

Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.

Annual Report for 2002

**Haywood Waterways Association, Inc.
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www.haywoodwaterways.org

History: Haywood Waterways Association (HWA) began in 1994 as a small group of citizens concerned with surface water quality in Haywood County. The group was formed in response to the creation of the

Pigeon River Fund (PRF). Since its beginning, HWA has initiated projects and helped other organizations develop their projects, locate sources of funding and write grant applications. HWA has focused much of its effort on public awareness and education. HWA became a non-profit, corporation, on September 23, 1998 and received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service on January 29, 1999.

2002 Organizational Achievements: HWA enjoyed another year of growth. As of December 31, 2002, HWA had received its 277th membership with a total membership roll of 258. Dues and donations for the year totaled \$9,699.00, including a Trout Festival donation of \$1,250.00 for Kids in the Creek.

Programs and Projects:

- Kids in the Creek water quality education program
- Summer Youth Camp water quality education program
- Haywood Environmental Initiative (HEI) education program
- GLOBE Program water testing with Waynesville Middle School students
- Watershed Action Plan (WAP) and public awareness campaign
- Volunteer Water Information Network(VWIN) water sampling program
- Sediment Monitoring in the Richland Creek Watershed
- Watershed improvement work with Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District
- Greenway project support

Completing the Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for Haywood County, expanding our education programs, water quality monitoring and work on the EPA and the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) projects were our focus in 2002. Numerous public awareness and educational programs were presented to community clubs, civic and professional organizations, local government and public school students. Raising public awareness and increased landowner participation through the EPA and CWMTF cost-share programs are ongoing efforts. HWA staff and Vice-president also assisted the local greenway effort by negotiating easements for the Richland Creek Greenway and developing a position description for a potential Greenway Project Manager for Haywood County.

The VWIN water sampling program is conducted monthly at 24 sites in Haywood County. Sediment monitoring was initiated this year in the Richland Creek Watershed. Six, single-stage sediment monitoring stations were constructed and former HWA Board member Bill Schaefer was hired to collect the samples. Our HWA website has the VWIN data and WAP available for your review. Check them out at www.haywoodwaterways.org. When sufficient data from our sediment monitoring program is collected, it too will be posted.

The first edition of the Watershed Action Plan has been published and distributed. Specific action items are identified and prioritized by sub-watershed. The plan was endorsed by the Haywood County Commissioners and all four local municipalities. The plan will help HWA and local organizations concerned with water quality issues target problem areas and make the best use of our financial resources. EPA has requested permission to use our plan as a “model plan” for other organizations. HWA will meet with EPA staff in February 2003 to discuss the plan’s details and an implementation timeline.

Two new publications, currently in the development stage, should be completed in 2003. They include a user friendly booklet explaining the various Best Management Practices (BMPs) for different land applications and a newspaper insert reporting on the Watershed Action Plan and landowner construction projects completed with grant, cost-share funds. Water quality data and trends for Haywood County, testimonials from the participating landowners about the benefits of their projects and technical information about BMPs used will be included in the newspaper publication.

HWA and the Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) continued work on the EPA project, and began working with the landowners participating in the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund project. Several landowner projects were completed this year. Additional projects are either under construction or in the engineering design phase. Significant progress on actual watershed improvements is expected for the foreseeable future. Additional grant funds for landowner cost-share projects and additional monitoring will be pursued as we get closer to completing the current EPA and CWMTF funded projects.

The Kids in the Creek program and our Summer Youth Camp were both expanded in 2002. Kids in the Creek now includes three individual events: an introduction to the food chain and KIC program overview conducted in the classroom, a half-day field trip to the Pigeon River and a follow-up classroom session to conduct an actual Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) using the data students collected during the field trip. Students learn about the diverse aquatic life found in our mountain streams, biological and chemical methods to assess water quality and the soil and water interactions that occur within a watershed. The program is offered to all eighth grade public school students in Haywood County. Approximately 700 students, parents and teachers attended this year.

The Summer Youth Camp is a partnership effort with three Haywood County public school teachers. Fifth and sixth grade students attended five days of activities and field trips related to water quality education. This year we doubled student attendance, added a presentation on our body's need for water and added a field trip to a trout hatchery. HWA is also collecting and testing weekly water samples from Richland Creek with Waynesville Middle School students. Four parameters are evaluated and the data entered in the worldwide database of the GLOBE program.

Haywood County Schools, Lake Logan Episcopal Center, HSWCD and HWA have formed the Haywood Environmental Initiative (HEI), an environmental education program. Haywood County Schools Foundation received an \$18,000 Adopt-A-Watershed (AAW) scholarship and a \$3,000 Pigeon River Fund grant for the six HEI team members. The AAW program offers workshops for the HEI team and local teachers over a three year period. The first workshop was eight days and held in July at the Cradle of Forestry. The HEI goal is to bring AAW water quality curriculum to all grade levels in Haywood County.

Management: HWA updated its policy statement and management plan. These documents include our organizational goals, prioritize projects and clarify areas of responsibility. The HWA Board of Directors and Executive Committee meet monthly at the office of the SWNC RC&D Council. The RC&D Council provides administrative and financial support and allows HWA use of its office space and equipment.

Board of Directors:

Executive Committee:

Bill Eaker, President	Dave Dudek, Vice-president	Peggy Melville, Treasurer
Robin Minick, Secretary	Joetta Rinehart, At-large Member	

Directors:

Richard T. Alexander	Don Ebaugh	Yvonne Hannah	Dr. Mark Jaben
Scott Loftis	Jennifer Pratt	Bill Schaefer	Leslie Smathers
Skip Thompson	Bill Yarborough		

The Board of Directors wishes to send its sincerest thanks to the Pigeon River Fund and all our members for their generous financial support. We also wish to thank everyone that participated in the VWIN program, Kids in the Creek and served on our Technical Advisory Committee. This support, including time, financial and technical support, has made our success and progress possible.

Contract Staff: Ron Moser, Director; Gordon Small, Project Manager; Bill Schaefer, Sediment Sampling Technician

Grants Received: HWA received 2002 general operating and program support from the Pigeon River Fund. A portion of the EPA and CWMTF grants are dedicated to water quality monitoring and staff support for these projects. Funding from grants, membership dues and donations has resulted in a strong financial position for HWA at year end.

Over the past four years, HWA and its partner organizations have collaborated on 30 successful grant applications. These awards have brought \$1,962,060 to Haywood County for water conservation and educational projects.

Income Statement for Year 2002

Income:

Pigeon River Fund	\$ 31,830.00
CWMTF Grant	4,229.00
EPA 319 Grant	14,666.19
Dues and Donations	9,699.00
Sales Tax Refund	113.71
Lake Junaluska VWIN Contribution	800.00
T-shirt Sales	40.00
Interest Income	<u>710.41</u>
Total Income:	\$ 62,088.31

Expenses:

Accounting	\$ 295.00
Awards	204.87
Banking Charges	29.60
Contractors	19,501.89
Donations	
Pink Francis Scholarship Fund	150.00
Volunteer Center	175.00
Education Programs	
Kids in the Creek	8,898.95
Summer Youth Camp	2,190.32
CWMTF Project	7,735.23
EPA Project	6,871.82
Insurance	1,278.93
Internet Web Page	360.00
Member Meetings	2,361.78
Office Supplies	341.75
Organizational Dues	50.00
Postage & PO Box Rental	830.73
Printing	3,060.18
Promotions and Photographs	30.19
Telephone	405.97
Travel	1,006.70
VWIN (2001Costs)	<u>4,200.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$ 59,978.91

Notes:

1. The Project Manager is paid from three line items: Contractors, EPA and CWMTF
2. Sediment monitoring costs are included in the EPA and CWMTF project costs.
3. Pending Invoices of \$3,442 and \$6,436 are due from the EPA and CWMTF grants respectively.
4. Outstanding bills are estimated at \$10,175, including \$9,600 for VWIN 2002. Lake Junaluska Assembly will be billed for its VWIN pledge when the VWIN billing is received from UNCA.
5. HWA bank account balances as of December 31, 2002 totaled \$24,639.11. The balance remaining after paying noted expenses and collecting amounts due HWA is projected to be \$24,342.11. This amount is our projected cash carryover to year 2003.