

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE

Cooperative Agreement #: CA_P18AC01264
Award Recipient: White Clay Watershed Association
Project/Program Title: Wild & Scenic River Funding
Date: July 1, 2019
Period Covered by Report: April 1, 2019 - June 30, 2019
Funds expended during this reporting period: \$22,089.38
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 (\$12,443.93)

Continued participation in watershed wide meetings throughout the quarter: Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership, Christina Basin Task Force, individual meetings with various watershed stakeholders, Board of Supervisors and other municipal meetings. Conducted White Clay Steering Committee Quarterly meeting and maintained and updated program fiscal records. Wrote and submitted two grant applications, one of which was awarded, one of which is still pending.

Followed up on development projects in the watershed including the Papermill Road/DeIDOT culvert project in New Castle County, the Newark Pedestrian Bridge project, and the New Garden Township cell tower hearings.

Provided letter of support to the London Tract Historical Committee to coordinate and conduct a cultural resource review of the Evans House, and request that DCNR consider potential preservation alternatives prior to moving forward with demolition plans.

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

Purged and updated watershed files.

Education (\$4266.11)

Municipal Outreach:

- Maintained communications with municipal engineers and staff to continue discussions on their stormwater plans and permit applications to PA DEP and learn where they are in the revision and resubmittal process.
- Continued conversations with PA-DEP staff to understand how each TMDL plan is being reviewed and acted as a liaison between the municipality and PA DEP as questions arose.
- Continued exploration of additional BMP opportunities in the Pennsylvania MS4 municipalities, including the use of riparian buffers to meet stormwater permit requirements.
- Participated in the Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership monthly planning meetings to formalize our structure so we can be proactive in receiving funding to continue this work. Applied for a PA DEP environmental education grant (through Brandywine Red Clay) to support our education efforts with the watershed municipalities (still waiting).
- Submitted a grant application to the E.K. Dockstader Foundation for funding to specifically support a GSI assessment for West Grove borough and implementation for one selected BMP in the borough. Awarded \$7500 on June 13, 2019 for a 1-year project period. In addition, to \$3500 match coming from West Grove Borough. Conducted phone meeting to refine the project timeline.
- Submitted grant application to NFWF for Delaware River Conservation Funds to help cover continued municipal outreach on nonpoint source pollution, and to aid in selecting, coordinating and sourcing funding for water quality improvement projects that overlap with the goals of the watershed implementation plan and stormwater permit requirements. [Note: Total ask was for just under \$71,000 largely to pay for 18 months of project support from UMD EFC (Ellen Kohler), as well as some funding for Catch the Rain program implementation and outreach. Total match was \$129,000 (largely in-kind from Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership members including White Clay municipal partners).] We will be notified if we are awarded the funding in late August.
- Met with New Castle County (DE) Special Services Department on site at Paper Mill Park to review potential GSI projects near the pavilions. Currently we are in the planning process for a rain garden to be installed late summer/fall 2019. I am collaborating with Delaware Nature Society to help with the signage and outreach.

School Programming:

Provided transportation funding for field trip to Stroud Water Research Center for a class of 24-30 Newark High School students. Committed to sending 800 students from AGIS to Stroud this fall 2019.

Community Outreach:

- Website stats: 2301 unique visitors, 2093-page visits, and 4256-page views during the months of April - June, 2019. The most popular content during this period was the creek fest page, followed by home, catch the rain and maps.
- Maintained social media updates, website updates, and E-mail communications.
- Hosted Creek Fest 2019; Handled planning and outreach, communications with exhibitors, vendors, and entertainment acts, public relations (design of postcards, banners, flyers, social media graphics, web site updates, water bottles, reusable bags, native plants, etc.); Printed and mailed 750 post cards out to targeted mailing list. 1100 attendees, 8 rain barrels were sold.
- Developed educational signage for a public drinking water fountain to be placed in Preston's Park, Newark, DE that teaches visitors where their drinking water is sourced from.

Restoration (\$4743.60)

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.
- Ordered supplies for 2019 recreational bacteria sampling and microbial source tracking program.
- Met monthly 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. Currently working on automated reporting.
- Reviewed current data with Emily Whiting (DelDOT). Agreed to continue monitoring efforts on Middle Run with financial assistance from DelDOT.
- Continued to refine the draft water quality monitoring plan and field protocols for volunteers.
- Met with new University of Delaware inter, Kelly Jacobs to go over the monitoring program.
- Continued to manage data submitted by volunteers and refine data entry templates.
- Met with Kristen Travers (DNS) to discuss summer 2019 water sampling and summer intern.
- Located new sensor site and gained permission from West Grove Borough for installation. This was purchased with National Park Foundation Funds and will be installed in August 2019.
- Provided technical support and advice to stream stewards (Rob Tuttle, Jeff Chambers) work with UD engineering students to develop a prototype for an automated stream sampler that would collect samples during storm events.

Catch the Rain Program:

- Met with 7 Catch the Rain applicants (5 new, 2 repeat) and provided site reports.
- Planted 320 trees along an unnamed tributary to White Clay Creek East Branch on Londoncroft HOA lands with assistance and grant funding made available from Brandywine Conservancy on June 1, 2019. The HOA has agreed to maintenance. We are now looking into some naturalized meadow areas in HOA land.
- Continued conversations with Avon Grove Intermediate School regarding potential projects and presented a new opportunity to work with Natural Lands on providing a master plan for the entire property.
- Met with two economic professors from UD to discuss the potential of working together on a research collaboration investigating homeowners' willingness to invest in residential BMPs, e.g., permeable pavement, rain gardens, and conservation landscaping, among others. They are interested in working with a local organization to study BMP adoption and help get more practices on the ground and have funding to offer cost-shares.
- Met with Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands to discuss how we can coordinate more on the Catch the Rain program. They are prepared to provide more technical assistance, develop a brochure, and potentially cost share some projects. Several projects were identified where Shane could use their assistance (meadow plantings, institutional GSI, and paper mill park rain garden design).
- Issued rebates for three rain barrels and one conservation landscape.

Land Stewardship:

- Visited Franklin Preserve with Red Tail Restoration to review progress.
- On-going: land stewardship work conducted at Hoopes farm, Hutchinson farm, and Franklin Preserve.
- Met with Kristen Travers and Jim White (from Delaware Nature Society) to collaborate on a stewardship project at Middle Run Natural Area in Delaware. A contract was developed and signed, and invasive species management will begin September 2019 - May 2020 utilizing funding from the Delaware Tax Check Off.

Land Preservation (\$635.74)

Update on current Natural Lands Projects:

- New Garden Township is working on an official map of the township and released funding to Natural Lands to conduct a trails alignment study, which includes an investigation of the Mason Dixon Trail that runs from the Preserve into New Garden Township.
- A meeting of interested parties was held in May to discuss the Mason Dixon Trail (alignment options and needs). DCNR is currently focusing on regional trail gaps as a priority and the Mason Dixon Trail fits the profile so we are trying to coordinate with the State and Chester County Planning Commission

- Two potential new trail easements are also on tap that involve identified landowners on the preliminary New Garden township map.

Update on current Brandywine Conservancy Projects:

- The 190-acre Hutchinson Farm Preservation in Penn Township closed in late March. 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.

Other:

- Working with Franklin Township and John Goodall (Brandywine Conservancy) on landowner outreach in the township along the Middle Branch.