

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE

Cooperative Agreement #: CA_P18AC01264
Award Recipient: White Clay Watershed Association
Project/Program Title: Wild & Scenic River Funding
Date: January 2, 2019
Period Covered by Report: October 1, 2018 - December 30, 2018
Funds expended during this reporting period: \$16,846.88
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 (\$11,732.38)

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. Wrote and submitted the required five year close out report for our former contract agreement.

Followed up on development projects in the watershed including the Papermill Road/DelDOT culvert project in New Castle County, the Chestnut Valley Stream Restoration proposal in New Castle County, the White Clay Creek State Park Master Planning Open Houses, Three Little Bakers Development Proposal, and the New Garden Township cell tower hearings.

Tracked budgets and maintained communications with other non-NPS funders including DelDOT/RKK, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, SUEZ, and National Park Foundation.

Education (\$3,775.00)

Municipal Outreach:

Convened a meeting of municipal engineers and staff to discuss PA DEP deficiency letters to permit applications. Continued conversations with PA-DEP staff to understand how each TMDL plan was reviewed and acted as a liaison between the municipality and PA DEP as questions arose. Hosted meetings with PADEP and the White Clay Creek Municipalities on

October 3, 2018 and again on October 22, 2018 with all members of CWMP. 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. Attending meeting with West Grove Borough manager and Ellen Kohler (UMD EFC) to discuss moving forward with BMP implementation in the borough by conducting a GSI assessment for the entire borough that can be used to seek out grant funding. Contacted Chris Obropta Ph. D., P.E., Associate Extension Specialist in Water Resources, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program, The State University of Rutgers, to set up a time to meet in West Grove in January 2019 to go over assessment needs.

School Programming:

Program funding for 24 Newark High School Students to attend a field trip to Stroud Water Research Center in Spring 2019.

Community Outreach:

- Website stats: 1117 unique visitors, 1150-page visits, and 2275-page views during the months of October - December, 2018. The most popular content during this period was the maps page.
- Maintained social media updates, website updates, and E-mail communications.
- Initiated Creek Fest 2019 planning and outreach: sent out save the date, contacted all former exhibitors and sponsors, obtained commitments for 2019 sponsorship and entertainment acts.
- Wrote and submitted the following articles:
Watershed Residents Engage in Helping the Environment One Measurement at a Time;
White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River. (2018, submitted to National Park Service)
Is a Low Salt Diet in Order for our Local Waterways? (2018, published London Grove Township Newsletter)

Restoration (\$1,339.50)

Stream Monitoring Projects:

- Volunteer coordination and management of four sensor stations.
- Continued to use UD intern to collect stream samples at four sensor stations for N, P, CL, TSS and bacteria.
- Collected fecal samples throughout the watershed for Stroud bacteria research.
- 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 to refine the draft water quality monitoring plan and field protocols for volunteers.
- Continued to manage data submitted by volunteers and refine data entry templates.
- Continued to update and refine interactive water quality map with UD WRC.

Catch the Rain Program:

- Met with 7 new applicants and provided site reports.
- Continued communications with London Croft HOA and Brandywine Conservancy regarding a riparian buffer planting on HOA lands. The buffer planting is scheduled for May 2019.
- Awarded rebates for one tree planting, and several rain barrels.

Land Stewardship:

- Maintained communications with Red Tail Restoration on work being done in New Garden Township at existing trails and the New Garden Park Riparian Buffer (supported by funds from New Garden Township with oversight from WCWS Program)
- On-going: land stewardship work conducted at Hoopes farm, Hutchinson farm, and Franklin Preserve.

Land Preservation (\$0)

Update on current Natural Lands Projects:

- Christie: Funds were put in escrow with the title company for the 4.2-acre conservation and trail easement in New Garden Township. The paperwork is complete, but they are waiting on a mortgage subordination from the owners and closing was pushed back to early 2019.
- New Garden Township closed on Saint Anthony (137 acres along Broad Run). Natural Lands has a meeting set up with Tony Scheivert (Township Manager) to discuss stewardship of the property since the Township will own the land outright.

Update on current Brandywine Conservancy Projects:

- The 190-acre Hutchinson Farm Preservation in Penn Township should conclude in early January. This includes the 38-acre woodland parcel in London Grove Township.
- The Shaw land preservation project located on a 45 acres across three townships, will need to undergo a reverse subdivision process before it can be preserved. This land is being donated by the landowner, but the landowner is not willing to pay for the costs of the easement or the endowment so John is working to find additional funding.