



MONTANA WATERSHED COORDINATION COUNCIL

2017
Annual Report

We kicked off the year with a strong commitment to pursuing programs that exemplify the service-oriented spirit of our organization. Our success would not have been possible without the support from our partner organizations that stepped up to make our vision a reality.

We hosted numerous events that brought watershed groups together to connect with decision makers, receive training on watershed restoration strategies, and embrace the role of watershed groups as community builders.

We concluded the year by finalizing our three-year strategic and operational plans. The MWCC Board of Directors reached out to peer organizations in other states and local partners across Montana to evaluate opportunities where MWCC can best fulfill our mission to Montana's watershed communities. This process was critical to looking forward to the next three years.

Our overall strategy has not significantly shifted but we were encouraged to add **Represent** as an overarching objective along with **Gather and Share Information, Be a Resource, and Inspire and Engage.**

Activities over the next three years will focus our development activities on growing the MWCC Watershed Fund and Watershed Stories campaign, which we determined will have a significant and direct benefit to watershed groups and partners.

MWCC is excited to focus our energy on these unique programs that will bring the most added value to all members of our network.

“It was an active year for MWCC.

We were thrilled with our success and excited to partner with you in pursuing our new strategic direction.”

-Erin Farris-Olsen



Erin Farris-Olsen

2017 Montana Watershed Coordination Council FACTS

With the help of our partners, MWCC was able to support Montana's watershed communities through training and outreach opportunities in 2017. Read more about our accomplishments and focus areas for 2018...

HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES

- 27 Big Sky Watershed Corps Members serving watershed communities statewide
- Over 300 *State of the Watersheds* reports distributed to the Montana legislature and partner government and non profit organizations
- Four new board members recruited
- Broadwater Conservation District and Jeff Tiberi recognized for outstanding watershed stewardship
- MWCC launched a Legislative Bulletin and distributed five editions summarizing 2017 legislation related to watershed management
- 1,829 audience members reached through the Watershed News



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Eric Trum** MWCC Board Chair, Water Quality Specialist, DEQ
- Heather Barber** Executive Director, Bitter Root Water Forum
- Ethan Kunard** Madison Conservation District
- Maureen Cole** Ceramic Artist, Retired USFS
- Emily Isaacson** CPA, Shodair Children's Hospital
- Jennifer Schoonen** Water Steward, Blackfoot Challenge
- Adam Sigler** MSU-Extension
- Mary Hollow** Executive Director, Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Lindsay Volpe** Grant Manager, DNRC
- Sierra Harris** Freshwater Conservation Manager, TNC
- Amy Seaman** Montana Conservation Director, Audubon
- Torie Haraldson** Gallatin Local Water Quality District
- Jen Downing** Executive Director, Big Hole Water Committee
- Laura Nowlin** Coordinator, Musselshell Water Coalition

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

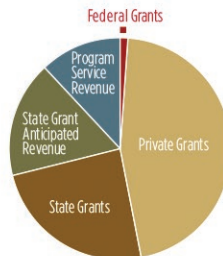
Keri Bilbo Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS

STAFF

- Erin Farris-Olsen** Executive Director
- Jill Feldhusen** Watershed Outreach Coordinator
- Kelsey Anderson** Big Sky Watershed Corps

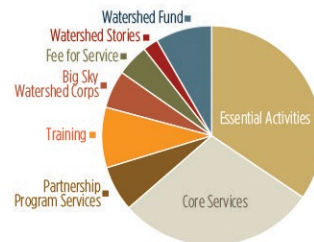
TOTAL INCOME

\$137,081



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$135,906



100 WATERSHED PROFESSIONALS GATHERED IN HELENA FOR THE MWCC ANNUAL MEETING

Agency Directors from the DEQ, DNRC, and FWP discussed agency goals and objectives in a transitioning political climate. The day concluded with a presentation from the Wildlife Management Institute and a discussion on regional coordination.



300 STATE OF THE WATERSHEDS REPORTS DISTRIBUTED

2017 marked the release of our first-ever State of the Watersheds Report. The report highlighted watershed activities and state and federal grant programs frequently used to support on-the-ground natural resource management.

23 WATERSHED GROUPS AND FOUR AWARDS PRESENTED AT WATERSHED DAY

MWCC recognized Broadwater Conservation District and Jeff Tiberi as outstanding watershed stewards. The Montana Wetland Council awarded Larry Urban and Trust for Public Lands. Watershed coordinators

from across Montana traveled to Helena to connect with decision makers about their organization's success on the ground. The day concluded with a reception at the Montana Historical Society.



45 PEOPLE ATTENDED OUR 2017 SPRING TRAINING

In partnership with the Montana DEQ, MWCC hosted a two-day training on watershed restoration planning. The program provided tools for comprehensive watershed planning.

1,829 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH WATERSHED NEWS & LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

MWCC continued to grow the number of Watershed News subscribers, while maintaining open and click through rates well-above industry averages. The Legislative Bulletin was a new resource provided by MWCC. The bulletin provided an overview of relevant natural resource legislation, and was provided so watershed groups could keep tabs on the quick-paced legislative session. You can sign up for both newsletters on the MWCC Website.

510 MILES OF THE MUSSELSHELL WATERSHED

EXPLORED BY 70 WATER PROFESSIONALS statewide through the MWCC Watershed Projects Tour, highlighting 12 project areas and 26 speaker presentations.



FEE FOR SERVICE INITIATIVES:

- Facilitated the establishment of the Clark Fork & Kootenai River Basins Council
- Supported the coordination of the Missouri Headwaters Partnership
- Assisted in stakeholder outreach and engagement in the Upper Yellowstone

“Montana’s watershed organizations do amazing work.

It has been my privilege to be part of MWCC with people committed to growing and sharing the success of local natural resource management statewide.”

—ERIC TRUM

MONTANA WATERSHED COORDINATION COUNCIL
BOARD CHAIR



WHERE we're headed...

In Fall 2017, MWCC underwent strategic planning. Based on feedback from local watershed groups, peer organizations nationwide, and key federal and non profit partners, MWCC Board of Directors began revisions of our strategic plan. Revisions resulted in a series of activities wherein MWCC could represent local watershed communities to state and federal agencies and decision makers. In addition to maintaining MWCC's core services, including the Watershed News, Website, and Big Sky Watershed Corps Program, MWCC's two strategic initiatives are communicating the success of local watershed coordination and growing watershed funding.

Watershed Stories Campaign The goal for this campaign is to raise the awareness of watershed groups statewide to facilitate partnership and generate more support for the great work that you do. MWCC will start by working with six watersheds in 2018 and grow the campaign over time. Keep your eyes peeled for our social media and print materials and help us share our success with your network!



MWCC Watershed Fund: MWCC is geared up to deliver increased funding for our watershed partners in 2018 and we are focused on growing this funding program to increase the financial support made directly available to local watershed activities including organizational capacity and projects.

THANK YOU PARTNERS

MWCC launched its Partnership Program in 2017 with the goal of defining the connection between the people and organizations we serve. We are overjoyed with the number of individuals, organizations, and businesses that have stepped up to the plate to make sure MWCC is a lasting Montana institution.

MWCC Partners receive benefits including:

Discounts Discounts on MWCC event and training registrations, 25% – 60% off outdoor equipment and apparel through Experticity.com. MWCC Watershed Partners are also eligible for MWCC sub grants and professional development scholarships for training opportunities statewide.

Visibility and Connection Share your success and learn from others in the Montana watershed audience, advertise jobs and events for your organization in the Watershed Newsletter, on our website, and access our directories and expert capacity. For profit, non profit, and government sponsors have additional opportunities for promotion based on the partnership level.

Watershed Family Access to MWCC Partner Program Services and our community of watershed professionals. Receive regular updates on MWCC activities and developments within the MWCC watershed directory.

If you're ready to know more about the benefits of becoming an MWCC Partner, please contact erin@mtwatersheds.org

JOIN US

for the Watershed Symposium!

**Advancing Conservation Through
Effective Communication**

October 10-12, 2018; Whitefish, Montana



WWW.MTWATERSHEDS.ORG

“Since I started **training events and meetings have been a huge part of my development** as a young watershed professional, getting my bearings in the field. I really appreciate all of the resources that MWCC provides!”

—**BRITA OLSON** COORDINATOR, LOWER CLARK FORK WATERSHED GROUP



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