



Spring  
2024

## **Sleepy Creek Watershed Association Receives \$600,000 NRCS Grant for Assessment and Planning Study**

Funded through the 2021 Federal Infrastructure and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684), we are happy to announce we have received a \$600,000 grant to contract for a comprehensive assessment and planning document for primarily related to flooding and water pollution issues within our watershed. This includes watershed acreage in Berkeley County, WV, and Fredrick County, VA, as well as Morgan County, WV. Applied for by SCWA, in conjunction with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District and the Morgan County Commission, the award was made through the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to the Commission. We are currently working with the Commission and WV NRCS to draft a Statement of Work to award a contract. The contract would go to a qualified Architecture and Engineering (A&E) firm, or other qualified entity, to perform the work over a subsequent year and a half time frame. Once awarded, there will be ample opportunity for you and other community members and businesses to provide input into the direction, findings, and recommendations of the planning study. More information about this opportunity will be forwarded to you, via email, as a contract award is made and work progresses.

## **Chesapeake Bay Trust Grant Awarded to SCWA for Streambank Stabilization Design**

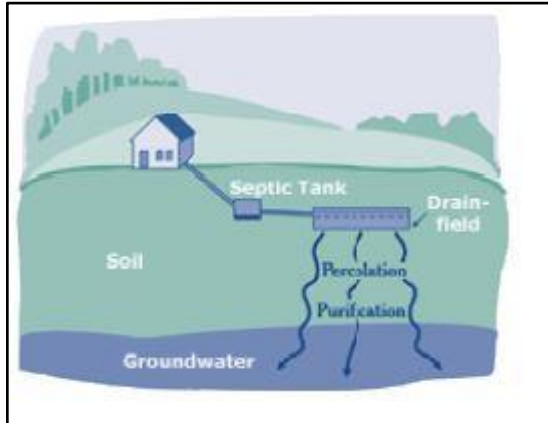
More good news was received this month as the Chesapeake Bay Trust awarded us a competitive grant to contract for the assessment, design, and permitting of an approximate 400-foot-long streambank restoration project on the main stem of Sleepy Creek, northeast of the Highland Road Bridge. The landowners requested our help last summer, due to recurring flooding and continued streambank and woodland deterioration. We worked with the WV Department of Environmental Protection and the Chesapeake Bay Trust to submit a proposal and received part of the Trust's FY 2023 \$1.7 million in awards this winter. This work will be contracted, and there will be opportunity for public outreach as work progresses over the next 18 months. If you or someone you know in the Watershed would be interested in streambank restoration on their property, contact at: [info@sleepycreekwatershed.org](mailto:info@sleepycreekwatershed.org).

## **Opportunity to Plant a Riparian Buffer along Sleepy Creek on May 4, 2024**

In conjunction with the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, we will be planting a 140 tree riparian buffer along the main stem of Sleepy Creek at 1290 Crone Lane (Off of River Road, ½ mile east of Sleepy Creek Village. Follow Crone Lane 1.3 miles to planting site). The planting will begin at 10 AM and should last approximately two hours. Water and lunch will be provided. Participants should dress for the weather (rain or shine) and bring along a pointed shovel or

pickaxe/mattock to dig small holes for the plantings. If you would like to help, please email your name and phone number to [info@sleepycreekwatershed.org](mailto:info@sleepycreekwatershed.org).

## Financial Assistance Continues to be Available for Septic Pumping



Septic pumping reimbursement for 50% of the cost of pumping (up to \$150) is still available to homeowners in the Sleepy Creek Watershed. Reimbursement is available only if your application is submitted and approved by the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District before you arrange for pumping. You and other Sleepy Creek Watershed residents will soon receive a postcard in the mail inviting you to submit an application. In the meantime, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Erin Krieger at (304) 767-4829 or email her at [ekrieger@wvca.us](mailto:ekrieger@wvca.us).

## Association Board of Directors Sought

The bylaws of our not-for-profit corporation allow for a maximum of 10 directors and no fewer than 3, with individual terms of office for two years, with no term limits. The current board has four members, therefore we are seeking additional volunteers to increase this number and expand board member background, experience, and involvement. The board generally meets one time a month at the convenience of the majority of its members. If you are interested in exploring the option of joining our board and helping improve life in the watershed, please contact Chuck Marsh at (304)-258-2605 or via email at [marshbc@aol.com](mailto:marshbc@aol.com). He will provide you more information about the board's opportunities.

## Other Upcoming Events

- West Virginia Make It Shine Trash Pickup – Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – Noon. Volunteers appreciated. Bring gloves and a bucket.
- Morgan County Master Gardeners' Plant Fair – Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 6 PM and Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 5 PM at Berkeley Springs State Park. Stop by and learn about watershed opportunities.
- Morgan County Expo – Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM – 3 PM, Berkeley Springs State Park and the MAC Ice House.

## Parting Thoughts

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your continued financial and other support to the mission of the Watershed Association. The coming two years offer new challenges, but also opportunities to take some immediate actions and to plan long-term improvements to the physical infrastructure of our watershed and the well-being of its residents. The Board of Directors and I look forward to working with all of you as we progress through these upcoming challenges.

Chuck Marsh, President