



HooRWA
Watershed Association

Annual Report 2022

Through all HooRWA's activities, we hope to enhance and promote the value of the HooRWA River Watershed. And it is with gratitude and humility that we acknowledge that we are learning, speaking and gathering on the ancestral homelands of the People of the Waters that are Never Still who are the indigenous peoples of this land. Despite tremendous hardship in being forced from here, today their community resides in Wisconsin and is known as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community. We honor and respect the People of the Waters that are Never Still, both past and present, as we commit to nurturing a more inclusive and equitable space for all.

The price of clean water is eternal vigilance and since HooRWA's inception in 1986, HooRWA has been dedicated to water quality monitoring. In its 36th year, HooRWA continued its practice of protecting the River with water quality monitoring, trash clean-ups, native flora plantings for bank stabilization, educational programming, and advocacy at the local, state, and federal levels.

In 2022, as we have done in prior years, we:

- ⇒ Collected bacteria samples bi-weekly May-September; had samples tested at Berkshire Community College which is a State-approved testing facility, and received results.
- ⇒ Contracted with Watershed Assessment Associates to conduct benthic macroinvertebrate sampling
- ⇒ Performed water temperature monitoring
- ⇒ Submitted data to state agencies in MA, NY, and VT who prioritize and make policies to improve water quality.



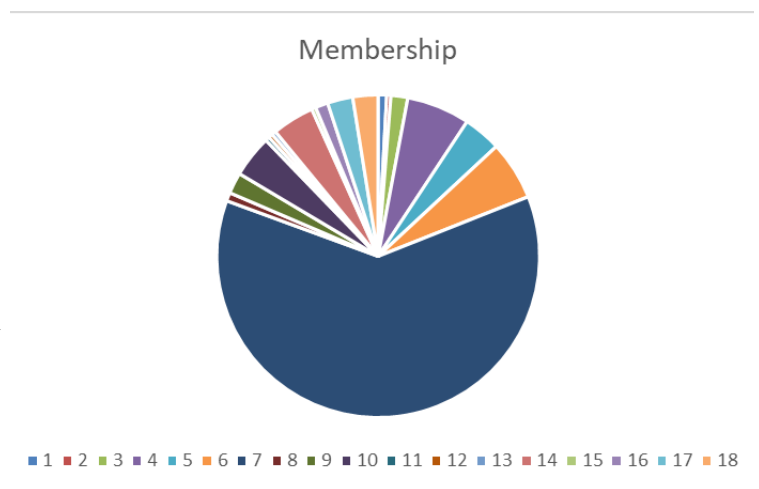
In 2022, the Hoosic River and its tributaries maintained similar results as prior years. What this tells us is that, while the Hoosic still remains slightly impaired in its health, the River does support expected aquatic life. HooRWA wants our River and Watershed to be resilient in the face of climate instability. We remain concerned about and therefore committed to continuing and expanding our studies and support of cold streams which support brook trout and other sensitive species.

New Executive Director Arianna Aleksandra Collins took the helm from retiring ED Steve McMahon in December 2021. Arianna made it a priority to bring HooRWA up-to-speed on some basic social media involvement and raise HooRWAs visibility. She created a new Facebook page when access to the old one failed, generating content on both HooRWA's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages. She also posted more resources on HooRWAs [website](#) and generated informative [blog entries](#). Arianna also agreed to a [business profile interview which appeared in the Berkshire Eagle July 21, 2022](#).

In the fall, the Board agreed to revisit its Strategic Plan. Founder and Board member Lauren Stevens and ED Arianna Collins began working on the Plan to update it and present it at a Board Retreat in 2023.

Membership

20 communities and three states comprise the Hoosic River Watershed. The majority of HooRWA's members are from Williamstown, MA (over 100) followed by North Adams, MA (15), Bennington & N. Bennington, VT (11), Pownal & N. Pownal, VT (9), Hoosick Falls, NY (5). In 2023 we are committed to reaching more of our constituents in VT and NY.

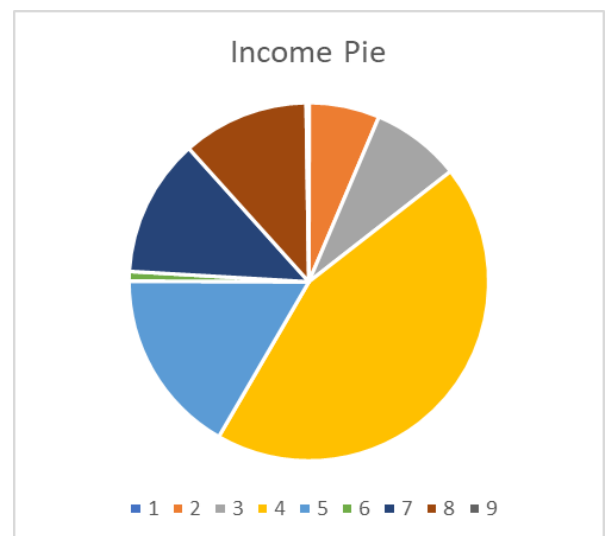


Finances

Total income for 2022 was \$76,073 and expenses were \$67,441. Net income was \$8,632. Income details include donations, memberships, and business support totaling \$61,168 and grants totaling \$19,210. Noteworthy expenses include \$17,396 for water quality monitoring and \$2,631 for events, mostly artists' honorariums for our RiverWorks projects.

Current mixture of funding sources:

- Membership & Spring Appeal \$6,492.83
- Fall Appeal - \$5,100.18
- Major Donors \$35,385.65 (53)
- Contracts \$695.00
- Businesses \$13,460.00
- Grants - government \$10,033.65 & private \$9,176.17



Working with partners and specifically Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) and Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), collectively we were awarded two State grants: MA Department of Environmental Protection and MA Division of Ecological Restoration. HooRWA was also awarded funding from the Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, Whipstock Hill Preservation Society, and Mountain One Bank. Additionally, HooRWA received funds from the Town of Williamstown for work done on the Town's new Linear Link Trail.

Programming

Last year HooRWA held 28 events. This includes 2 State of the River events: One in January [Glasgow on the Hoosic: The Climate Crisis after COP26](#) and one in December to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act. This event featured a presentation "[A Victory for Rivers with Thomas C. Jorling](#)", co-author of the Act. The January State of the River was hosted on Zoom with over 100 participants and the in-person State of River held in December drew 50 participants.



Due to ED Arianna Collins' passion for wild edibles, HooRWA increased its programming to include this offering. 6 Wild Edible & Medicinal Walks were co-facilitated by Arianna Collins and Justin Adkins of local business Wild Soul River (WSR). WSR donated ½ the proceeds to HooRWA. 5-10 people participated per session. 3 Wild Edible & Medicinal Walks were facilitated by Arianna through her business Offerings for Community Building and hosted by the Clark Art Institute with 16 participants per session. Arianna's business donated half the proceeds.

HooRWA co-facilitated 8 river and trailside clean-ups; 6 in MA, 1 in VT, and 1 in NY. Community partners included: Hoosic River Revival, South Williamstown Community Association, Trout Unlimited, Rural Lands, Williams College, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, Rensselaer Land Trust.





Through a grant from Cultural Council of Northern Berkshire, HooRWA engaged 20 artists to participate in *Artists Envision the Effects of Climate Change Along the Hoosic River*. HooRWA invited visual artists, specifically painters and photographers, to envision what the watershed landscape might look like due to the local effects of climate change. Their artwork was displayed at the Milne Library in Williamstown in September. A reception was also held, attracting over 30 visitors.

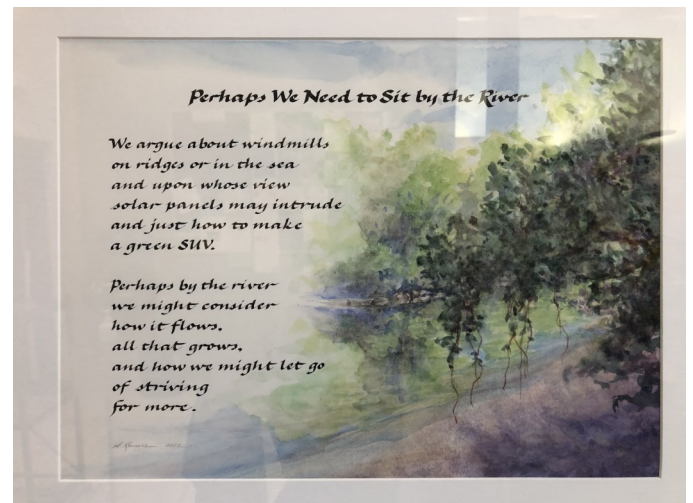
Our Annual Meeting, held on February 7th via Zoom, had 27 people in attendance..

In 2022, HooRWA celebrated the opening of the Linear Link Trail at Linear Park in Williamstown, MA, a project we had been working on for two years in concert with the Town and through a MA Department of Conservation and Recreation grant.

As an active community member, HooRWA also participated in Williamstown events including the July 4th parade and National Night Out.

2022 Board of Directors

President, Andy Kawczak
 Vice President, Thom Gentle
 Secretary, Wendy Hopkins
 Treasurer, Martha Marvin
 Gordon Batcheller
 John Case
 Sarah Gardner
 Daniel Gura
 Mark Merrell
 Elayne Murphy
 Lauren Stevens



Together we can be a force of Nature in cleaning up, reviving, and sustaining our watershed's health and well-being.

