



Developing Local Workgroups and Acquiring Funding:

A Case Study From the Potomac River Watershed



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Mission Statements



Potomac Watershed Partnership



The Potomac Watershed Partnership (PWP) is a collaborative effort among federal, state, and local partners to restore the health of the land and waters of the Potomac River Basin, thereby enhancing the quality of life and overall health of the Chesapeake Bay.

The Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance coordinates the efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders dedicated to the protection and restoration of the natural resources in the Monocacy & Catoctin watersheds.

The Potomac Watershed Partnership



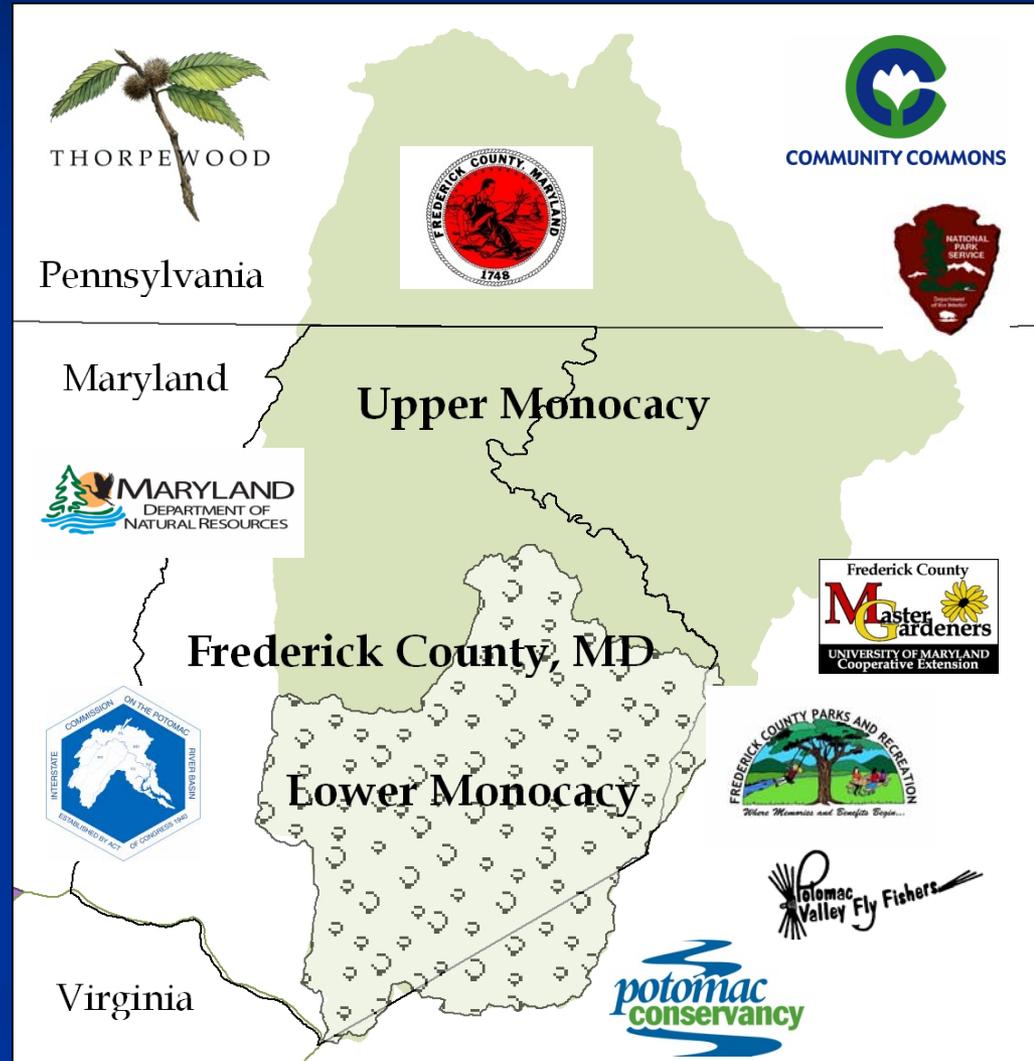
Watershed Size: 14,670 sq. miles
Population: Nearly 5 million
2nd Largest Contributor of
Freshwater to the Chesapeake
Bay

Largest Contributor of Sediment
to the Chesapeake Bay

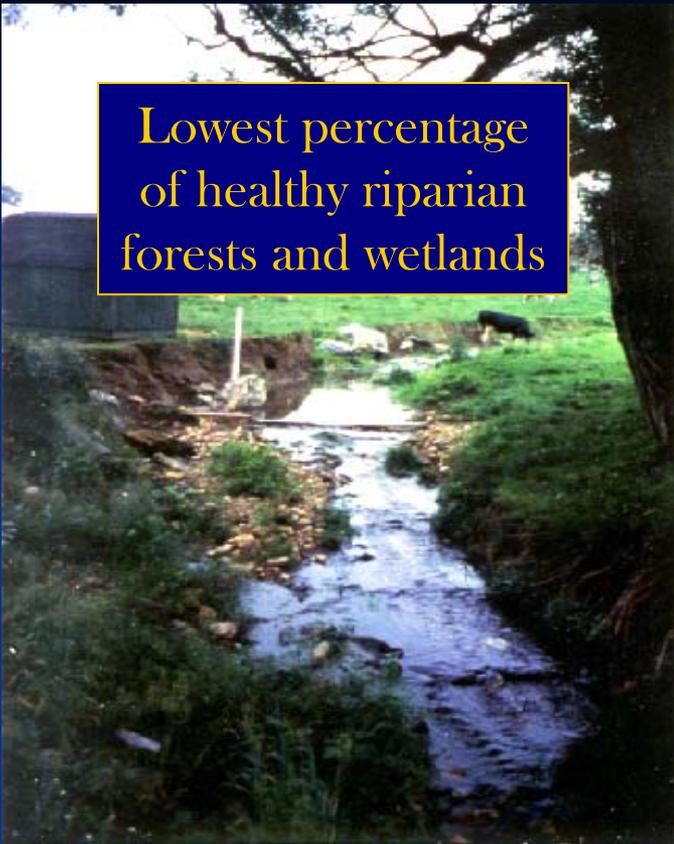


The Monocacy Catoctin Watershed Alliance

- Watershed Size: 320,807 acres
- Third Fastest growing area in Maryland
- 78% of the Land Zoned Agricultural



Lowest percentage
of healthy riparian
forests and wetlands



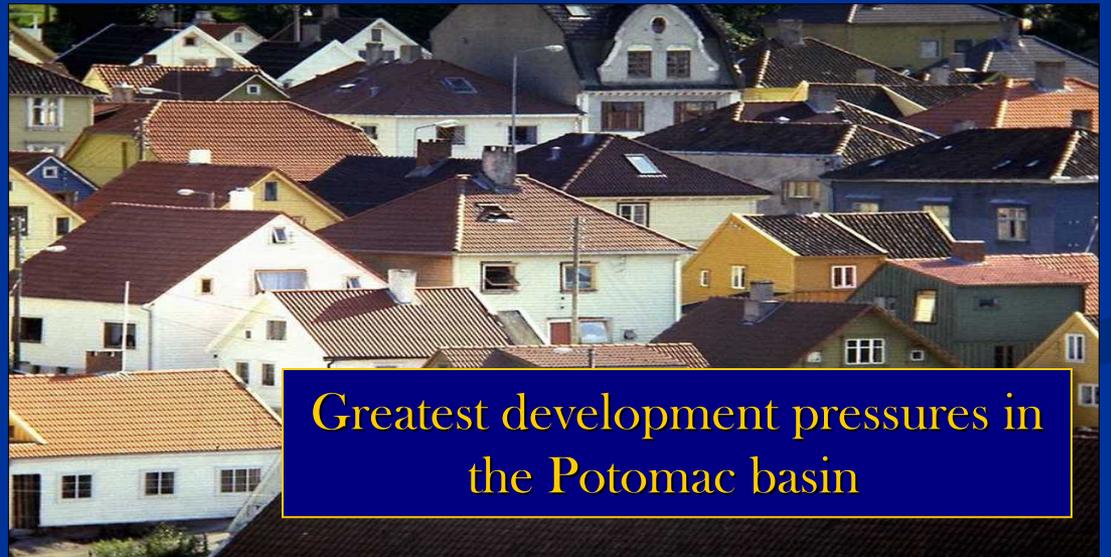
Most forest tracts
destroyed by gypsy
moths and wildfire



Highest levels of
nutrient and sediment
pollution



Greatest development pressures in
the Potomac basin



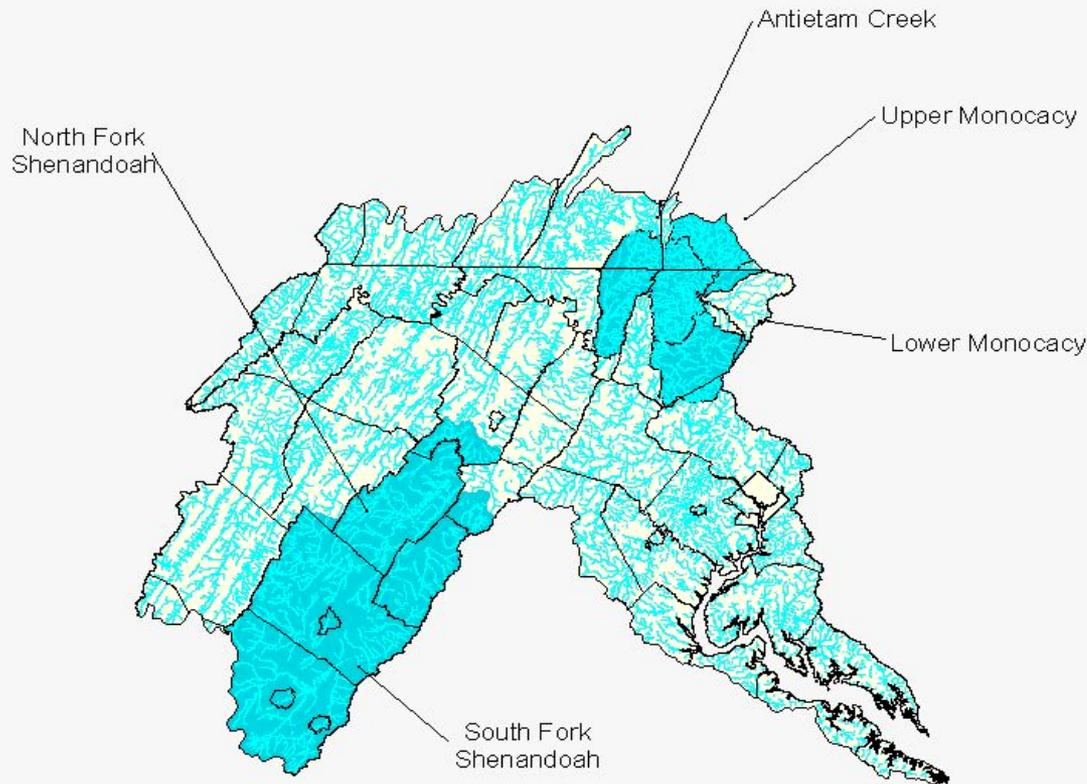
Development and Work Plans



PWP

- Formed in 2000 through a USDA Forest Service Initiative. In its first year, the partnership completed a strategic forest assessment for the Potomac watershed to determine where the highest priority forestlands were in most need of restoration, in both rural and urban areas. At the time of the assessment, the Shenandoah River and the Monocacy River and Antietam Creek sub-watersheds had the lowest percentage of healthy riparian forests and wetlands; the highest levels of nutrient and sediment pollution; the most forest tracts destroyed by gypsy moths and wildfire; and some of the greatest development pressures in the Potomac basin. These sub-watersheds are highest priority for the Partnership's targeted restoration and protection efforts.

Targeted Subwatersheds: Shenandoah, Monocacy, and Antietam



Potomac River Basin

*Large Scale Watershed
Restoration Project*

Focus Watersheds

- County Boundary
- Potomac Watershed
- Rivers and Streams
- Focus Watershed



*Maryland's Strategic
Forest Lands Assessment*

MCWA

- **The Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)**-program was developed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) using funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Its goal is to provide grant money and technical assistance in the form of three reports to local governments throughout Maryland in order to develop strategies to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- **Monocacy River**-Frederick County Government applied for and received WRAS funding Monocacy River Watershed. The County hired a part time coordinator to organize a Steering Committee and coordinate the development of the plan. The County's goal for the initiative was to develop multifaceted strategic plans to guide citizens, government agencies, and other interested groups in the protection and restoration of the Monocacy River watershed.
- **MCWA**- After the WRAS process was complete, implementation efforts for the plan began and members of the Steering Committee desired to keep the efforts of the Monocacy WRAS Steering Committee alive. The Monocacy & Catoctin Watershed Alliance (MCWA) evolved out of the group planning.

Initial Development

PWP Strategic Goals

- Goal 1:** Increase knowledge of the Potomac through assessment, monitoring and education.
- Goal 2:** Accelerate the restoration of riparian forests, wetlands and watersheds.
- Goal 3:** Promote land protection & stewardship to reduce and mitigate the loss and fragmentation of forests due to urban sprawl.
- Goal 4:** Enhance forest stewardship and protect communities from the threat of wildfire.
- Goal 5:** Create more livable communities through the expansion of green infrastructure.
- Goal 6:** Leverage skills and resources to expand and sustain a network of conservation partners in the Potomac Watershed.

MCWA Strategic Goals

Program-Based Best Management Practices (BMPs):

1. Publish watershed articles in local newspapers
2. Develop interactive web site
3. Increase monitoring and regulatory tracking in Lake Linganore
4. Develop signage for watersheds and for restoration projects
5. Develop capacity at County for coordination of community restoration projects
6. Develop Monocacy and Catoclin Watershed Alliance

Site-based Best Management Practices (BMPs):

1. Increase riparian buffer planting on all land use types & replace cleared forests
2. Increase wetland restoration and conservation
3. Protect a greater number of acres of forest land through conservation easements
4. Install nonstructural BMPs like rain gardens in highly visible demonstration sites
5. Apply for grants on HOA, School, Golf Course and other community properties for voluntary restoration projects

PWP Projects

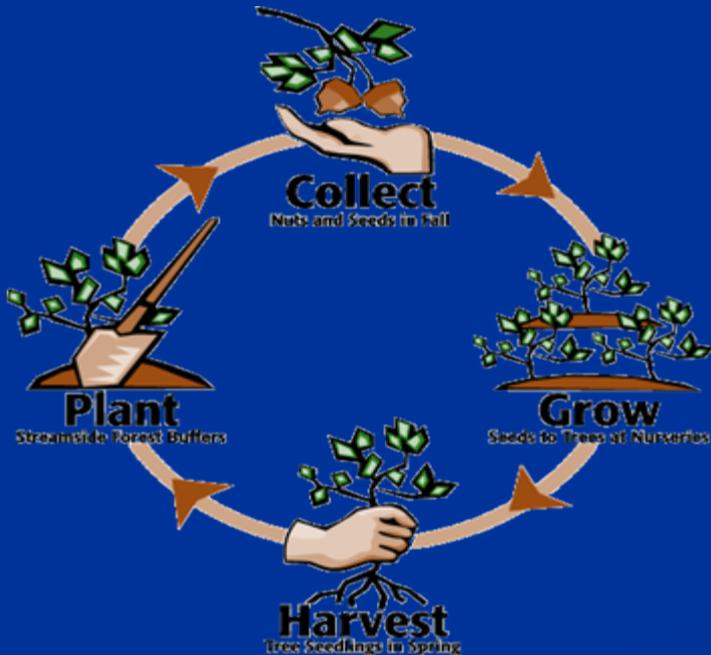
Larger Scale Issues

- Innovative Grow-out Stations
- Plant-a-Seed
- Riparian Buffer and Wetland Monitoring Program
- Cedar Creek & Passage Creek Ecological Assessments
- Riparian Buffer Enhancement and Management Project
- Growing Native
- Potomac Headwaters Project
- Backyard Buffer Program
- Firewise Program



Signature Project

Growing Native is a year-round program that helps people make the important connection between healthy **forested lands** and **clean water**.



MCWA Projects

Smaller Scale Issues

- Cloverhill Hill Community Restoration Project
- Tree Growth Field Trial
- Urban Wetland Program
- Urban TMDL Project
- Enhanced Nutrient Removal Septic Program
- Backyard Buffer
- **Libertytown Rain Garden Project**



Funding

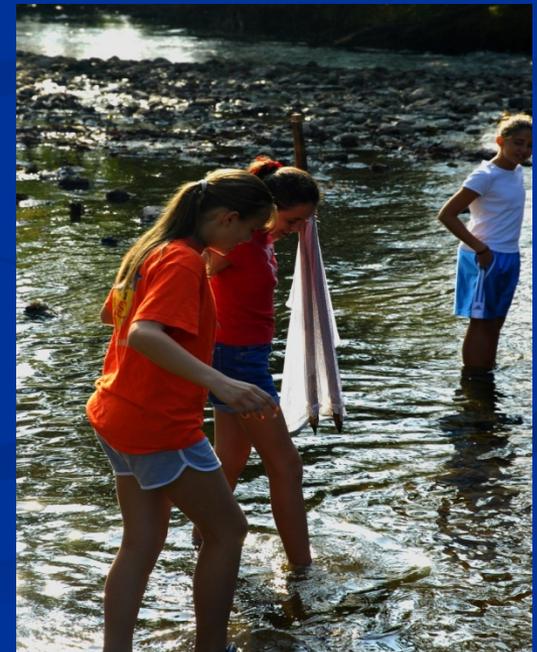
PWP Funding sources

- 1. USDA Forest Service
- 2. EPA
- 3. Farm Bill Programs
- 4. State Cost Share Programs
- 5. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- 6. Chesapeake Bay Trust
- 7. Corporations

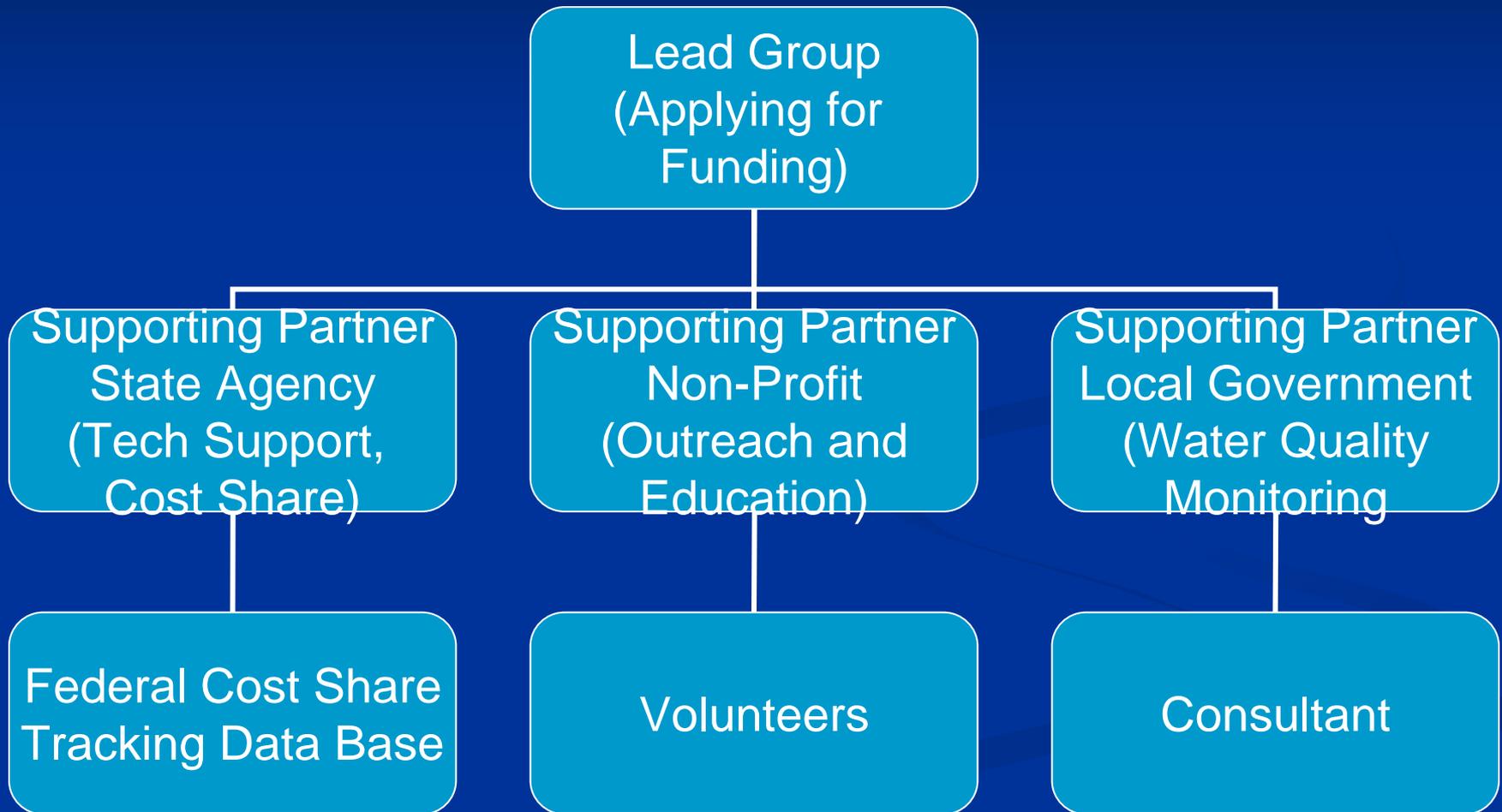


MCWA Funding Sources

1. EPA
2. Farm Bill Programs
3. State Cost Share Programs
4. Enhanced Nutrient Removal Program
5. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
6. Chesapeake Bay Trust
7. Local Government NPDES program funds
8. State and local stormwater management programs
9. Family Foundations



Project Funding



Combining programs

■ Bennett Creek Targeted Watershed Initiative

■ Leverages numerous programs in one area

- Backyard Buffers
- Farm Bill Programs
- Septic System Upgrades
- The Woods in Your Backyard
- Growing Native

■ Enables partners to expand programs and conduct outreach by utilizing the strengths of each partner, and establish projects in a targeted manner providing the greatest opportunity for positive change.



Challenges

- **Partners with opposing views**
 - Friction amongst partners as a result of legal or policy actions
 - Lack of Funding
 - Smaller organizations with little or no staff fitting in with professional organizations
 - Maintaining a coordinator position



Looking Ahead

Forging New Partnerships

Potomac Watershed Partnership



- Expanding Partners
- Diversifying Topics and Projects
- Expanding Target Watersheds
- Finding New Funding Sources



Websites



Potomac Watershed
Partnership

www.watershed-alliance.com

www.potomacwatershed.org



**potomac
conservancy**

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