservation District, Dover Area High School FFA, Green Branch Apiary, Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, and the Hellam Township Environmental Advisory Council. The Watershed Alliance of York is in the process of becoming a partner.

During Watershed Week 2021, the citizens of York were given the opportunity to take a pledge for cleaner water. There were three different ways to take this pledge;

- **Educate themselves about Watershed Health**
- **Create Habitat with Native Plants or**
- **Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution**

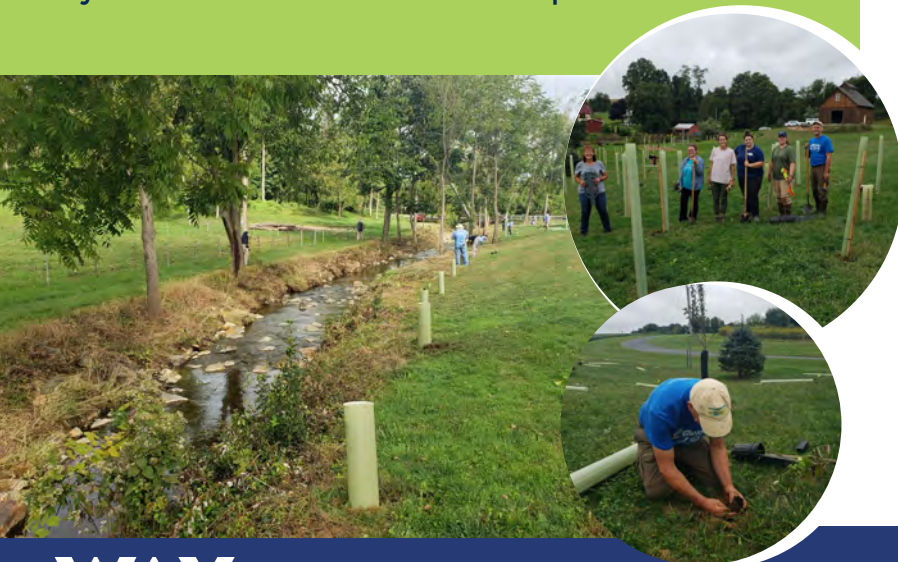
WAY is proud to announce that 250 people took the Pledge to Create Habitat by planting a native tree or shrub! Along with many pledges to plant a Rain Garden, install a Rain Barrel, clean out storm drains, clean up after pets, and many many more ways to protect our water.

The overall success of the 2021 Clean Water Pledge during Watershed Week would not have been made possible without the partnership between Keystone 10 Million Trees, York County Conservation District, and Watershed Alliance of York. We look forward to more trees in the ground!

Contact WAY if you would like to join in the fun of the Keystone 10 Million Tree Partnership!

Check out these few facts that might inspire you to plant a tree today!

- A healthy 100-foot-tall tree has about 200,000 leaves. A tree this size can take 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and release it into the air again as oxygen and water vapor in a single growing season.
- Native tree species support natural ecosystems by providing habitat and food for birds, mammals, and insects.
- The planting of trees improves water quality. Tree's complex root network reduces runoff and erosion. This allows more recharging of the ground water supply. Wooded areas help prevent the transport of sediment and chemicals into streams.





CONTACT US IF:

- You have a water quality project and you are unsure if it's being counted for credit
- You want to be part of the brand new Watershed Forestry Subcommittee
- You want to be part of the brand new Ag Committee or join an existing one

Dates to Remember:

October 22nd due date for CAP Projects | October 30th @ 9:00am - 2nd Annual Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna

The next WAY meeting is scheduled for October 28th from 6-8PM @ Pleasant Valley located at 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, York, PA 17402

The Watershed Alliance of York (**WAY**) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local water ways 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**