



Choose Clean Water
COALITION

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

Choose Clean Water Coalition
20 Ridgely Ave, Suite 203, Annapolis, MD 21401
www.choosecleanwater.org

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CHOOSE CLEAN WATER COALITION,

We are pleased to present you with the Choose Clean Water Coalition’s first ever Annual Report, highlighting the incredible successes that we as a coalition have achieved over the past year. More than 220 members worked together to advocate for meaningful change for the Chesapeake Bay watershed at the local, regional, and federal level. We forged new alliances with important stakeholders, launched a region-wide strategic communications campaign to drive change, and made an unprecedented commitment to bring increased diversity, equity, and inclusion to our community.

By collaborating on these goals as a Coalition, we are able to achieve more.

Looking to 2017 and beyond, we are adapting our approaches to address a changing landscape. Recognizing the importance of the agricultural sector to our clean water goals, we adopted a new policy priority for 2017 focusing on agriculture. With a changed federal outlook, our efforts at the state and local level to reduce pollution are more important than ever.

When we harness the collective power of the region’s advocacy community to accomplish our goals, we will achieve long lasting success for clean water.


Jill Witkowski Heaps
Director



JILL WITKOWSKI HEAPS
Director



CHANTÉ COLEMAN
Deputy Director



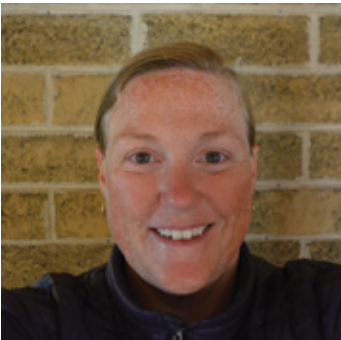
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Communications Manager



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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR STATE AND OUTREACH LEADS
Ben Alexandro • Mariah Davis • Brenna Goggin • David Lillard •
Trieste Lockwood • Jennifer Quinn • Michael Sellitti

STEERING
COMMITTEE



ABOUT THE COALITION

The Choose Clean Water Coalition harnesses the collective power of more than 220 groups to advocate for clean rivers and streams in all communities in the Chesapeake region. By mobilizing the advocacy community and coordinating policy, messaging, action, and accountability, the Coalition is able to speak louder with one voice toward our collective goal – clean water.

WHAT THE COALITION CAN PROVIDE
TO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Coalition supports member organizations through advocacy and policy support, communications assistance, and information sharing and networking.

ADVOCACY AND POLICY SUPPORT

The Coalition advocates for meaningful change at the federal level, as well as through state-specific, targeted campaigns which advance strong policy, greater accountability, and increased funding for water quality improvement.

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE

How we communicate about clean water is vital to our success. Coalition staff and outside communication professionals assist in developing and implementing messages that articulate clean water goals to our audiences, including local decision makers.

INFORMATION SHARING AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

With more than 220 members, the Coalition offers significant opportunities and resources for information sharing and networking between organizational members through workgroups, state specific calls, pass-through grants, webinars, and our annual conference.

Policy Priorities

FEDERAL	POLLUTION LIMITS	STORMWATER	SHALE	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	AGRICULTURE
Promote and defend federal policies and investment that support Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration and protection efforts.	Ensure Chesapeake Bay pollution limits continue to make progress towards returning clean water to the region.	Strengthen policies and permits to stop polluted runoff in urbanized areas.	Protect public health, communities and regional water resources from the impacts of natural gas development.	Promote environmental justice to ensure underserved and overburdened communities share equitably in the benefits of clean water.	*New in 2017: Ensure the agricultural sector achieves pollution reductions necessary to reach the 2017 and 2025 water quality goals.

2016

225 MEMBERS
of the Choose Clean
Water Coalition

9 INFORMATIONAL
WEBINARS
CONDUCTED

19 ADVOCACY
LETTERS

95 ORGANIZATIONS
SIGNED ON TO
COALITION
ADVOCACY LETTERS

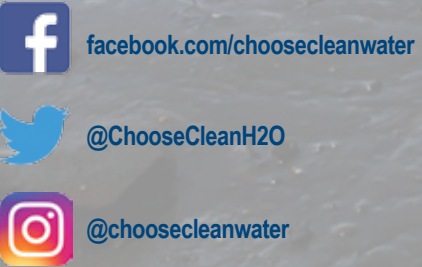


Photo courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

COALITION SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS IN 2016



NY: In an effort to engage more organizations from the far northern areas of the watershed, the Coalition partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, the Sidney Center Improvement Group, and other local member organizations to host the First Annual Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum in Oneonta, New York. The day brought together over 90 people from the EPA, state agencies, local government, academia, and the non-profit sector, to discuss the state of the Upper Watershed, build new partnerships, and share successes.



WATERSHED-WIDE: This past year, over 60 Coalition members attended the 4th Annual Chesapeake Bay Day on Capitol Hill. The visit was a key component of our lobbying efforts to secure \$73 million for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program, and \$12 million specifically for on the ground restoration projects in the watershed.



DC: In October 2016, the Anacostia Watershed Society co-hosted the Festival del Rio Anacostia, a multicultural and bilingual celebration designed to engage local Latinos in the restoration of the Anacostia River. Over 300 people attended, most of them local families and other members of the public.

PA: The Coalition was instrumental in working with Congress and the Obama Administration to allocate \$28.8 million for agricultural conservation in south-central Pennsylvania. Coalition staff advocated for the funding to White House officials and worked with the EPA and US Department of Agriculture on the proposal.

MD: Our Maryland state lead and Maryland Coalition members worked together to collect more than 50 stormwater success stories from across Maryland to highlight on the ground projects that reduce stormwater pollution. The Coalition plans to use these stories to educate local government officials about stormwater projects and the need for robust local financing.

DE: The Delaware Nature Society secured legislation to create a Clean Water and Flood Abatement Task Force that examined the issues facing Delaware's water quality and recommended creating a related to a dedicated funding source to address the state's \$100 million water funding shortfall.

WV: The West Virginia Rivers Coalition launched its 2016 OneWatershed initiative, a program designed to connect local watershed organizations with high school and college students. The fellows analyzed each watershed group's website, newsletters, and social media for "youth appeal" and created event and outreach plans for upcoming events designed to engage younger demographics.



VA: In response to major gas pipeline proposals through the Central Appalachians, Coalition members Shenandoah Valley Network, Wild Virginia, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, Southern Environmental Law Center, and Shenandoah Riverkeeper helped launch two highly-effective partnerships. The 51-member Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance and the environmental watchdog Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition are drawing attention to the risks of pipeline construction through rugged forest terrain and Bay headwater streams.



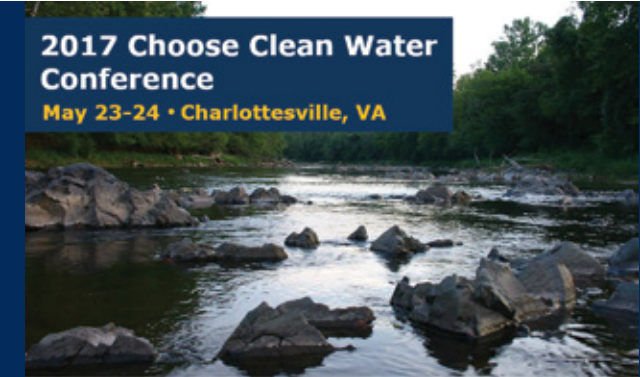
REGIONAL: In February, the Coalition partnered with the Audubon Naturalist Society on its first-ever Black History Month Event titled Taking Nature Black. Over 100 people attended this day-long celebration, which brought together environmentalists and naturalists from the region to participate in listening sessions and panel discussions on environmental advocacy, working cross-culturally, and living green.

2016 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Coalition’s annual conference is designed to foster an environment to share ideas, learn communications strategies, and build relationships among our member organizations. In 2016, more than 240 people from across the watershed attended the Coalition’s **Clean Water: Bridging to New Partnerships** conference, in Annapolis, Maryland. The conference featured keynote speaker EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. We heard from Virginia Tech researchers on the Flint, Michigan water crisis and seventh generation farmer and New York Times bestselling author, Forrest Pritchard, and other influential environmental professionals and advocates.

As part of the Coalition’s work to promote diversity, we facilitated a cultural competency training at the conference, to help participants build awareness of how cultural differences can impact people in an organization and to motivate participants to rethink their behavior and attitude toward others.

We kicked off a Young Professionals of Color Mentorship Program, pairing a diverse pool of future environmental leaders with an equally diverse pool of mentors who will help facilitate their rise to oversee the future of our green community. Over the last few years, the Choose Clean Water Coalition has made an unprecedented commitment to bring increased diversity to the Chesapeake Bay community, and this session helped to further that goal. Overall, the conference provided energy and enthusiasm toward a more inclusive, diverse, equitable, and successful Chesapeake Bay restoration.



2017 Choose Clean Water Conference
May 23-24 • Charlottesville, VA

Please join us on May 23-24 in Charlottesville, VA for the 8th Annual Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference. To learn more about this year’s conference and to register, visit www.choosecleanwater.org.

THANK YOU TO THE AMAZING WORK OF OUR COALITION MEMBERS!

National American Canoe Association • American Rivers • Center for Progressive Reform • Civil War Trust • Clean Water Action • Defenders of Wildlife • Ducks Unlimited • Earth Force • Earthworks • Environment America • Environmental Working Group • Izaak Walton League of America • National Aquarium • National Parks Conservation Association • National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Defense Council • Nature Abounds • Pick Up America • Restore America’s Estuaries • River Network • Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership • Trout Unlimited

Regional Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay • Anacostia Riverkeeper • Anacostia Watershed Society • Audubon Maryland/DC • Audubon Naturalist Society • Chesapeake Bay Foundation • Chesapeake Foodshed Network • Chesapeake Legal Alliance • Chesapeake Stormwater Network • Coalition for Smarter Growth • Green Muslims • Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake • Interfaith Power and Light (MD, DC, NoVA) • Mid Atlantic Council - Trout Unlimited • Potomac Conservancy • Potomac Riverkeeper • Potomac Riverkeeper Network • Ridge and Valley Streamkeepers • Rock Creek Conservancy • Southern Environmental Law Center • SouthWings • Upper Potomac Riverkeeper • Waterkeepers Chesapeake

Delaware Delaware Center for Horticulture • Delaware Nature Society • Friends of the Nanticoke River

District of Columbia DC Environmental Network • Earth Conservation Corps • Groundwork Anacostia River DC • Institute for Local Self Reliance • Surfrider Foundation – DC Chapter

Maryland 1000 Friends of Maryland • Adkins Arboretum • Alice Ferguson Foundation • Alliance for Sustainable Communities • American Chestnut Land Trust • Back Creek Conservancy • Back River Restoration Committee • Baltimore Green Works • Bethesda Green • Blue Water Baltimore • Cecil Land Use Association • Chapman Forest Foundation • Chesapeake BaySavers • Chesapeake Climate Action Network • Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council • Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage • Chester River Association • Citizen Shale • Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek • Clean Bread and Cheese Creek • Conservation Montgomery • Corsica River Conservancy • Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth • Dundalk Renaissance Corporation • Earth Forum of Howard County • Eastern Shore Land Conservancy • EcoLatinos • Environment Maryland • Environmental Concern • Envision Frederick County • Friends of Cabin John Creek • Friends of Frederick County • Friends of Herring Run Parks • Friends of Lower • Beaverdam Creek • Friends of Quincy Run • Friends of Sligo Creek • Friends of the Bohemia • Growth Action Network of Anne • Arundel County Gunpowder Riverkeeper • Little Falls Watershed Alliance • Lower Shore Land Trust • Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, Inc. • Maryland Academy of Science at Maryland Science Center • Maryland Bass Federation Nation • Maryland Citizens for Safe Energy • Maryland Conservation Council • Maryland Environmental Health Network • Maryland League of Conservation Voters • Maryland Native Plant Society • Maryland Nonprofits • Maryland Pesticide Network • Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association • Maryland Stormwater Consortium • Mattawoman Watershed Society • Midshore Riverkeeper Conservancy • Montgomery Countryside Alliance • Neighbors of the Northwest Branch • NeighborSpace of Baltimore County • Parks and People Foundation • Patuxent Tidewater Land Trust • Queen Anne’s Conservation Association • Sassafras River Association • Savage River Watershed Association • Save Western Maryland • Severn River Association • Severn Riverkeeper • Sierra Club - Maryland Chapter • South River Federation • Sparks-Glencoe Community Planning Council • St. Mary’s River Watershed Association • Talbot Preservation Alliance • Trash Free Maryland Alliance • Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Inc. • West/Rhode Riverkeeper • Wicomico Environmental Trust

New York Catskill Mountainkeeper • Environment New York • Friends of the Chemung River Watershed • New York League of Conservation Voters • New York State Council of Trout Unlimited • Otsego County Conservation Association • Otsego Land Trust • Sidney Center Improvement Group • Upper Susquehanna Coalition • Water Defense

Pennsylvania Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring • Clean Air Council • ClearWater Conservancy • Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association • Conservation Pennsylvania • Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania Countryside Conservancy • Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation • Elk Creeks Watershed Association • Lackawanna River Conservation Association • Lancaster County Conservancy • Lancaster Farmland Trust • Mehoopany Creek Watershed Association • Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper • Paxton Creek Watershed & Education Association • Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group • PennFuture • Penns Valley Conservation Association • Pennsylvania Council of Churches • Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited • Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers • Protecting Our Waters • Sierra Club - Pennsylvania Chapter • Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna • Susquehanna Heritage • Susquehanna Greenway Partnership • The Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church • Western Clinton Sportsmen’s Association

Virginia All From One • Appalachian Voices • Audubon Society of Northern Virginia • Capital Region Land Conservancy • Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore • Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park • Coastal Canoeists • Elizabeth River Project • Environment Virginia • Float Fishermen of Virginia • Friends of Accotink Creek • Friends of Dyke Marsh • Friends of Shenandoah Mountain • Friends of the Appomattox River • Friends of the Middle River • Friends of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River • Friends of the Rappahannock • Friends of the Rivers of Virginia • Friends of the Shenandoah River • Goose Creek Association • James River Association • Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy • Lynnhaven River NOW • Partnership for Smarter Growth • Piedmont Environmental Council • Prince William Conservation Alliance • Richmond Audubon Society • Rivanna Conservation Alliance • Rockfish Valley Foundation • Scenic Virginia • Shenandoah Riverkeeper • Shenandoah Valley Network • Sierra Club - Virginia Chapter • Southeast CARE Coalition • Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center • Virginia Conservation Network • Virginia Eastern Shorekeeper • Virginia League of Conservation Voters • Virginia Organizing • Virginia Wilderness Committee • Wetlands Watch • Wild Virginia

West Virginia Allegheny Highlands Alliance • Blue Heron Environmental Network • Blue Ridge Watershed Coalition • Cacapon Institute • Friends of Beautiful Pendleton County • Friends of Cacapon • Laurel Mountain Preservation Association • Sleepy Creek Watershed Association • The Mountain Institute • Warm Springs Watershed Association • West Virginia Citizens Action Group • West Virginia Environmental Council • West Virginia Highlands Conservancy • West Virginia Rivers Coalition

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



Anacostia River • Annemessex River • Appomattox River • Back River • Bird River • Blackwater River • Bohemia River • Buffalo River • Bullpasture River • Bush River • Cacapon River • Calfpasture River • Canisteo River • Chemung River • Chenango River • Chester River • Chicamacomico River • Chickahominy River • Choptank River • Coan River • Cohocton River • Cold Spring River • Conestoga River • Conway River • Corrotoman River • Corsica River • Covington River • Cowanesque River • Cowpasture River • Doyles River • Dry River • East River • Elizabeth River • Elk River • Front River • German River • Gunpowder River • Hampton River • Hardware River • Harris River • Hawlings River • Hazel River • Honga River • Hughes River • Indian River • Jackson River • James River • Jordan River • Juniata River • Lackawanna River • Lafayette River • Little River • Lost River • Lynch River • Lynnhaven River • Magothy River • Manokin River • Matta River • Mattaponi River • Maury River • Mechums River • Middle River • Miles River • Monocacy River • Moormans River • Motto River • Nansemond River • Nanticoke River • Newfound River • North Anna River • North East River • North River • Occoquan River • Otselic River • Pagan River • Pamunkey River • Patapsco River • Patuxent River • Pedlar River • Perrin River • Piankatank River • Piney River • Pocomoke River • Poni River • Poquoson River • Poropotank River • Port Tobacco River • Potomac River • Rapidan River • Rappahannock River • Rhode River • Rivanna River • Roach River • Robinson River • Rockfish River • Rose River • Rush River • Sandy River • Sangerfield River • Sassafras River • Savage River • Severn River • Shenandoah River • Shoemaker River • Slate River • South Anna River • South River • St. Mary's River • Staunton River • Stony River • Susquehanna River • Thornton River • Tioga River • Toughnioga River • Transquaking River • Tred Avon River • Tye River • Unadilla River • Ware River • Warwick River • West River • Wicomico River • Willis River • Wye River • Yeocomico River • York River



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