



WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

WINTER 2023

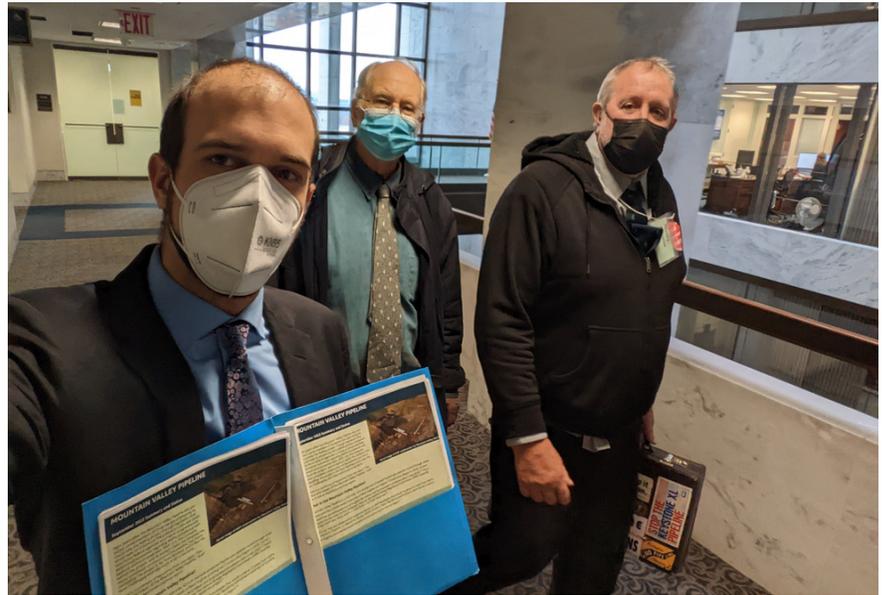
Your Headwaters Newsletter

WV Rivers works with community advocates at the local level and engages policymakers on state and national levels. This is possible because of your support of our science-based public policy programs. One example is educating on how the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is detrimental to the health and vitality of West Virginia's critically important rivers and streams.

Growing up in Monroe County, WV, Maury Johnson takes great pride in his community. He was baptized in Indian Creek and got involved in 4-H and Ruritan clubs, where he gained a lifelong sense of environmental stewardship. When Maury discovered flawed permits had been granted for crossing his beloved Indian Creek, he became a vocal water defender.

As a citizen advocate, Maury has testified or participated in hearings in the West Virginia Legislature and US Congress. Since 2017, Maury has been a member of WV Rivers and he serves on the Executive Committee of POWHR (Protect Our Water Heritage Rights).

In September and December, Maury traveled to Washington, DC to meet with key Senators to oppose



Maury Johnson, far right, is joined by Allen Johnson and Jamie DeMarco of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network while making citizen visits on Capitol Hill. Photo credit: Jamie DeMarco.

legislation that would green-light the MVP without proper review or citizen input on the permitting process. WV Rivers provided mini-grants so local citizens like Maury could meet with Senators and staff face-to-face and raise the profile of the case against the pipeline.

"When they (Senators) see a face and they hear a story, they have to think about what they're doing," Maury said. **"If they're going to destroy my farm and my community, they're going to have to look me in the eye."**

We are thankful for Maury's dedication to protecting the water around him for future generations. Your support of WV Rivers makes citizen advocacy possible — from grassroots trainings and action alerts to bus rides to walk the halls of Congress, your support makes an impact in local communities across the Mountain State.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition

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Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @wvrivers
Follow us on Twitter: @OurWVRivers



SNAPSHOT: WV RIVERS IN 2022

What Types of Revenue Supported WV Rivers Mission Driven Work in 2022?

In 2022, we received funding from:

- Private and Government Grants - 82%
- Individual Donations - 17%
- Other - 1%
 - Corporate Partnerships
 - In-Kind Donations
 - Events
 - Program Services

Stewardship to Increase our Impact

We work hard to be good stewards of the grants and donations given to WV Rivers. About 76% of revenue is directed to program delivery, supporting initiatives like:

- **4 Community Action Grants** provided to watershed organizations and community groups.
- Water quality monitoring trainings that supported volunteers in making **350 water quality sampling trips**.
- Educational materials for the public and decision-makers on cutting edge issues.
- **33 digital action campaigns** to help advocates make their voice heard on local, state, and federal policies.
- Permit reviews and technical comments submissions.
- Policy research and analysis.



Reach and Engagement

In 2022, our email newsletters reached **7,000 individuals** through **141 publications**. Our social media networks reach more than **12,000 individuals**.

Our digital advocacy program engaged over **6,000 individuals**, including **892 new advocates**, and generated nearly **34,000 messages** to decision-makers. We attracted **151 press hits** on our work.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD OUR 2022
PROGRAMMATIC REPORT.**



Policy Impact

Over the past year, we were successful in fending off rollbacks to environmental protections, as well as greatly reducing the scope and reach of harmful policies that advanced. Notable highlights include:

- The adoption of the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act with Senator Manchin's support.
- Another year of successful defense of streams in the path of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
- At the state level, we celebrated more protective updates to 30 water quality standards; fended off attempts to rollback drinking water protections and regulations of aboveground storage tanks; and earned a seat at the decision-making table, representing you on 4 state appointed committees.

"IT WOULD BE SOMETHING YOU'D NEVER FORGET"

When friends and family talk about our long-time member, Tom McCloud, they share about a modest and humble scientist, motivated by nature and education. **"He was so smart, and he'd tell a story, provide a detail, and it would be something you'd never forget,"** recalls his sister-in-law, Hannah McCloud.

When Tom passed away suddenly in October 2020, he left behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. As a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, Tom was responsible for years of work in organic compounds that helped inform cancer research and, ultimately, COVID vaccinations. Such attention to research and detail led to Tom's interest in restoring canoes in his retirement. As a member of the Canoe Cruisers Association, Tom paddled all across the country, but one of his favorite spots was the South Branch of the Potomac River in West Virginia. Canoeist friend Bob Kimmel remembers Tom fondly: "He was an inspiration; he taught me a lot not only about paddling, but about life."

Tom's inspiration didn't end with his research or his relationships with other canoeists.

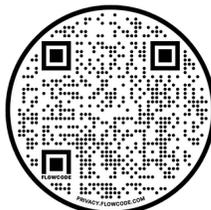


His deep care for the natural world led him to remember WV Rivers as a beneficiary of his estate. **"We will never forget Tom's passion for our West Virginia rivers and streams, as well as his forethought for the future of these special places,"** shares WV Rivers executive director, Angie Rosser.

LET'S TALK ABOUT PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF SPECIAL PLACES. PLANNED GIVING IS AN EASY WAY TO MAKE AN IMPACT LONG INTO THE FUTURE.

You can make an impact just like Tom McCloud, who not only shared his best gift with WV Rivers, but left a legacy for a better world. What legacy do you want to leave for West Virginia's rivers and streams? Contact us to learn more about how we can help each other plan for the future and leave behind a legacy of clean West Virginia water for future generations. Email us at wvrivers@wvrivers.org

SUPPORT THE MISSION AND PROGRAMS OF WV RIVERS. SEND A CHECK IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURELY DONATE ONLINE.



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Wanted: Rivers

If rivers were horses,
their shining, flying manes

shimmering on and on,
groomed and curried at rest;

if we gathered at sides of rivers
wherever her waters flowed,

for a babbling Kentucky Derby,
watching gravity's

unbridled power;
if we cleared away

harm to river well-being, floated
white sacrament and green seed

shrines, even carrots, downriver;
if we gave over our beds.

We wash her feet in annual
communion, we celebrate

our want; stroke her long, wet nose.
We send appled gifts

across zigzagged widths
to neighbors downriver, deliver

a kingfisher, a cherry sapling,
a rain cloud, an unsung hymn

to our wanted Little Sandy,
our wanted Monongahela, Decker's,

Cheat, our memorable Elk,
this revival of rivers would energize

deputize, and baptize entire
congregations to the blue sky

water tent, that is. If we wanted rivers,
creation stories would begin:

Welcome, your water, your body,
your every exalted drop.

-Susan Truxell Sauter, 2022



Above left: Friends of Hurricane Creek participate in a water quality sampling training program. Above right: Hikers walk along the Alice Knight Trail in Coonskin Park in Charleston to learn how expansion of Yeager Airport might affect water quality.

Below: A participant in a kid's fishing derby on Knapps Creek. Photo by Marlyn Photography.

