

West Virginia Rivers Coalition and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



Maria Russo, Policy Specialist

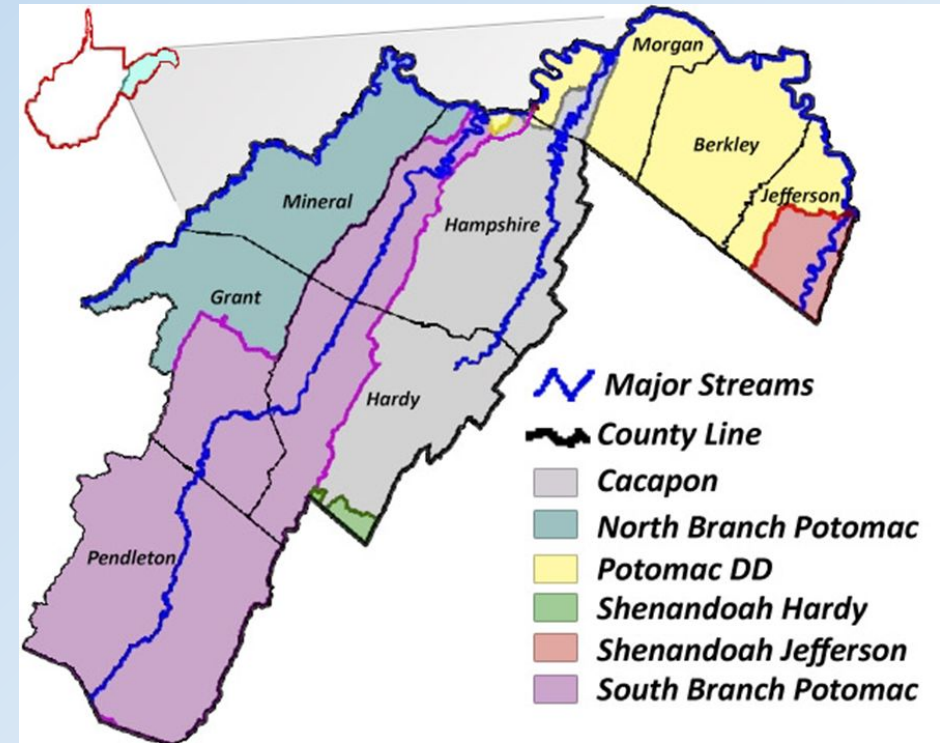
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

December 11, 2025

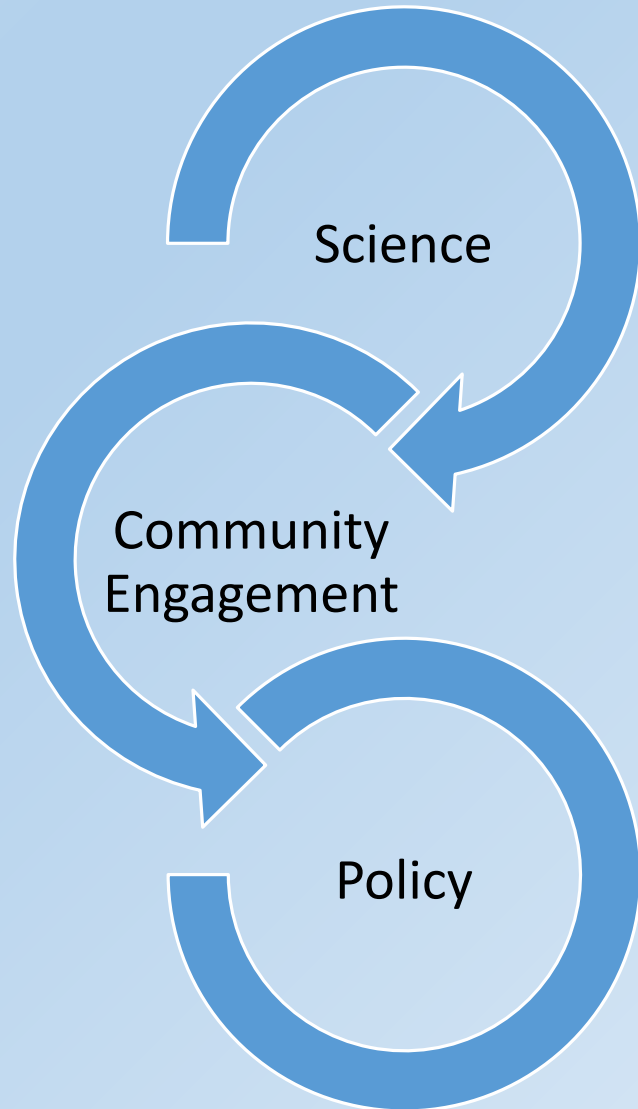


Our Mission

“...to promote clean and healthy West Virginia waters for all.”



How We Work



Campaigns Include:

- Source Water Protection
- Flood Resiliency
- Public Lands
- Emerging Contaminants
- Natural Gas and Pipelines
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Regional Work

Recent Successes: Safe Water for WV



Elks Run Watershed Group
c/o Eastern Panhandle Conservation District
151 Aikens Center, Suite 2
Martinsburg, WV 25404

**A HEALTHY
watershed
BEGINS WITH
YOUR SEPTIC
SYSTEM**



www.ElksRunWatershed.org



Does your septic system
need pumped?

WE CAN HELP YOU PAY FOR IT!*

Pump-out assistance
is available for all of
Jefferson County.

Cost share rate of a
septic tank pump-out:
50% up to \$150

To determine eligibility and receive an
application, contact:

Hanna Weikert, Conservation Specialist
West Virginia Conservation Agency
hweikert@wvca.us | (304) 552-1754

Elks Run is the drinking
water source for
Harpers Ferry and
Bolivar WV.

ELKS RUN WATERSHED



*Funding is limited, and
applications are
approved on a first-
come, first-served basis.

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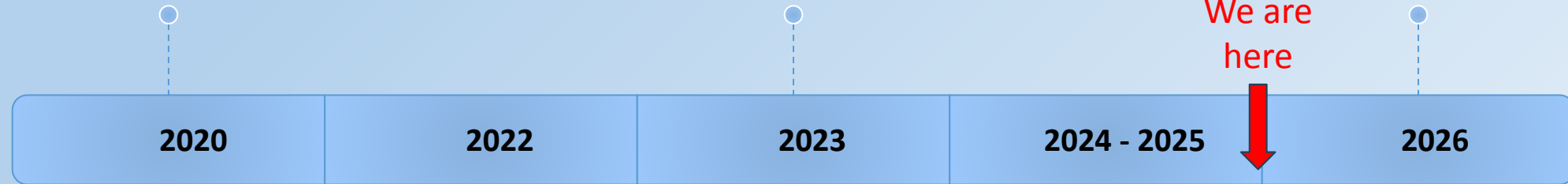
WEST VIRGINIA
RIVERS

Recent Successes: Implementation of the PFAS Protection Act

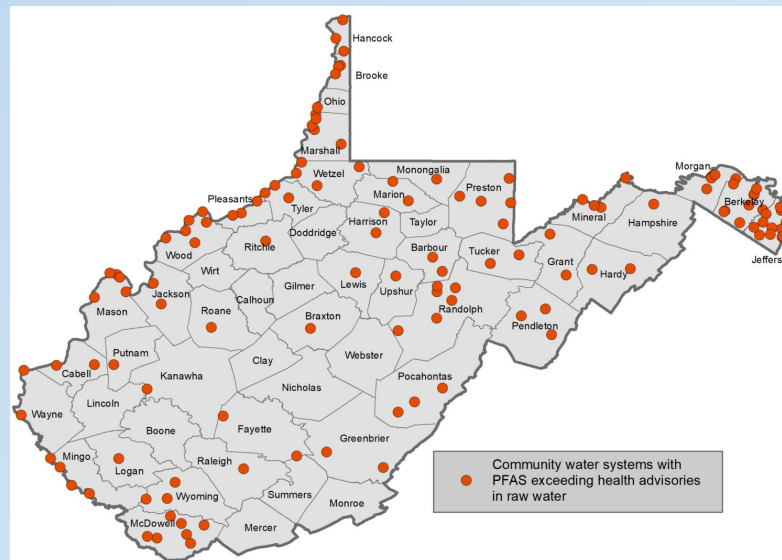
Senate Concurrent Resolution 46
directing statewide study

PFAS Protection Act passed
Initial finished water results

All 130 PFAS
Action Plans
complete



Source water
study results



Action Plans
Initiated,
Community
Meetings



Recent Successes: At the Legislature

- Last year, over 7,000 people took action to deliver over **100,000 comments** to legislators during the 60-day WV session
- We are taking proactive measures to support bills increasing water access points, flood resiliency, groundwater protection, water infrastructure, and more!



Recent Challenges

WOTUS Impact



Bills that allow more
pollution into WV



Flooding



Failing Water Infrastructure



Data
Centers



On the Horizon

- **December 12** = Statewide Data Center Convening
- **January 14** = First Day of WV Legislative Session
- **January 29** = Virtual Advocacy Training with WV Rivers
- **February 23** = Environmental Day at the WV Capitol
- **March 4th** = Chesapeake Bay Watershed Lobby Day at the US Capitol
- **March 14th** = Last Day of WV Regular Session

Thank You!

Questions?

Maria Russo: mrusso@wvrviers.org

