

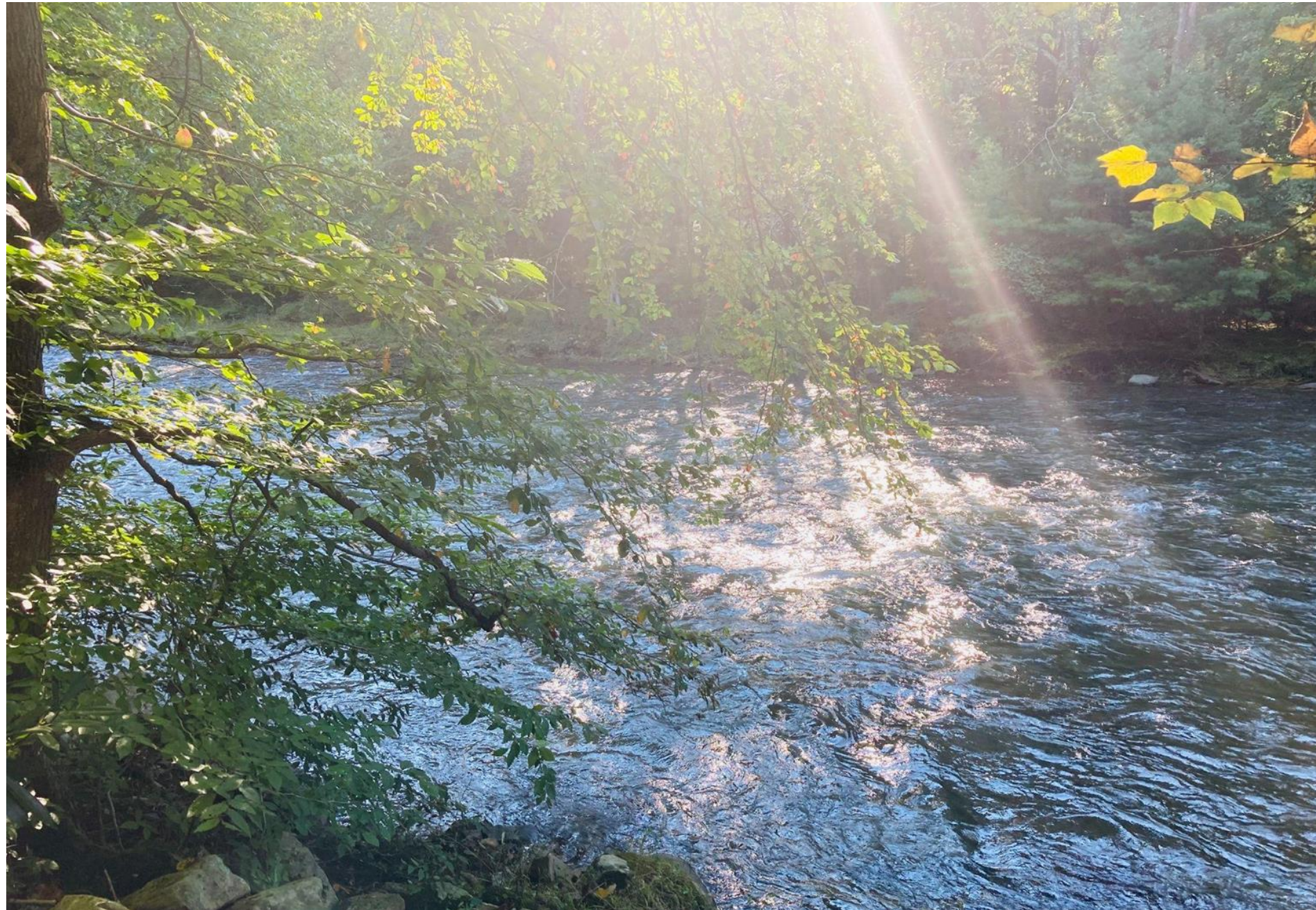
Lancaster Clean Water Partners



Jon V. Knorr
Director of Funding



Pennsylvania's State Constitution...



“...the people have the right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.”

– *Article I, Section 27*

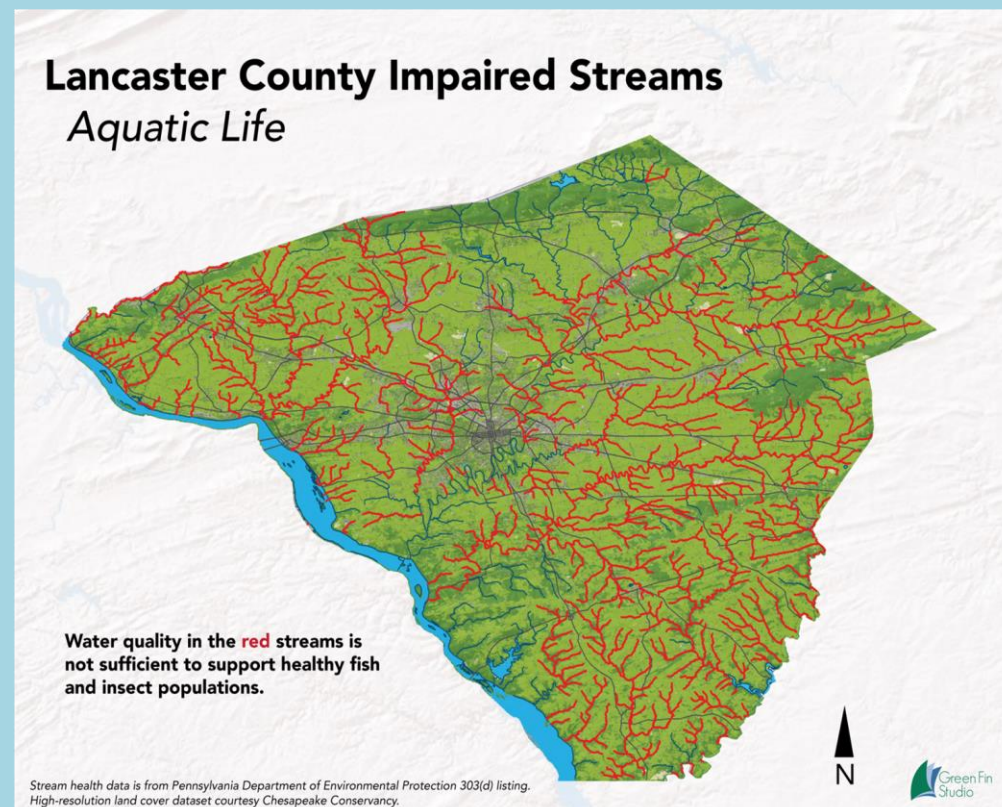


Water Quality in Lancaster

Problem - Challenge - Opportunity

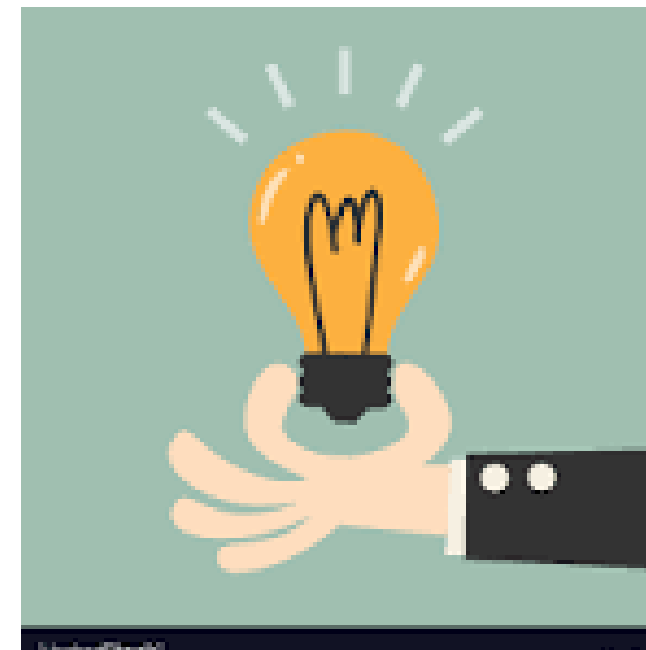
More than half of Lancaster County's 1,400 miles of streams are impaired.

Lancaster County streams have the highest amount of nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment in monitored areas of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.



>>> Idea? Solution

Build and sustain a local multi-sector collaboration, supported by a strong backbone organization, to advance a community-led Common Agenda toward a shared result.



The Genesis of Lancaster Clean Water Partners

It started in 2016 with a few simple questions from a small group of Lancaster leaders:

“How do we get more done?”

“How do we clean up more streams and work toward getting them delisted?”

“How do we get more people engaged?”

Due to increased regulatory pressure on PA, the conversation expanded to more local leaders from the Economic Development Company, Chamber of Commerce, Conservation District, City of Lancaster, and corporations who all shared a goal of clean and clear water. These leaders thought a collaborative approach that centered around a backbone organization with staff was required.

Lancaster Clean Water Partners was formed and refined, with start up funding being secured from the Keith Campbell Foundation.



Lancaster Clean Water Partners

The first employee was hired in 2018 (Allyson Gibson), since that time, the Lancaster Clean Water Partners has facilitated collaboration among a diverse group of partner organizations including –

- Local business leaders (CEO's)
- Municipal public service (township managers)
- Higher education (professors / researchers)
- Conservation planning (District, Ag Consultants)
- Non-profit organizations (Executive Directors / senior staff)
- Today we have 50+ partners and counting.

The Partners' backbone organization is supported by: Government grants and private local / regional foundations. We continue to strive to diversify funding streams as the organization grows.





*The structure of
Lancaster Clean Water Partners, LLC*



Lancaster Clean Water Partners

Pillars of work

- Mobilize collaborative partnerships
- Deploy a countywide strategy (CAP) for clean water
- Acquire adequate sustained funding
- Share and promote countywide progress and success

Core Functions

- Guide Vision (Build on the common understanding of a problem)
- Support Aligned Action (Ensure mutually reinforcing activities take place)
- Establish Shared Measurement Practices (collect, analyze, interpret, and report data)
- Cultivate Community Engagement and Ownership (create urgency and call to action)
- Advance Policy (advocate for alignment with policy discussions)
- Mobilize Resources (align private and public resources that support goals)



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Collaborative Work: (Examples)

- Collaboratively wrote the Countywide Action Plan with 10+ organizations
- Host action teams (Local experts and boots on the ground)
 - Buffer Team** - (leadership from Stroud and ACB)*
 - Stormwater Team** - (leadership from RETTEW and David Miller Assc.)*
 - Water Quality Monitoring Team** (Leadership from Octoraro Watershed Assc. and Ches. Conservancy)*
- Serve as lead for RCPP (\$7.3 million), CAP (\$9 million over multiple years), ARPA (\$3.4 million for 11 projects); major advocate for dollars that support people AND projects. About \$25 million since inception that has been directed toward many partners / projects in Lancaster County.



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Collaborative Work (examples cont.):

- Using the stream delisting strategy to better align collective project implementation,
- Accessing and sharing the data that demonstrates improved water quality;
- E-newsletters (to all partners and beyond)
- Host full Partners meetings (2x / year)
- Leadership Academy with Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences (every 2 years)
- Regular agency conversations
- Ag funders Breakfast (co-hosted) funding strategy meeting with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Serve as the Lancaster County voice at Bay-wide events.
- **Setting the table (first time)**
- **MS4orum (annual)**



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Setting the table - audience was for-profit and non-profit organizations, half day meeting

Topics included pay-for-performance, targeting priority areas, mapping tools, and full service restoration projects.

The event provided connections for these areas via a comprehensive overview of the county's clean water strategy, organizational initiatives.

Suggested possible on-ramps for new organizations to uniquely succeed in the collaborative and busy Lancaster landscape of clean water work.

(Partner organizations included: Ecotone, Chesapeake Conservancy, Water Science Institute, EPIC, RES, PA Dept of Environmental Protection, LandStudies, Weaver Consulting)

MS4orum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wduQYqYkgM>



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Keys to Success:

Serve as the backbone organization with strong, local leadership that can build working relationships with a broad, collaborative, and diverse group of partners.

Support partner organizations and learn about their unique expertise and collaborative abilities. We identify synergies, shift away from duplication, promote increased capacity, and have a bias toward action.

We include our collaborative work into grant proposal narrative and we encourage other local partners to use this content with their own grant applications. (Funders see strength in numbers)

Commit to implement an effective, equitable communications plan to educate and empower partners and all county residents to take action. We are attempting to build a megaphone effect that has all voices telling the same story for each other and collectively standing together with the goal of clean water for all.





“Focusing the alignment of partner organizations towards a common goal.”



Lancaster Clean Water Partners

<https://lancastercleanwaterpartners.com>

Team:

Allyson Gibson - Executive Director

Megan Blackmon - Director of Projects

Kenn Bennett - Communications Coordinator

John Cox - Senior Advisor

Jon Knorr - Director of Funding

*Open position - Grants and Finance Coordinator

We thank all of you for your great commitment to clean water!

