

# **Huff Run Watershed Restoration Partnership, Inc.**

## **2007 Annual Report**

### **Events:**

- The HRWRP partnered with the Sandy Township Trustees to hold a “Clean Sweep” in the Huff Run Watershed and Sandy Township to pick up trash along township maintained roadways. Fifteen members of the HRWRP met on April 21 and picked up 35 bags of trash and recyclables.
- The 2007 Huff Run Awareness Days were held on May 4 and 10. Partners from the ODNR/MRM, EPA/Surface Water, Carroll SWCD, Tusc. SWCD, other watershed groups and Huff Run members held demonstrations for over 350 students from many different schools and home school groups.
- The Huff Run Fun Day was held on August 19 in conjunction with the Mineral City Village Council’s Party in the Park. Despite heavy rains, a good crowd visited the Huff Run tent.
- The fourth annual Huff Run 5K was held during the Party in the Park. About 30 runners participated.
- The fourth annual Huff Run Photo Contest was also held during the summer. Over twenty photos were entered.
- The Huff Run Fall Watershed Tour was held on October 18. Participants visited the Mineral Zoar Road, Lyons and Belden Projects.

### **Other Accomplishments:**

- The HRWRP entered the Adopt a Highway program with ODOT and now tends two miles of State Route 800 south of Mineral City.
- The Huff Run VISTA position was rehired.
- The sign on State Route 800 south of Mineral City stating when and where HRWRP meetings are held was restored and updated.
- The HRWRP logo sign on Magnolia Road was also recovered.
- A sign on the office building with the HRWRP name and logo was erected.
- A central water quality database of all data taken in Huff Run (and three other watersheds) was created by ODNR and ILGARD. This database is online for central usage and public view.

### **Actions Taken to Restore Issues in the Watershed:**

#### Acid mine drainage

- The eight completed reclamation projects (Harsha North, Lyons, Lindentree, Linden, Farr, HRWRP Acid Pit, Huff Run AML Project and Jobes) are all working to increase pH, reduce iron and manganese loadings and add alkalinity.
- The Mineral-Zoar Project has been designed. Rights of Entry were obtained this year. The project is scheduled for a summer 2008 construction.
- Design plans for the Thomas Project are complete. Thomas is scheduled for a 2009 construction.
- Design work for Phase I of HR-42/Fern Hill continued this year. The project is scheduled to be under construction during the summer of 2008.

- Design work for the Belden Project was completed in 2007. The project will be under construction in Spring of 2008.
- ODNR, Division of Abandoned Mine Land worked on plans for two projects within the Huff Run Watershed: HR-25 area and HR-22 area. Both projects are also planned to be constructed over the summer of 2008.

#### Unconnected riparian buffers

- Thirty-three trees were distributed to five streamside landowners to renew their section of Huff Run's riparian corridor.

#### Agricultural issues

- A mailing list of the 31 farms within the watershed was established.
- Three informational mailings related to agricultural issues were sent to this list of farmers in the watershed.

#### Oil and Gas Impacts

- A meeting was held with ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas to discuss impacts to Huff Run.
- ODNR's personnel inspected all oil and gas wells in the Tuscarawas County portion of the watershed and found them to all be in perfect condition.

#### **Additional Programming:**

- Watch Dog Program booklets were sent out to all homes in the watershed in early 2007.
- A Church Stewardship program was started in 2007 to reach out to different sectors of the watershed community. A special bulletin encouraging environmental stewardship of the earth and its resources were provided at no cost to local churches. Over 500 bulletins were distributed.
- The Huff Run VISTA created a 7<sup>th</sup> grade environmental education unit using Ohio Science Standards, which was used at Belle Herron Middle School. Copies of the unit will be distributed to additional teachers in 2008.

#### **Grants:**

- Rural Action was awarded an Office of Surface Mining grant to help pay for the Thomas Restoration Project. (Awarded in 2007.)
- Rural Action was awarded an Office of Surface Mining grant to help pay for the Belden Restoration Project. (Awarded in 2007.)
- Rural Action also applied for an Ohio EPA 319 grant to complete funding for the Thomas Project. Ohio EPA has given preliminary acceptance of the proposal and it is now awaiting US EPA approval. (Will be awarded in 2008 but prepared in 2007.)
- The HRWRP received a \$5,000 donation from the Sandyville Eagles to be allocated for HRWRP general funds. (Donated in 2007.)
- Rural Action administers the US EPA Targeted Watershed Grant that will pay for the Belden project, many new and continuing environmental education programs, and the Coordinator's salary into 2009.

- Crossroads RC&D's Ohio EPA 319 grant that funded the Harsha North, Lindentree, and Lyons Projects, environmental outreach, funding for the HRWRP office and Coordinator was completed and closed in 2007.
- Crossroads RC&D administers an Appalachian Clean Stream grant from the Office of Surface Mining for restoration at the Mineral-Zoar Road Project.
- The HRWRP administers an Appalachian Clean Stream grant from the Office of Surface Mining for restoration of the Fern Hill (HR-42) Pits.

**Press:**

- Two *Water Marks* issues were published and distributed.
- Eleven press releases sent to local news outlets.
- Two interviews on WJER's Conversation Corner.
- One interview on WKSU.

**Displays:**

- Tuscarawas County Fair
- Carroll County Fair
- Forest Heritage Festival
- Agricultural Natural Resources Expo
- Crossroads Annual Meeting

**Memberships and Donors: (2007-2008, to date)**

- Fifty-four members
- Five Business/Nonprofit memberships
- Five financial donors
- Ten 5K financial sponsors

**Meetings:**

- Eleven HRWRP regular meetings were held with an average of 12 members present.
- Four Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings were held.
- Twelve Environmental Explorers Club meetings were held with an average of five members present. Highlight meetings include a trip to the Cleveland Zoo, collecting macroinvertebrates in Huff Run and learning about winter birds.

**Water Quality Sampling:**

- One hundred and twenty one (121) chemical water quality samples were taken at a total of ten projects (Lyons, Linden, Lindentree, HRWRP Acid Pit, Tributaries, Farr, HR-38 project site, leachate sampling for Belden and HR-25 and Reach Long Term sampling) with 64 sites. ODNR personnel also collected samples at Harsha North.
- One macroinvertebrate study was conducted in conjunction with ILGARD and OU.