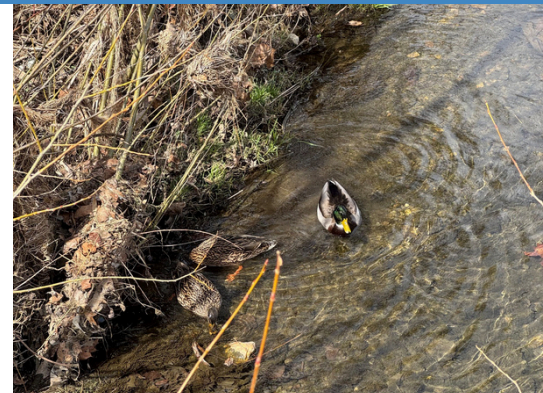


# THE RE-CAP

*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 the first time in nearly 6 years, each WAY Officer seat is filled! At our January meeting our current board Director, Mark Lentz, was nominated and elected to serve as Treasurer. Longtime supporter and volunteer, Cindy Pizziketti, was nominated and elected to serve as a Director and the Secretary. We are very excited to announce that our previous Secretary and acting Treasurer, Emily Neideigh, has accepted the position as WAY's first staff member. Emily will serve as the Executive Director of WAY, a position she stepped into on March 3rd. The progression of growth within WAY since 2020 has all led to us being ready to expand and have staff. This means more concentrated work will be able to happen in the name of water quality throughout York County.

## WAY

### BOARD OFFICERS

RACHEL STAHLMAN,  
PRESIDENT  
DUANE HYSON,  
VICE PRESIDENT  
CINDY PIZZIKETTI,  
SECRETARY  
MARK LENTZ,  
TREASURER

### BOARD DIRECTORS

LETTICE BROWN  
TED EVGENIADIS  
MATT ATTIG  
DIANE OLESON  
JODI SULPIZIO  
ROB HARVEY  
ETHAN DAVIAU

### STAFF

EMILY NEIDEIGH,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello Readers!

In years past, winter has been WAY's "slow months", but this year has been as busy as ever. I'm so thrilled that Emily Neideigh accepted the position as the Executive Director of WAY. We planned for the hiring of staff for quite some time and worked diligently to get our organization to a place where bringing someone on as staff would benefit not only the organization but the individual. We wanted them to start off on the right foot, with an organization that had the full capacity to support them. I do not think we would have gotten to this point without the capacity building work we completed early 2024 with Dani Beam as part of a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Dani not only was wonderful to work with, but she gave us the proper tools to forge our way on our own. The goal of the capacity building grant was to hire someone within one year of the grant's closing and we were able to reach that goal in just 9 months. That is a testament to Dani's expertise! What exactly will Emily's role be? As the Executive Director she will drive the development and execution of an annual plan for WAY and will also lead the organization in growth by generating revenue and transitioning it from volunteer-only to an established non-profit organization. Emily has been serving in the role as Executive Director since March 3rd and the progress of organizational growth is already clear through the projects, grants, and events we have in the works. The next couple of years will be filled with growth and evolution for WAY in very exciting ways.

Something else that has received a lot of attention in recent months has been the Draft Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit. What is MS4? A network of publicly owned drainage systems (like pipes, ditches, and storm drains) designed to collect and convey stormwater runoff, often discharging directly into nearby water bodies without treatment. The York County Stormwater Consortium (YCSWC) is a partnership of 46 municipalities working together, through an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, to implement the York County Regional Chesapeake Bay Pollutant Reduction Plan (CBPRP) which is required by MS4 permits located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed for sediment reductions. The proposed draft MS4 Permit changes the focus from sediment reduction to stormwater runoff volume reduction. York County submitted many comments to PA DEP based on the proposed permit philosophy. As the comment period has ended and responses to public comments are published, we will update you!

In Stewardship,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "Rachel Stahlman".

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





# Local Highlights:

## York County Real~Time Water Quality Monitoring Program

If you have been involved with WAY and the CAP in any capacity since 2020 there is a likelihood that you have heard about the County's real-time Water Quality Monitoring Program in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). After approximately five years of data collection, we have lots of information on loads for sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus and indications of York's water quality. This data has now resulted in the creation of a public facing dashboard produced by USGS. As USGS continues to collect data to develop water quality trends over the next couple of years, the public can follow our progress through the [York County Water Quality Dashboard](#).

Why is this important? The data presented on this dashboard is important for 1) understanding the timing and magnitude of downstream transport of sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus out of the monitored watersheds, 2) understanding long term trends in sediment and nutrients, and 3) evaluating the effects of best management practices within the monitored watersheds. These real-time water quality monitors will allow us to better understand and manage our watersheds in efforts to restore and protect our natural resources. The data obtained from our water quality monitors may be used to better inform and improve the Chesapeake Bay Model which is used for regulatory purposes including CAP goals and overall progress toward meeting the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The Chesapeake Bay Model also drives the revisions of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement between the Federal Government and participating Bay Watershed States.



Left is our monitor at Muddy Creek. Each monitor is located by the creeks edge and some of them appear different based on location but all collect data the same.

Right is our monitor at Codorus Creek. You can see how it appears to look a little different than the Muddy Creek monitor



Left our USGS partner is holding the Fishing Creek at Goldsboro super-gauge. This is the tool that monitors the water quality.

# Local Highlights:

## York County Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Program

What's next? The establishment of trends is forthcoming and will be valuable because we will be able to determine the impact of the best management practices and if our water quality is getting better, worse, or staying the same. We will be able to direct funding towards projects that best impact York's water resources. We will be positioned for scientific study concerning watershed management, best management practice effectiveness, and hydrologic connectivity as it pertains to surface water, groundwater, local resources, and Bay impact. We will continue leading the way in innovation with the use of our water quality monitors in the research, restoration and conservation of freshwater mussels in our waterways and their impact on water quality.

What's the goal? Aside from better watershed management with real-time data, York County wants to be a pilot for change and use our data for municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) and CAP reporting requirements and permit compliance (i.e. MS4). We want acceptance of our data as proof that the implemented best management practices are operational, sound and improving water quality. We want to continue to be a leader in driving scientific change locally and throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Check out the snapshot below which shows annual loads for sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus and be sure to visit the [York County Water Quality Dashboard](#), which can be found on WAY's website, and take a deeper dive into this awesome program!

Year	Suspended Sediment, lbs	Total Nitrogen, lbs	Total Phosphorus, lbs
2021	136,583,970	7,764,862	522,064
2022	90,140,432	7,497,804	314,161
2023	78,733,106	4,929,619	246,219
2024	115,683,479	8,732,753	397,813
2025	4,161,876	668,799	18,532

Above: Pollutant loads of ~80% of York's water flow for sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus.



Above: USGS staff demonstrating sample collection.



Above: Technology behind York's water quality monitors.



# Projects Around the County: K10, Watershed Forestry, & Riparian Rangers

Some months ago, WAY was approached by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Keystone 10 Million Trees (K10) Program and asked if York County could serve as a staging district for the final year of the program. With permission in place, we happily accepted the invitation. What did this mean for WAY? A massive number of trees and tree supplies were delivered and distributed from the County's Pleasant Valley Road location over a 72-hour period in early April. As the staging district for York, WAY received 6,925 native trees and shrubs, 5,350 tree protector tubes, 5,350 tree tube stakes, and 3,975 protective bird nets. A number of those 6,925 native trees and shrubs were distributed to partners through the process of being a staging district. Most of the native trees and shrubs, 5,350 to be exact, remained the responsibility of WAY. Those native trees and shrubs were distributed to folks who went through the interest process with the K10 Program, to folks who have taken part in WAY's Watershed Forestry, to our Riparian Rangers so they can continue to maintain a couple hundred acres of riparian forest buffers throughout York, and to many York County residents and residents throughout Pennsylvania. It's lots of work to distribute and report such a massive quantity of native trees and shrubs but WAY is more than capable and always up for a great challenge! We are already looking forward to the fall distribution.



Above: These tubes and stakes will be used with planting the sapling trees and shrubs to help ensure survival from deer browsing.



Above: A small group of Riparian Rangers after performing maintenance on a riparian forest buffer.



Above: A riparian forest buffer.



# Event Highlight:

## Master Watershed Stewards Winter Gathering

The Penn State Extension Master Watershed Steward Program was launched state-wide in 2013 to increase capacity for watershed protection and functions as a collaborative effort between Penn State Extension, County Conservation Districts, and local environmental organizations. State-wide, the program spans 41 counties with 860+ volunteers. As of 2022, since the program began, Master Watershed Stewards have contributed over 113,000 volunteer hours. York County launched its Master Watershed Steward program in 2016 as a collaborative effort between Penn State Extension, York County Conservation District, and the Watershed Alliance of York. Since the start of York's Master Watershed Steward Program, 28,521 volunteer hours have been logged at a value of \$955,168 and more than 48,915 people have received watershed education.

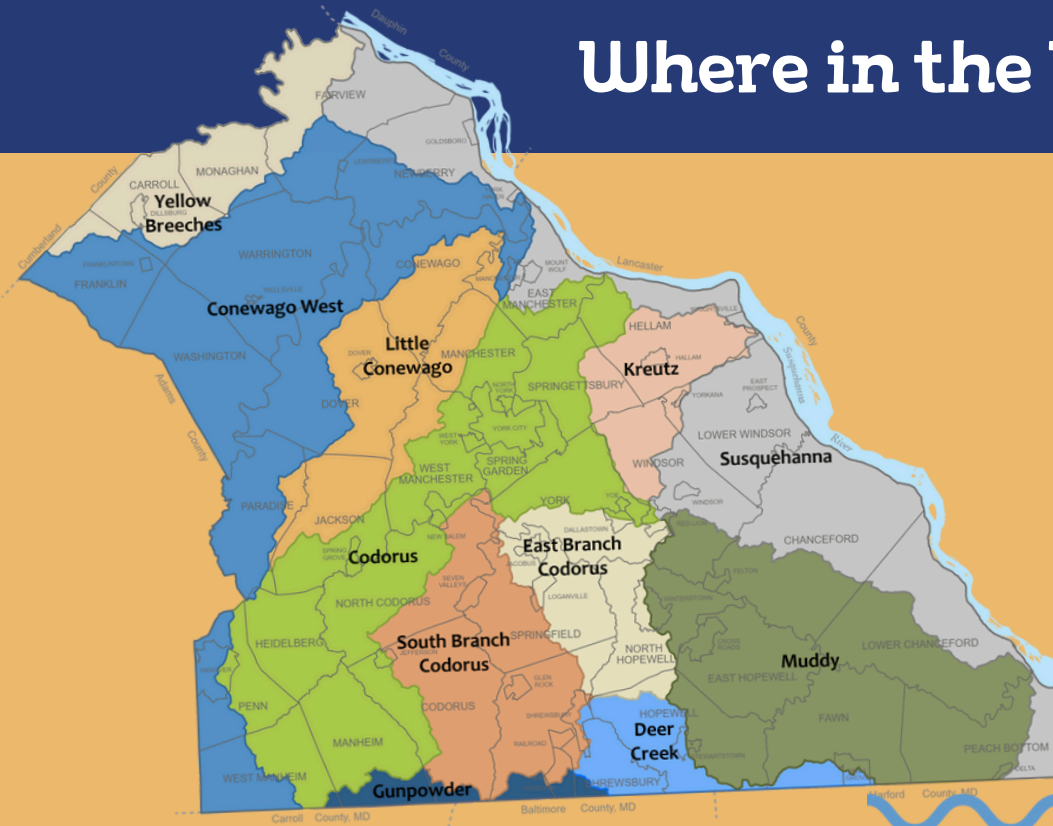
In early March of each year, Master Watershed Stewards hold a Winter Gathering where they celebrate the successes of the year and highlight awesome accomplishments. For the last reporting year, October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, 83 Stewards logged 4,393 volunteer hours valued at \$147,122 and made 6,963 watershed educational contacts. Talk about impressive! The Stewards were joined by County Commissioners and Mike Fobes of York County Parks who was presented with the "Partner of the Year" award. All enjoyed an afternoon of comradery, delicious food, and a silent auction while celebrating a successful year of watershed work!



Master Watershed Stewards who attended the Winter Gathering pose for their annual photo!



# Where in the Watersheds?!



Interactive fun about York's 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 [watershedallianceyork@gmail.com](mailto:watershedallianceyork@gmail.com) 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 was recently in the news showcasing my water quality monitor
- There are two of me in York County but we are not the same
- Anglers love to visit me each April because I am stocked with Trout





Visit the 'events' tab on WAY's website to keep up-to-date with water quality events!

**May 1 & 2, Give Local York plan your WAY give!**  
[WAY's Give Local Page](#)

**May 17, 9am-1pm, Willis Run Cleanup**  
 516 N George St, York, PA 17404

**May 22, 6:30-8pm, WAY Board Meeting**  
 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd., York Room #151

**July 24, 6:30-8pm, WAY Board Meeting**  
 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd., York Room #151

**July 26, 9am-1pm, Codorus Creek Cleanup**

**August 28, 6:30-8pm, WAY Board Meeting**  
 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd., York Room #151

**October 23, 6:30-8pm, WAY Board Meeting**  
 2401 Pleasant Valley Rd., York Room #151

**Watershed Week, September 13-20**



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  
 YCPC  
 PLANNING  
 COMMISSION**

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

## 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



The WAY Board of Directors meet bi-monthly on the 4th Thursday 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)