2014 Annual Report
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed Since 1997
2014 Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Amy McMillan  Genesee County Parks and Recreation  
*Board Chair*

Irene Bashore  General Motors LLC, Flint Assembly  
*Board Vice-Chair*

Darren Bagley  Michigan State University Extension, Genesee County  
*Board Secretary*

Derek Bradshaw  Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission  
*Board Treasurer*

Directors

Linda Berker  Sierra Club: Nepessing Group  
Duane Elling  Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Steve Hester  Zoom Digital Media  
Brad Hill  Genesee Conservation District  
Daugherty Johnson  City of Flint  
S. Olof Karlstrom  Attorney-At-Law (Retired)  
Ryan Londrigan  AKT Peerless  
Dr. Robert McAllister  Kettering University  
Jack Minore  Friends of the Flint River Trail  
Steve Montle  Resource Recycling Systems  
Greg Palinsky  Palinsky Tools and Engineering  
Sandra Robinson  South Park Neighborhood Assoc  
Patrick Ryals, Sr.  Flint Park Lake Neighborhood Assoc  
Doug Schultz  Rowe Professional Services  
Raynetta Speed  Genesee County Land Bank

Staff

Rebecca Fedewa  Executive Director  
Lauri Elbing  Outreach and Events Manager  
Sondra Severn  Project Coordinator  
Jaime Welch  Program Coordinator  
Edythe Westhoff  Business Manager  
Stephanie Nummer  Program Coordinator*

Copies of this report are available on our website or by contacting:  
Flint River Watershed Coalition, 400 N. Saginaw Street, Suite 233, Flint, MI 48502  
(810) 767.6490  |  info@FlintRiver.org  |  www.FlintRiver.org

*Left the organization in 2014*
The Voice of the River
Partnering to Protect, Preserve & Improve the Flint River Watershed

What is a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains to a particular stream, lake or wetland. The Flint River Watershed is increasingly healthy and strong, and offers many recreational, educational, and environmental opportunities. It is home to more than 600,000 people who live within its 1,400 square mile area. It encompasses 59 townships, 25 cities and villages and 43 school districts within 7 counties. The Flint River Watershed Coalition (FRWC) believes that all people should have access to the Flint River, its tributaries and lakes for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the ecosystem services and economic values it provides to our communities: it is a right, but also a collective responsibility to keep our watershed healthy.

FRWC is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. As the leading community-based advocate for clean water resources in the region, the FRWC promotes efforts to protect, preserve, and improve the region’s ecosystem through partnership, public education, scientific projects, and community involvement. The FRWC provides the necessary resources, knowledge, and capacity to area resident and decision makers to protect local water quality through science-based resource management and citizen stewardship.

You can read more about FRWC’s programs and successes here and on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.
2014 Watershed Moments
Joint Report from the Board Chair & Executive Director

Dear Friends:

If you want to get something done, you can just do it yourself. But if you want to make great strides in pursuing your mission and goals, partnerships are where we get the biggest bang for your buck. The Flint River Watershed Coalition was established and has flourished on a foundation of partnership, cooperation, and collaboration across our seven-county region. Together, we are achieving steady gains on water quality and quality of life for those living in the Flint River Watershed.

We are thrilled to share a few of the highlights from 2014 with you in this report.

Working with the MSU Institute for Water Research, we now have a powerful web-based decision making tool that can be accessed by anyone interested in developing incredibly sophisticated maps (see page seven for more information on ELUCID). And with MSU’s Planning and Zoning Center (PZC), we now have detailed action plans for improving access and water quality for two of the lakes within the City of Flint boundaries (see page 7 for more information). In the process of both projects, we’ve developed many new relationships and exciting opportunities for partnerships in the coming years.

Our work with PZC happened to dovetail beautifully into the long and productive history of partnership between the FRWC and the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission. Our organizations’ common interest in ensuring the lakes within the City of Flint are safe, accessible, and used by area residents culminated this year in the “Love Your Lakes” celebrations at Flint Park Lake and Thread Lake. At Thread Lake, we also are excited to work with the International Academy, Diplomat Pharmacy, and other members of the South Saginaw Task Force to implement ambitious economic, recreation, and safety developments in the neighborhoods.

In addition, long-term partnerships with the Genesee County Drain Commission has meant sustainable funding for all of our education programs. Their support means more residents experience first-hand the beauty of our river, water quality data is consistently collected and shared, hundreds of students are “learning by doing” about water quality and watershed protection, and citizens stewards remind us all that storm drains go directly to their nearest river or stream.

And from the halls of the capital to city hall, and from boardrooms to streambeds, our Chapters get things done. Our cyclist and paddlers bring our river to the masses through recreation. Our newest chapter, Flint River Corridor Alliance, is ensuring plans for substantial improvements along the Flint River in downtown Flint are realized. The Lapeer Chapter, our oldest, continues the work of maintaining canoe paths throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, as well as advocating for water quality protection measures…and this team gets results. You can read more about our Chapters on pages nine and ten.

Yes, 2014 had been an inspirational and fulfilling year here in our Flint River Watershed thanks to the constancy and friendship of our members, volunteers, funders and partnerships. We are stronger together and look forward to another rewarding year ahead as we join together as a community to care for and share all that is great about our corner of the world.

Thank you for all you do…with our best wishes for a healthy, happy, prosperous year.

Rebecca Fedewa
Executive Director

Amy McMillan
Chair, Board of Directors
Water Quality Monitoring is undertaken every Spring and Fall at 35 sites in the Flint River Watershed across Genesee and Lapeer Counties by FRWC staff and citizens scientists trained according to Michigan DEQ standards. Volunteers take measurements and collect insect nymphs and larvae (a.k.a. benthics) that spend a good portion of their lives in the substrates of our local rivers and streams. Once analyzed, the number and variety of benthics collected reveals stream health. The data is then compared to previous seasons and analyzed for trends and anomalies. While most monitoring sites are steadily increasing with scores of “good” or “excellent,” FRWC identified a decreasing score at one particular site for the last 3 years, prompting an investigation into the causes by the Genesee County Drain Commission. Data is reviewed by our monitoring committee and shared with local and state agencies, as well as on the FRWC website: www.FlintRiver.org.

River and Community Clean Ups prepare the Flint River and its tributaries, their banks, trails and nearby parks for a summer’s worth of fun. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to hundreds of volunteers, community leaders and sponsors for the hard work and dedication they deliver on the last Saturday in April each year. Volunteers collect bags of trash, tires, and usually a few dumpsters worth of large debris such as old lumber, broken glass, carpeting, and roofing materials. There are always some unique items discovered, and these particular gems compete in a public poll to win the “Golden Glove” award, which is bestowed the following year at the Voice of the River Annual Celebration each January.

Flint River GREEN offers students a hands-on experience to assess the water quality of their local stream by conducting nine different tests, including levels of dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and biological oxygen demand. Students can investigate what contributes to their local water’s conditions and create action plans to improve or maintain their local water quality. Flint River GREEN culminates in the annual Student Summit, which was generously hosted by Kettering University in 2014. At the Student Summit, students present their findings and recommendations to an audience made up of peers and local officials. Sixteen schools from around the Flint River Basin participated in the 2014 Student Summit. Flint River Green Annual Reports are on the FRWC website at www.FlintRiver.org.
“Our Water” Program Partnership
Creating Citizen Stewards and Memorable Experiences

Thanks to the generous support of the Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium and the Genesee County Drain Commissioner, the FRWC implements several public education programs that educate residents and promote citizen stewardships through ways to prevent stormwater pollution and to keep our water clean. Genesee County Drain Commissioner also generously supports the Flint River GREEN program, as well as the annual Flint River and Community Clean Up.

Storm Drain Stenciling program is part of the “Our Water Campaign” to promote storm water awareness. This project educates communities about the water that runs into the storm drains in the area. The Storm Drain Stenciling project addresses how storm drains can transport pollutants. Volunteers stenciling the message “Dump No Waste, Drains to River,” near the storm drains and distribute door hanger to local homes that provide information on simple steps residents can take to help reduce pollution runoff into storm drains. Adults and children of all ages volunteer with this program to protect the waters of the Flint River.

Paddles in 2014 were more popular than ever and it was a great year to be on the water! Every first and third Saturday from May through October, the Flint River Watershed Coalition hosts paddles through various stretches of the Flint River. These trips allow participants to experience the true beauty of the Flint River, while reinforcing the importance of preserving it. One trip last summer included an unexpected treat: a bald eagle nest with three lively juveniles. Bald eagles only have a 4% chance of laying 3 or more eggs and the sight of three juveniles is a wonderful testament to the health of the Flint River. You can read about the Press and Friends Paddle FRWC sponsored on August 10, 2014: “The Flint River isn’t what you think it is, and here’s why you should check it out.” A powerful and persuasive article written by Scott Atkinson with photos by Jake May of the Flint Journal created positive reverberations across the watershed, enticing even more people to give paddling a try in this gorgeous river.

Educational Presentations are another way the FRWC promotes citizen stewardship around the watershed. The goal of the presentations are twofold: to educate citizens on specific actions they can employ to avoid contributing nonpoint source pollution to our watershed, and to share stories and opportunities on the wonderful recreational activities the river provides right here in our own back yard. The presentations cover the Seven Simple Steps of the “Our Water” program sponsored by The Genesee County Water Quality Consortium. For more detailed information on The Seven Simple Steps look on our website at www.FlintRiver.org.
Engaging the Community

City of Flint Master Plan Moves Forward: After serving on various advisory committees during the Master Planning process, this year the FRWC shifted from planning to implementation strategies. FRWC staff and board members serve on the Environmental Features, Parks & Open Space and the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Implementation Task Groups. Projects that focus on recognizing, protecting, and bringing awareness to the river and surrounding areas were selected and initial assignments were made. We look forward to the coming year to fine tune the plans and begin implementation.

Thread Lake and Flint Park Lake get some TLC: The FRWC along with MSU Planning and Zoning Center (PZC) engaged City of Flint residents, businesses, and organizations from the neighborhoods surrounding the three lakes within the City of Flint borders: Flint Park Lake, Thread Lake, and Kearsley Reservoir. In this final year of the project vision documents were developed by PZC from resident feedback for Flint Park Lake and Thread Lake, and a future engagement strategy document was created for Kearsley Reservoir. With the intent to maintain the momentum driven by residents, this summer the FRWC successfully partnered with the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission at both lakes and also with the International Academy of Flint at Thread Lake to hold ‘Love Your Lake’ events. With over one hundred in attendance at each event, residents enjoyed food, games, give-a-ways, and bounce houses along with the company of their neighbors. In 2015, we will continue to find ways in which to implement the “visions” articulated by the residents surrounding Thread and Flint Park Lakes.

Web-based Tools to Identify and Mitigate Non-Point-Source-Pollution: During a two-year partnership with Michigan State University Institute of Water Research (IWR) the FRWC worked to provide and deliver feedback from a variety of potential user groups during development of an innovative land management tool: Environmental Learning Using Computer Interactive Decisions (ELUCID). This tool is web-based and currently available to the public online. ELUCID will enable users from across the Flint River watershed to assess their current or potential land use practices with precision, to illuminate risks and test solutions to improve water quality outcomes. FRWC and staff presented ELUCID to teachers taking part in the Flint River GREEN program, local and county planning officials, and shared ELUCID on the FRWC website. For more information on this project and to see how we partner with IWR on other efforts please visit www.FlintRiver.org under the “Programs” tab, then clicking on “Mapping Tools.”
Outreach and Advocacy

FRWC is the “Voice of the River” and serves as the region’s principal resource on the Flint River Watershed. FRWC promotes and advocates for the Flint River watershed on issues that impact the function and integrity of the basin in part or as a whole at the local, regional, state, and federal level. Examples of our outreach and advocacy work include: partnering to secure implementation of watershed management plans across the watershed; collaborating with partner organizations on common priorities within the greater Saginaw Bay watershed; taking a leadership role in the Flint River Corridor Alliance mission to transform the Downtown Flint stretch of the Flint River from a distressed waterway to a natural resource that is an asset to the community; serving on City of Flint Master Plan development and implementation teams; and providing testimony to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the Rover Pipeline proposal.

Rebecca Fedewa, FRWC Executive Director, provides testimony at Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Public Hearing opposing the Rover Pipeline.  (photo credit: Erin Kirkland | MLive.com)

“A Vision for Thread Lake & Adjoining Neighborhoods” is a report prepared by the MSU Planning and Zoning Center, FRWC and the surrounding communities that focuses on Thread Lake, and is one of three prepared to promote a better future for these lakes and the people of the neighborhoods that surround them.

Genesee County Commissioner Omar Simms tours Thread Lake with FRWC staff in anticipation of “Love Your Lake” Community Celebration.

FRWC Board collaborates with Friends of the Shiawassee River Board on common priorities.

FRWC and FRCA accept a grant from Saginaw Bay WIN for Hamilton Dam Naturalization.
Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) host Sunday rides every week from May through October. Along with a core group of cyclists that have been riding on Sundays for more than ten years, these rides bring new cyclists to the trail almost every week. FFRT also leads rides on a several Saturdays to explore trails within an hour drive from Flint. The Flint River Trail and Genesee County Parks are included in the current draft of the Governor's “State to State Showcase Trail;” a trail from Detroit, across the Straits of Mackinac, and across the UP to Wisconsin - a little over 1,200 miles.

Flint River Corridor Alliance (FRCA) is a community-based organization of government, non-profit, and private sector stakeholders organized to initiate, support, and sustain projects in the Flint River Corridor that revitalize the river as a community asset while enriching the quality of life for the area’s residents, businesses, and visitors. FRCA is leading efforts to support the naturalization of the Hamilton Dam. FRCA secured critical funding and local cooperation to move this economically, ecologically, and socially significant project forward. FRCA also hosted the first annual Flint River Flotilla in August, bringing well over 100 people together for a fun float through Chevy Commons.

Flint River Paddlers (FRP) is group of paddle sport enthusiasts who share common goals for paddling and conservation on the Flint River. FRP promotes recreational canoeing and kayaking, and advocate to increase and maintain public access sites. FRP invests countless volunteer hours at paddle events promoting the Flint River as a safe, family friendly outdoor experience, including the FRCA Annual Flotilla and the FRWC Paddles, among other events.
Lapeer County Chapter (LCC) is one of FRWC’s oldest chapters, and the volunteers in Lapeer County are tireless in their conservation and protection activities. Maintaining canoe paths throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, as well as advocating for water quality protection measures with local officials and decision makers are the LCC’s highest priorities, and this team gets results.

On January 8, 2015, the Lapeer County Commissioners voted in favor of allowing LCC to move forward with the development of the Saginaw Street Canoe Landing. In 2006, FRWC volunteers passed the hat to come up with the $1,250 needed to buy 5 acres that were in foreclosure. LCC purchased the land and then donated it to the county to add to the inventory of other canoe landings they own and maintained. We now have drawings of the proposed parking lot/landing, preliminary cost estimates of $27,000, and have begun the permitting process and fundraising. This stretch of the South Branch of the Flint River is the closest to town, usually the first to be cleared of obstructions, and the most widely used by student groups. The development of this landing and LCC’s plans to improve access at Rotary Park will showcase this amazing section of the river and highlight the important work done by Lapeer’s amazing team of obstruction removal volunteers.

The obstruction removal partnership with the DNR and Lapeer County Probation Department continues to battle poison ivy, mosquitoes, and a seemingly endless amount of fallen trees. This project concluded its 9th consecutive year. Crews cleared 16 sections and put in over 450 hours to remove 58 obstructions, clearing 11.7 miles of river.

LCC’s Benthic Monitoring crew covered the majority of sites again this year and even recruited a college trained entomologist to work at the lab! The river cleanup was composed of about 75% students, with many repeat volunteers reporting that there was less trash. LCC had several Lapeer County schools participate in Project Green again, testing local streams, storm drain stenciling, and attending the Green Summit.

LCC’s #1 goal in 2015 is to recruit more volunteers.

Kearsley Creek Chapter (KCC) represents northern Oakland County portions of the Flint River Watershed. KCC monitors and advocates for what is the last remaining cool water fishery in the Flint River Watershed. They promote stewardship and recreation through the popular Annual Ortonville Creek Fest event, as well as biannual water quality monitoring and FRWC’s River and Community Clean Up.
Grants & Major Sponsors

The following individuals and organizations are the major source of grants and financial support for the operations and projects of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Without the generosity of these foundations, businesses, and individuals, we would not be able to carry out the FRWC mission. We look forward to a continued strong relationship with our supporters in 2015 and beyond. Thank You

Grants and Program Support in 2014

Reinvent Michigan, Senator James Ananich
Captain Planet
Center for Community Progress
Ms. Deborah Cherry, Genesee County Treasurer
The Conservation Fund
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
E & L Construction Group
Flint Institute of Arts
Flint River Corridor Alliance
General Motors, LLC
Genesee County Drain Commissioner’s Office
Health Plus of Michigan
Dan Kildee for Congress
King Par Superstore
Land Bank of Genesee County
Lotus H2O, Lotus Dragon Bodywork & Massage, Tammie Heazlit
C. S. Mott Foundation
C. S. Mott Foundation, Matching Gifts Program
Drs. Bobby & Srinivas Mukkamala
Laura Jane Musser Fund
Michigan State University
Michigan State University - Institute for Water Research
Michigan State University - Planning and Zoning Center
Mott Community College
MPS Group
Ruth Mott Foundation
PPG Chemical
Quaker Chemical Corporation
Rowe Professional Services Group
Security Federal Credit Union
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Steve's Plumbing and Heating Company, Inc., Mr. Rick Figula
Susi Automotive, Birch Run
Tetra Tech
University of Michigan - Flint, Rec Center
Vern's Collision, Mr. Michael Herriman
Wade Trim, Inc.
Waste Connections, Inc.
The Yoga Loft of Flint, and SHARP Fitness, Ms. Lois Schneider

We have dozens of sources of valued in-kind support, and wish that space would allow individual recognition for all. Please contact the offices of the FRWC for a list of our in-kind donors, or to find out how you can offer support to our programs.
Partnerships

The Flint River Watershed Coalition would like to thank the following partners who have helped build the success of the organization and its many programs.

C. S. Mott Foundation
Ruth Mott Foundation
Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Genesee County Water Quality Consortium
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
University of Michigan – Flint
Genesee County Conservation District
Lapeer County Conservation District
Michigan State University Planning and Zoning Center
Michigan State University Institute of Water Research
Flint Institute of Arts
Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy
Keep Genesee County Beautiful
Flint Downtown Development Authority
Genesee Intermediate School District
Lapeer Intermediate School District
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
City of Flushing
City of Flint
City of Lapeer
Epic Technology Solutions
Earth Force
General Motors
Membership Matters

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a grass roots organization that depends on its supporters and members for financial and volunteer viability. We have made a lot of progress in increasing our membership and sponsorship base, and in expanding the ways that we reach out to those who share our love of the Flint River.

There are many ways that the community, businesses and individuals can become members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We accept contributions in the traditional way with cash and checks, but now, at any time during the year, members can use the convenience of the internet. By going to the FRWC website at www.flintriver.org and pressing the ‘Donate Now through Network for Good’ button on the home page, credit card users can become new members or renew their membership in the Coalition.

There are seven levels of membership available, and four ‘Big Fish’ sponsorship opportunities. Please contact any one of our Board members or staff if you are interested in membership, sponsorship, or volunteer opportunities with the Coalition.

FRWC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS
Student ................... $10.00
Individual .................. $25.00
Family or Group ......... $40.00
River Sponsor ............ $100.00
River Patron .............. $250.00
Watershed Protector ...... $500.00
Watershed Patron ....... $1,000.00

Community Support from Memberships, Sponsorships, and Local Program Awards:
$53,037.00
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Statement of Activities
31-Dec-14
UNAUDITED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues and Support</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Fundraising, Events</td>
<td>$ 15,594.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation grants</td>
<td>208,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind donations</td>
<td>15,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>16,822.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>4,743.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project revenues</td>
<td>100,391.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue and support</strong></td>
<td>$ 360,575.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net Fiduciary Assets Added to Restrictions</th>
<th>(94,704.00)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue, support and net assets</strong></td>
<td>265,871.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>released from restrictions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>$ 124,429.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>76,290.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 200,719.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</th>
<th>159,856.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Beginning Year Assets - All Funds             | 104,546.68 |
| Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets             | 159,856.00 |
| **Total Ending Year Assets - All Funds**      | 264,402.68 |

| Restricted Fiduciary Funds                    | 94,704.00 |
| Unrestricted Funds - Available for Programs and Operations | 169,700.00 |
| **Total Ending Year Assets - All Funds**      | 264,404.00 |

The Balance Sheet and Activities Statement reflects the accounts of the Flint River Watershed Coalition as of December 31, 2014. These statements are not audited as of the printing of this annual report. The last audit of the organization’s financial statements were conducted for the accounts as of December 31, 2012. See the audit report dated July 2013 by Taylor & Morgan, Certified Public Accountants. The INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT stated that there were no material exceptions to the FRWC records. A copy of the auditor's report can be found online at www.flintriver.org or by calling the Flint River Watershed at 810-767-6490. The next bi-annual audit is scheduled to be conducted in 2015, and will cover the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. When that report is completed, the results will be available on our website at www.flintriver.org.
Thank You!

...for your continued support of the Flint River Watershed Coalition and its mission to protect, preserve and improve our region's most important natural assets.