

# THE RE-CAP

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



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## WAY BOARD



For December, there was no meeting, but celebrations of a wonderful year were had. 2023 was huge for WAY, we recognized that. In January, the BOD held elections. Of the 5 Directors up for election, 4 decided to keep their seat with WAY and were re-elected. With deep gratitude, the entire WAY BOD thanks and sends many well wishes to Matt Hartman who spent many years on the WAY BOD, volunteered many hours, and offered much support and insight over those years. Thanks, Matt! The WAY BOD is still seeking a Treasurer. Do you know someone who likes numbers and just so happens to also be looking for a volunteer opportunity? Please tell them to reach out to Rachel!

We are looking forward to what February will bring for the board and towards spring!

## WAY

### BOARD OFFICERS

RACHEL STAHLMAN,  
PRESIDENT  
DUANE HYSON,  
VICE PRESIDENT  
EMILY NEIDEIGH,  
SECRETARY  
VACANT,  
TREASURER

### BOARD DIRECTORS

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TED EVGENIADIS  
MATT ATTIG  
DIANE OLESON  
JODI SULPIZIO  
MARK LENTZ  
ROB HARVEY  
ETHAN DAVIAU



Hello Readers!

Happy Winter! Typically, it feels like things tend to slow down a bit over the winter months, well not this year! Things have been busy as ever in the water world for WAY and partners. We've been spending a lot of our time grant writing. We have several grant opportunities on the table that we are currently writing applications for or very recently finished and submitted. Hopefully this summer brings lots of wonderful funding news our way.

Speaking of funding...for 2024 CAP implementation DEP awarded the York County Planning Commission, the lead entity for the CAP, \$1,810,989 for projects! This is the most funding we've ever received and it's going to make a positive difference in York County. The award was about 1/3 of the overall request so there is still a large need for funding, which is even more reason why WAY is applying for more grants. Seven different projects will receive 2024 CAP funding, the most in any CAP year to date.

Over these winter months, WAY has been searching for a firm to work with on capacity building – which we obtained a grant to do! In February, we reviewed six proposals and selected the one who we will work with. From now until June, we will be deeply involved in capacity building for WAY. What does that mean, per say? Well, we are trying to complete the following with hopes of becoming an even stronger organization:

- Conduct an organizational assessment and establish milestones to meet identified goals.
- Establish what day-to-day operations in a fully operational WAY entail, with consideration given to indirect costs.
- Develop a plan for “staffing” WAY that includes identification of positions, full-time vs part-time, related costs, hiring sequence, and timeline.
- Create clear roles for the Board of Directors with a focus on the betterment of the organization.

Make sure you check back in the spring for an update on how capacity building and CAP projects are going. Lots of truly fun work ahead!

In Stewardship,

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



# Local Highlights:

## WAY Watershed Forestry Program Shows Promise!

In early 2023, WAY received what was disappointing news at the time, a grant we were awarded had been terminated at no fault of our own. Instead of accepting defeat, we pivoted and worked with our partners at York County Planning Commission (YCPC) and York County Conservation District (YCCD) to find a solution. We had built momentum between the grant being awarded and then consequently terminated. The focus of this momentum was riparian forest buffers – planting trees along waterways. There were already a couple of interested landowners in what we were calling the WAY Watershed Forestry Program. With YCPC as the lead entity responsible for CAP implementation, there is a direct line of communication with PA DEP who supplies funding for the CAP. There was a potential opportunity to use 2023 CAP funding on the WAY Watershed Forestry Program. We saw that potential and approached DEP with the idea to use CAP funding to carry the built momentum, and to give WAY a chance at demonstrating our capability. To our delighted surprise, DEP decided to allow YCPC to alter our 2023 project list to include the WAY Watershed Forestry Program. Around July of 2023, WAY entered a contract with YCPC for \$385,034. The funding would be used to reimburse landowners, at a rate of \$6,000 per acre, that plant riparian forest buffers on their land via the Watershed Forestry Program. The program has seen great success since it began in July 2023. We have implemented over 60 acres of riparian forest buffer and there are currently just a couple of acres left to commit until the entire contract is spent. If you or someone you know may be interested in this program, tell them to reach out to Rachel at [rstahlman@ycpc.org](mailto:rstahlman@ycpc.org). WAY is accepting applications until the funds are expended. Currently, folks in the program must have their plantings in the ground by May 30th to receive reimbursement. With the success we've seen, we are also looking to secure more funding to keep this awesome program so stay tuned for updates in the spring or summer Re-CAP newsletter.



**What is a riparian forest buffer and why are they important?** Riparian forest buffers are important components of a healthy stream ecosystem. They provide pollution reduction, erosion control, flood protection, and support many lifeforms. For these reasons, riparian forest buffers are known as a 'keystone' best management practice - without them, an ecosystem can *fall apart* or be completely without the support it needs. Trees are the last line of defense for streams. Establishing riparian forest buffers along waterways can make the transition from land to water a healthy one.



# Projects Around the County: Bald Eagle Creek Stream Restoration

The Bald Eagle Creek stream restoration project is on a farm in Fawn Grove Borough. The landowners are stewardship-minded and were excited for the project to come to fruition. The project was designed and constructed by Ecotone. The funding for the design and permitting was through DEP's Growing Greener grant program. Construction of the project was made possible with Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper settlement money, CAP funding, and DCNR buffer funding. The pre-construction meeting occurred in July 2023 and construction began shortly after. The final inspection walk through was in October 2023.

The Bald Eagle project includes approximately 2,157 linear feet of stream restoration, 1.25 acres of wetland restoration, and 4.31 acres of riparian reforestation. The goal of the restoration of Bald Eagle Creek was to realign and restore the stream using two distinct stream restoration approaches, as well as restore the wetlands. Also included is 6,006 linear feet of stream fencing to limit cattle access to the restored areas and concrete panel crossings were installed for agricultural use. Within the fence is a riparian buffer planting with an array of native shrubs and trees. In addition to the stream and wetland restoration project, the Conservation District is also working with the landowners to implement other agricultural best management practices on their property.

This project counts towards and gives credits for the York Countywide Action Plan and the Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan, in turn helping DEP to reach their Chesapeake Bay goals. The project is estimated to annually reduce 478,374 pounds of sediment, 553 pounds of phosphorus, and 2,474 pounds of nitrogen.

**Before:**



**After:**



# Event Highlight:

## Enviroscape Learning Fun at Trimmer Elementary

During Watershed Week at the Dam Bridge Challenge, a teacher named Mrs. Bielski visited the WAY booth to learn more about our organization. While chatting, Mrs. Bielski asked if WAY ever visits schools to give lessons on watershed 101 concepts. Previously, WAY has presented watershed 101 concepts in summer camp settings and local events like street fairs and Watershed Week. Teaching to a classroom of students, this was something WAY had never done before, and it seemed like a wonderful 'first' opportunity for us. Mrs. Bielski took a business card and soon after, WAY was planning our first ever lesson on point source and non-point source pollution for the 5th graders of Mrs. Bielski's class at Trimmer Elementary in West York School District.

In late October, the week of Thanksgiving break, Emily and Rachel traveled to Trimmer prepped for a day of presentations with Mrs. Bielski's two classes. If you can remember back to school time, there is always an exciting buzz in the air when a holiday is near. There also was buzz in the air when people would come to visit the class. So, you might imagine that we came face to face with many very excited 5th graders. A kid's energy at that age is electric and contagious. Immediately upon entering the classroom, our excitement levels also increased.

Our presentation kicks off with telling the kid's a little about ourselves, how we got interested in watersheds, and what interested us when we were 5th graders.

Then we start asking the kid's questions, specifically ones that create a discussion around what watersheds are and which ones that we live in. It's no surprise that 5th graders are smart, so in this initial discussion, that energetic buzz starts to grow because they know what they are talking about, and they're excited to tell us!

Then the real excitement happens, we ask them to leave their seats and come join us around the Enviroscape. We dive into what point source and non-point source pollution is and use the Enviroscape to point out the potential differences between the two. Next, we talk about how these pollutants get on the land or are discharged. We use materials like hot cocoa and sprinkles to 'pollute' across the landscape in different ways, talking about each and asking questions of the kids along the way. Finally, it 'rains' and the kids 'pollute' by spritzing water across the landscape of the Enviroscape. Everyone gets a turn polluting and while doing so, we are discussing the many ways point source and non-point source pollution occurs, and the effects it might have on our waterways and the health of our community. It's a lively conversation where we can make the connection with the kids that actions we make on land affect the health of our watersheds.

WAY had a wonderful time with Mrs. Bielski's 5th graders, and we have come to realize that there may be a need for this opportunity to reach other teachers in our community. Is there a teacher in your life who you think might benefit? Encourage them to reach out to WAY at [watershedallianceyork@gmail.com](mailto:watershedallianceyork@gmail.com)

# Where in the Watersheds?!

Interactive fun about York's 11 main 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 [rstahman@ycpc.org](mailto:rstahman@ycpc.org) 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 and you may get featured!

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



## Clues

- I'm a big direction
- In September 2023, my waters were surveyed for the first time in history for freshwater mussels and the scientists found the most diversity in my main stem!
- My name comes from the Lenape, meaning "at the rapids"
- The location of these photos is a well known York County camp





## Upcoming Events

Visit the 'events' tab on WAY's website for full event details.

### FEBRUARY

2/22, WAY Monthly Meeting on Teams

### MARCH

3/6, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Wild and Scenic Film Festival, Virtual or at Penn Cinema

3/9, Lancaster Conservancy, Explore Wizard Ranch Nature Preserve

3/25, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, Ripple Effect Soiree

3/28, WAY Monthly Meeting on Teams

### APRIL

4/21, YCP Spartan Green Day of Service at Shallowbrook Riparian Forest Buffer

4/25, WAY Monthly Meeting on Teams

### MAY

5/2-3, Give Local York! Plan your give to WAY :)

5/23, WAY Monthly Meeting on Teams

### 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

Connect  
with  
WAY!

The WAY Board of Directors meet on the 4th Thursday of each month in person at 6:30pm in Room 151 at 2401 Pleasant Valley Road, York

Join us virtually via TEAMS find the link under the 'About' section at [watershedallianceofyork.org](http://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](mailto:rstahlman@ycpc.org)



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



YORK COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

YORK COUNTY  
YPCPC  
PLANNING  
COMMISSION

YPCPC is the primary entity for implementing the CAP, with support from YCCD. The public partner in this undertaking is WAY.