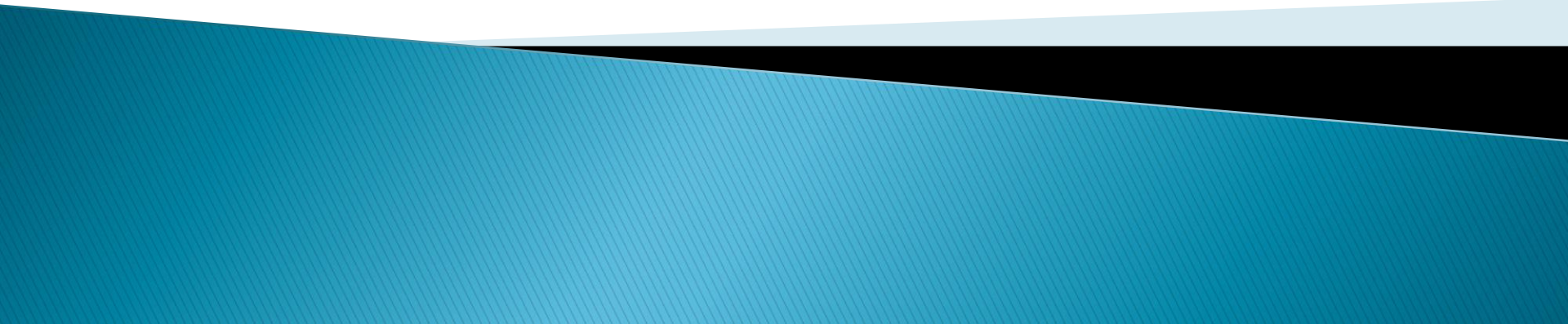


Conservation with Penn's Woods West TU Chapter

Adding another dimension to the Chapter



Why Does Penn's Woods West have a Conservation Program?



What Your Members Want

Your chapter members joined TU for a reason, they:

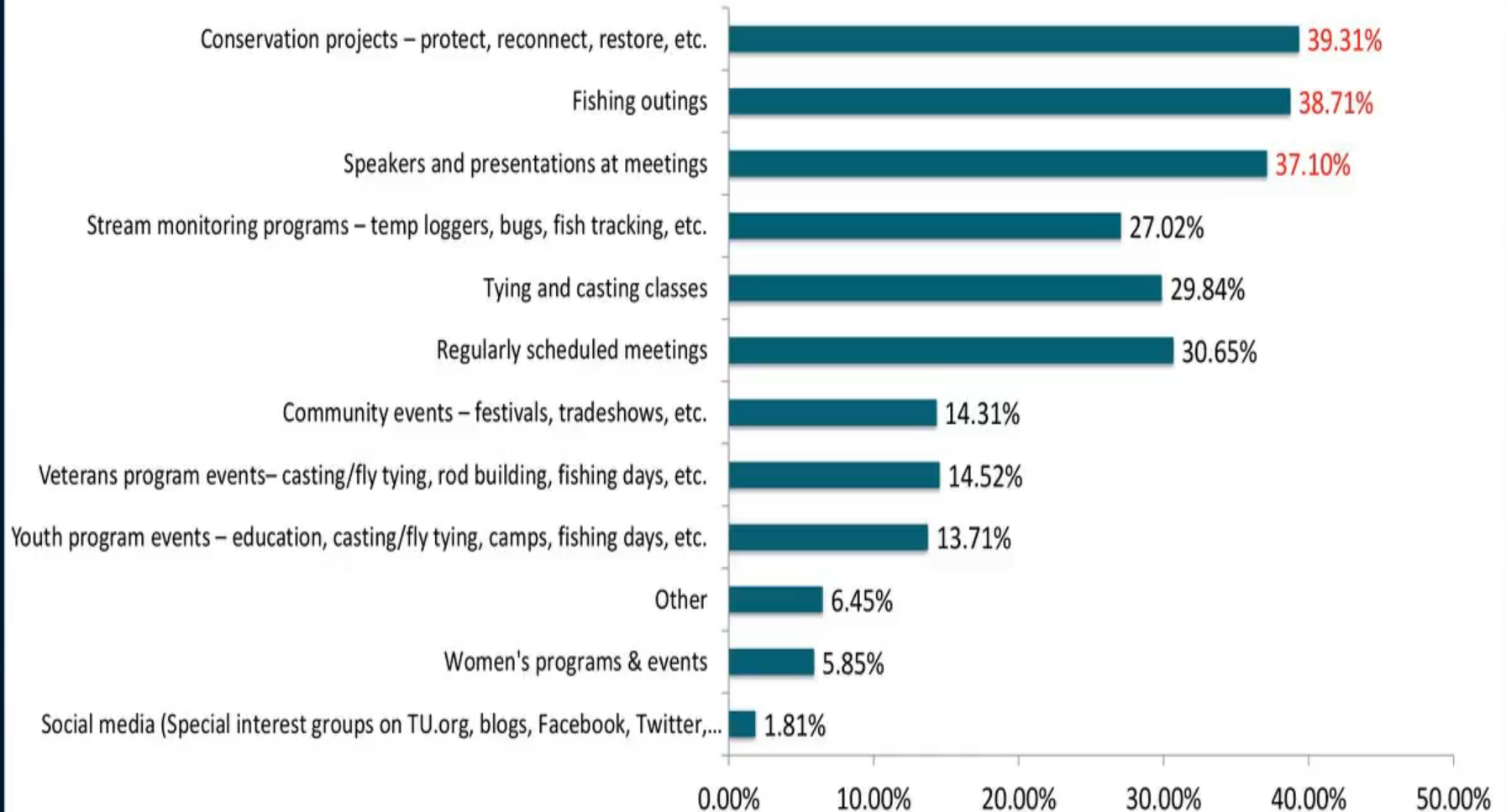
- Want to make a difference, especially in their community**
- Want to be part of something that matters**
- Want to get their kids outdoors and involved in conservation**
- Want to belong to a community that shares their beliefs**
- Want to learn from you how to fish, tie flies etc...**
- Want to have FUN**



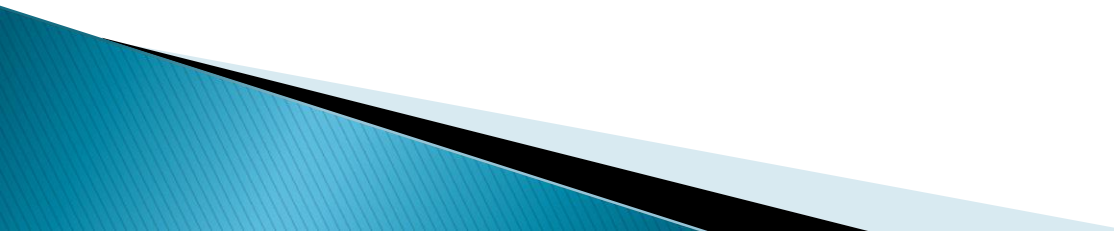
Press Esc to exit full screen

Survey Says...

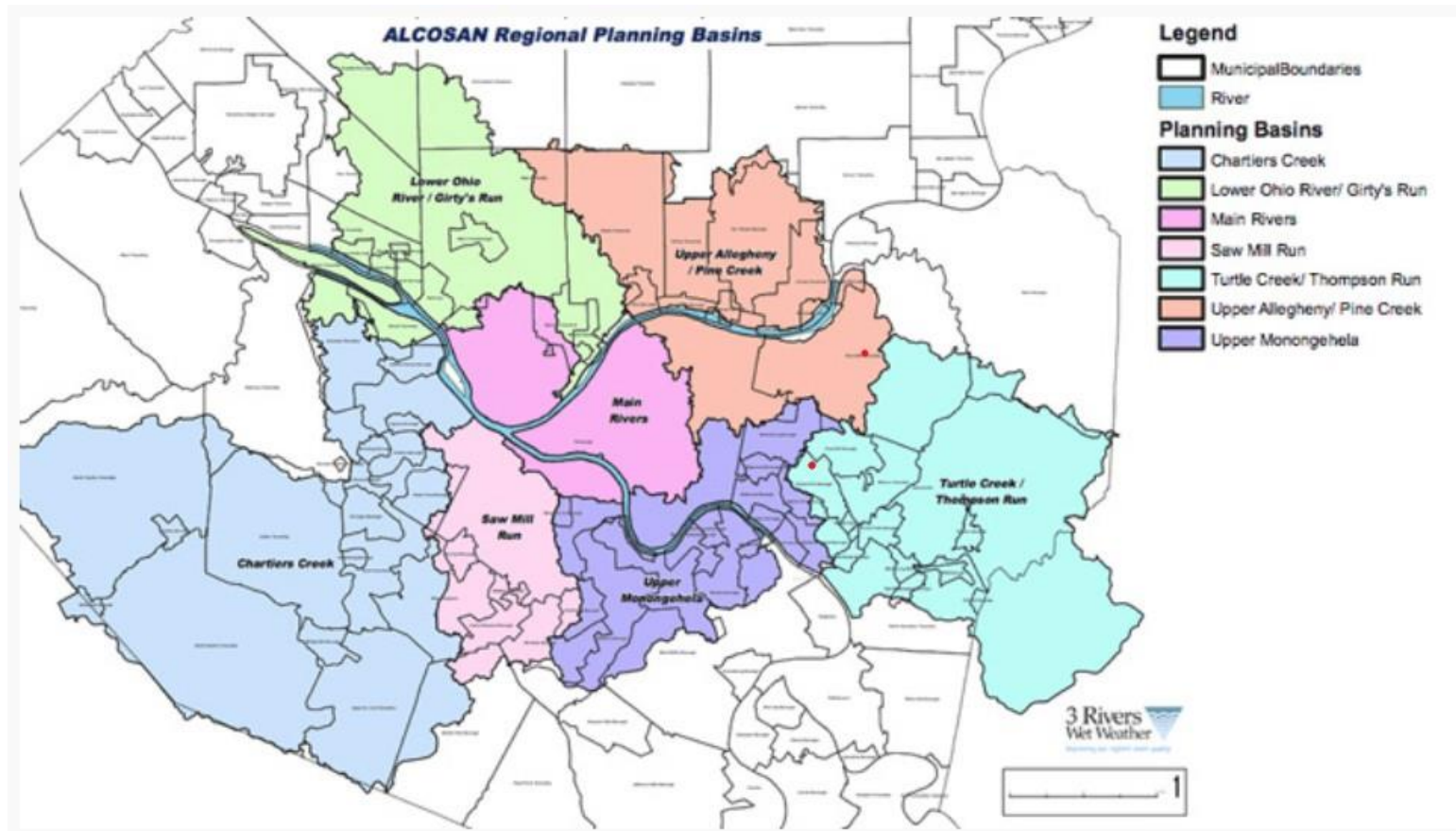
Members report they would participate in the following activities if offered by their chapters



Conservation is proven in sustaining chapter growth and diversity

- ▶ Engages current members towards TU Charter
 - Challenge for PWWTU – Coldwater Conservation
 - ▶ Conservation of our resources allows a healthier life and enables us to fish
 - ▶ EVERYONE can help and feel part of something good – even if you can't be there or can't wade the stream
 - ▶ Opportunity to bring diverse group of new members
 - We are all affected by and interested in conservation of our environment
 - ▶ Builds community through shared concern/passion
- 

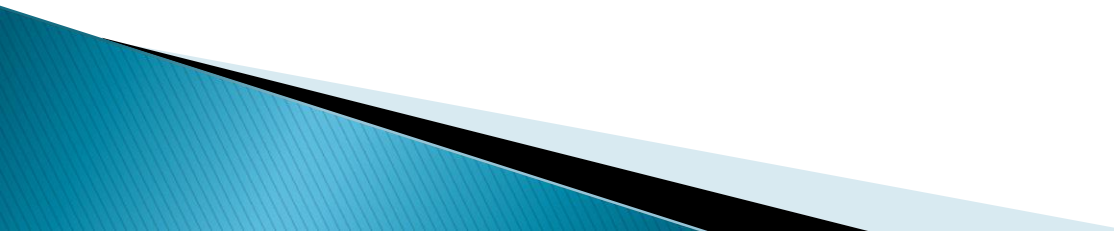
Our Urban Watershed



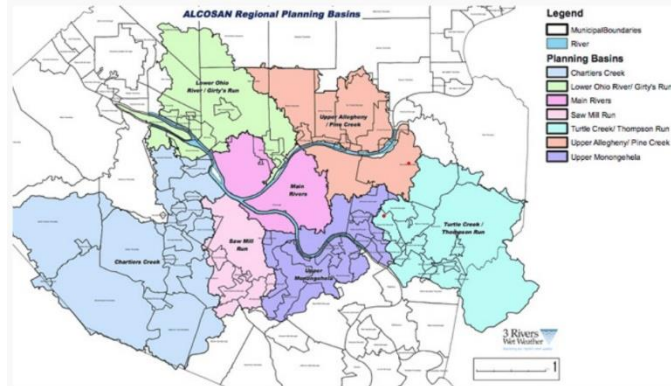
Importance of our Watersheds

“Water is considered the elixir and source of life. It covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface, makes up nearly 70% of our bodies, and constitutes over 70% of our heart and brains, this deep biological connection has been shown to trigger an immediate response in our brains when we're near water”

- ▶ We Drink it
 - ▶ We Eat Fish out of it
 - ▶ We Play in it

 - ▶ There are a LOT of problems facing our Streams:
 - ▶ Pollutants – City runoff, Road runoff, Floodwater, Sewage, Forever chemicals, Pesticides/Herbicides, Abandoned Mine Drainage
 - ▶ Trash
- 

Stocked Waters vs. Natural



Stocked

Pine Creek
Deer Creek
Bull Creek
Peters Creek
Long Run
Montour Run
Flaughterly Run
Big Sewickly
Turtle Run

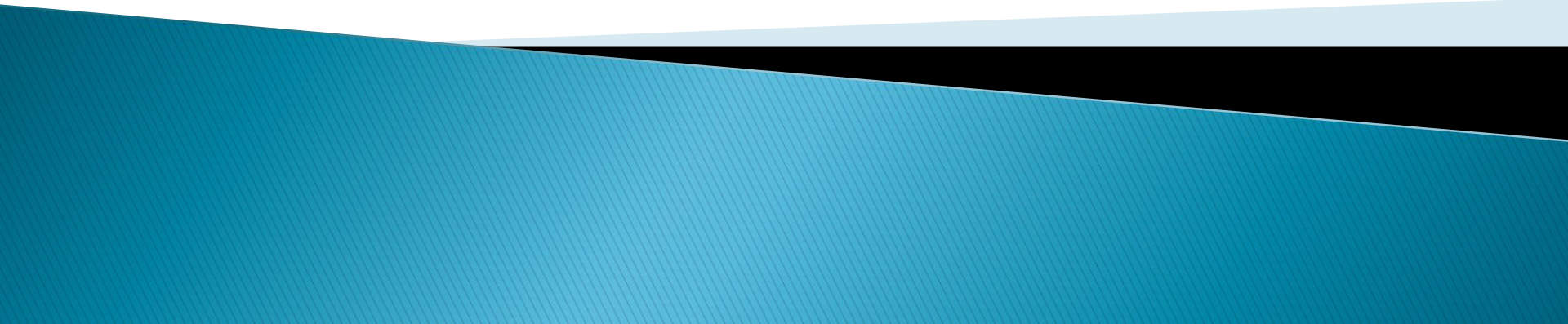
*Deer Lake
*Northpark Lake

Natural

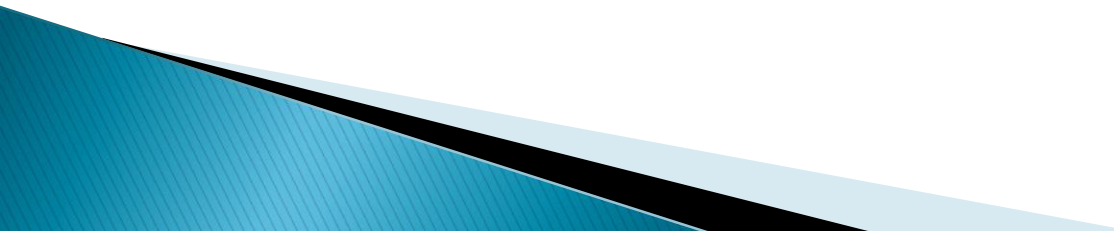
9 Mile
13 Mile
Chartiers Creek
Little Sewickly

So How do we Intend to Tackle this Problem?

Elements of a Comprehensive Program



Penn's Woods West Conservation Vision

- ▶ Penn's Woods West strives to make positive impact towards the reclamation and conservation of our local watersheds through partnership, impactful action, supporting science and fiercely advocating in governmental and affiliate organizations
 - ▶ We will also partner with other TU Chapters to facilitate TU's mission of Coldwater Conservation
- 

Implementation: 4 Key Elements for the Program

Focus on our local Streams

- Stream Clean ups
- Instream Projects

Stream
Stewardship

Magnify our Efforts

- TU Chapters
- Local Environmental Groups
- Municipalities/Local Agencies
- Universities/Schools

Partnership

ADVOCACY

Make our Voice heard

- Biggest changes start at GOVT level
- Local and State legislature
- DCNR, EPA, PFBC

Support
Science

Let the Science Lead us

- Fish Surveys
- Water Monitoring programs
- Support University studies
 - Duquesne
 - Chatham
 - Penn State

Stream Stewardship

- ▶ **Coordinate Events:**
 - Stream Assessment – Identified as a key value we can offer
 - Stream Clean ups
 - Restoration Projects
 - Macro counts
 - Water quality monitoring
- ▶ **Build partnership with other organizations that are already doing what we want to do:**
 - Allegheny Cleanways for stream cleanups
 - Penn State Extension Master Watershed Stewards
- ▶ **Work with Watershed Associations**
- ▶ **Key partners include Western PA Conservancy, Allegheny Conservation district and PA Fish & Boat Stream Restoration team**

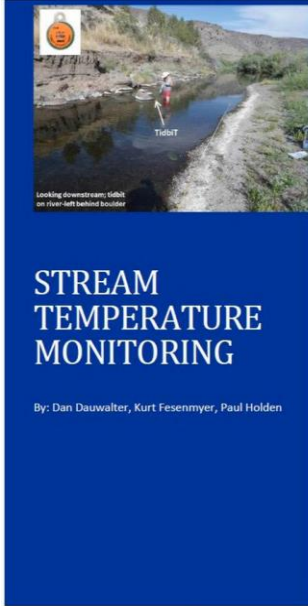
Partnership

- ▶ Liaison with other groups and report back
 - Allegheny Conservation District
 - Allegheny Land Trust
 - Western PA Conservancy
 - PAFB – PA Fish and Boat
 - PA TU Chapter
 - Watershed Organizations – We need members in these

- ▶ Many of you are already members of several groups
 - Allison Park Sportsman's Club: 3rd Thursday of every month
 - Tri-County Trout Club: 2nd Wednesday of every month
 - Forbes Trail TU: 1st Wednesday
 - Chestnut Ridge TU: 2nd Wednesday
 - Neshannock TU: 4th Monday

Support the Science

- ▶ Build our own Monitoring program
 - Get trained and certified
 - Partner with other groups
- ▶ Support and Partner with Local Universities
 - Duquesne Univ.
 - Chatham Univ.
 - Penn State Extension
- ▶ Grants/Funding



Angler Science Tools
www.tu.org – search “angler science”

- TroutBlitz
- Stream Temperature Monitoring
- Didymo Sampling
- Marcellus Shale Monitoring
- Stream Water Quality
- River’s Calendar
- Local chapter examples

TROUT UNLIMITED

Advocacy

- ▶ Currently Structuring the Program
 - We want to make it easy for our members to make their voices heard
 - Collaborating with PA TU advocacy program to bring issues to members attention
 - Provide education on key issues
 - Make it easy to do mailings, phone calls, in person



Where are we

▶ Steam Conservation Projects

- Buffalo Creek Project – About to begin phase 1
 - Phase 2 Riparian Buffer planting in spring
- Pine Creek Project – In Grant Application phase
- Montour Run Project – Identifying with Montour Run Watershed assoc and Conservation District

▶ Stream Clean ups

- October 23rd Montour Run
- Spring Allegheny based river clean up – Pending
- Spring Chartiers Creek Canoe Clean up – Pending

▶ Supporting Science

- Collaborating with Penn State Extension to train Citizen Science with Penn's Woods West
- Grant to support student research at Chatham
- IN discussions with Duquesne on impactful science on our watersheds
- Opportunity to work with Forbes Trail TU

We Need your Involvement

- ▶ Form TU Conservation Committee – Meet monthly
 - We need people who have interest and passion to make an impact
 - We need people to be there when we have activities
 - We need help with ideas
 - Working through watershed reports
 - Working with watershed association
 - Walking the stream to identify projects
 - Work with us to get them done
 - Organizing Stream Clean ups
 - Build and maintain partnerships
 - Allegheny Land Trust
 - PFBC – Local enforcement
 - Watershed Representatives

Next Steps

- ▶ October 23rd Montour Run Stream Clean up
 - Our 1st clean up since before Pandemic
- ▶ Email/call me if your interested in a role
- ▶ Email/call me if you have connections
 - Within some of these organizations
 - With Construction/supplies people
 - Possible donors who might be interested funding
- ▶ Email if you want to be on a list to do events – in-stream projects, clean ups.