

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE

Cooperative Agreement #: CA_P13AC01266
Award Recipient: White Clay Watershed Association
Project/Program Title: Wild & Scenic River Funding
Date: July 2, 2018
Period Covered by Report: April 1, 2018- June 30, 2018
Funds expended during this reporting period: \$36,888.63
Submitted by: Shane Morgan, Management Plan Coordinator
Submitted to: National Park Service – Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

Summary of work performed during the period covered by the report:

Administration (\$12,248.97)

Continued participation in watershed wide meetings throughout the quarter: Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership, Christina Basin Task Force, individual meetings with various stakeholders, and occasional Board of Supervisors meetings. Conducted White Clay Steering Committee Quarterly meeting and maintained and updated program fiscal records and worked with committee members to spend down remaining funds in current 5-year contract. Continued to correspond and meet with White Clay UD WRC student intern, Jillian Young to implement work plan.

Followed up on development projects in the watershed including the Papermill Road/DeIDOT culvert project in New Castle County, the pedestrian bridge proposal in City of Newark, and maintained a presence at the New Garden Township cell tower hearings.

Submitted and awarded a volunteer water quality monitoring proposal to NPS for approximately \$12,000.

Education (\$4713.29)

School Programs: Transportation costs to send 27 Newark High School Students to Stroud for a hands-on watershed field trip in White Clay. Summer intern support for Delaware water quality testing via Delaware Nature Society supervision.

Municipal Outreach:

Ellen Kohler, PLC, continued to update elected officials from participating municipalities on CWMP progress at their monthly Board of Supervisors meetings, and convened a meeting of municipal engineers and staff to discuss PA DEP responses to permit applications. Continued conversations with PA-DEP staff to understand how each TMDL plan will be reviewed and acted as a liaison between the municipality and PA DEP if questions arise and permits need to be amended. Continued exploration of potential opportunities for collaboration (such as BMP maintenance and inspection). Attended several Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership meetings to formalize our structure and setting the groundwork for the next round of permits so we can be proactive in receiving funding to continue this work. Starting discussions with various partners on the possible of working together to seek grant funding to write a Watershed Implementation Plan for the White Clay.

Community Outreach:

- Website stats: 1903 unique visitors, 1890-page visits, and 3556 page views during the months of April - June 2018. The most popular content during this period was Creek Fest.
- Maintained social media and website updates and E-mail communications.
- Created (1000) and direct mailed 750 postcards to watershed residents to notify them of the upcoming White Clay Creek Fest.
- Hosted the White Clay Creek Fest on May 6. 1600 people were in attendance (our largest crowd yet).
- Worked with Kristen Travers (DNS) and Kim Hachadoorian (TNC) to develop quarterly education piece based on our continuous stream monitoring results. Culminating in an online article on stormwater runoff and turbidity in our local streams as part of an effort to report on real time data collected by citizen scientists in the watershed.
- Gave a presentation on collaborative work in the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Watershed at the Clean Water Conference (a one-day conference highlighting the Brandywine-Christina watershed).
- Orientation of new (DE) water quality summer intern.

Restoration (\$8,830.84)

Stream Monitoring Projects:

- Installed new sensor station in Middle Run to collect pre and post project data. Took first flow measurement with Marion and Dave.
- Collected grab samples for chloride analysis at the three existing sensor sites after snow melts.
- Several working meetings with Rob Tuttle to develop and refine software using the open source R that meets the needs of our monitoring efforts in the Christina Basin.
- Continued taking bi-monthly samples for bacteria at three sensor sites.

- Attending several bacteria planning meetings for 2018 sampling. Sorted out fixed and temporary sites going forward.
- Selected 4 new bacteria sampling sites in Newark Delaware with Kelley Dinsmore.
- Met with Restoration subcommittee to review draft water quality monitoring plan and made revisions based on input received.
- Continued to manage data submitted by volunteers and refine data entry templates.
- Obtained containers from Brandywine Science Center to begin taking grab samples for chlorides, TSS, nitrate and orthophosphate at select monitoring sites. And purchased field testing equipment, and reagents to use with volunteers and check against lab data. Purchased bacteria supplies for DNS and Stroud to use in WCC sampling.

Catch the Rain Program:

- Issued one rebate for conservation landscaping.
- Issued two rain barrel rebates.
- Spoke with 2 program applicants (from September 2017) who are considering installing a CTR practice.
- Revised rebate structure after reviewing with Restoration Subcommittee.
- Continued to meet with Catch the Rain applicants to discuss potential projects. Including on site meetings with London Croft HOA board member, Landenberg Hunt HOA member, the London Grove Open Space Committee and 2 individual property owners in White Clay.
- Began coordinating and planning for September 2018 Catch the Rain Workshop with London Grove Township HOAs.

Land Stewardship:

- Met with Greg Gagliano (Red Tail Restoration) to review 2017-18 progress and management strategies at Franklin Preserve and developed contract for 2018-19 land stewardship work.
- On-going land stewardship work conducted at Hoopes farm, Hutchinson farm, and Franklin Preserve.

Land Preservation (\$11,095.53)

Update on current Natural Lands Projects:

- Reynolds: This project closed on December 28, 2017, but we received the bill this quarter. The Wild and Scenic Committee spent \$7000 of FY17 funds towards the purchase of the conservation easement on the 178-acre property in New Garden Township. The total cost of this project is 2.3 million.

Update on current Brandywine Conservancy Projects:

- The additional agricultural BMPs (grassed swale and diversion) were installed on the Hutchinson property (in Penn Township, PA). in May.
- John Goodall presented a new land preservation project located across three municipalities (Penn, New London, and London Grove). It is @45 acres in total that will be put under easement. The Committee agreed to support this project with the remaining funds (\$4500) in our FY17 open space budget.