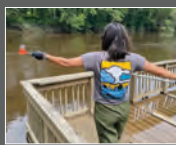




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CURRENTS

Sound Rivers' Quarterly Newsletter | Volume 10, No. 4 | Winter 2024

Storm clouds on the horizon?

2024 was certainly an unpredictable year. From a polarizing election to the destruction wrought by Hurricane Helene on our western North Carolina neighbors, this year was anything but normal.

As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, our rivers and communities will continue to face challenges, including likely changes to federal policy, investment and possible laws. We can look to the first Trump administration to gain some insight into what may lie ahead. That was

and many, many other advocates, we overturned those changes. However, the Clean Water Act has since been weakened by a 2023 Supreme Court decision that we estimate has put more than 1 million acres of North Carolina wetlands at risk of being developed.

But, at the state level, the legislature has funded investment in efforts to support our communities' resilience to storms, including investment in green stormwater infrastructure. We expect that to continue, even if federal funding dries up. And Sound Rivers is ready for whatever may come. Thanks to your support, our trained Sound Rivers team is working across the entire Tar-Pamlico and Neuse river watersheds to build a healthier, more resilient region.

The value of the work that Sound Rivers has been engaged in over the past several years is that we have focused on building local relationships and solving problems with local governments and impacted communities. As you'll read

in this newsletter, we have been successful, thanks to your support. And we'll keep working to solve our pollution and flooding problems, while keeping you informed of dangers that may come with harmful changes at the federal level.

You too can help! Join us by being active in your community; join us by volunteering in our programs; join us by contacting your elected representatives; and, for those who are able, supporting us with your gifts. Your year-end gift before Dec. 31 will help us continue to make progress for our communities and rivers in 2025.

**From all of us at Sound Rivers,
we wish you the happiest of
holidays!**

Weather Deck

Executive Director, Sound Rivers



a time when the administration worked feverishly to weaken the federal Clean Water Act, our bed-rock clean water law. With your support and the work of Sound Rivers

SOUND RIVERS SPOTLIGHT

BACKWATER ENVIRONMENTAL

For the past three years, when Sound Rivers Program Director Clay Barber visits a campus to check in on a green stormwater infrastructure project in progress, there's often someone from Backwater Environmental there to greet him.

A division of the Eden-based Osborne Company, Backwater Environmental provides environmental construction, restoration, maintenance and monitoring services for stormwater management, stream restoration, wetland restoration, coastal mitigation and dam removal. And they, along with Kris Bass Engineering, are Clay's "go-to" when a Campus Stormwater Program project is in the works.

For Robert Osborne, Backwater Environmental's operations manager, the ongoing partnership is a worthwhile venture.

"The work we do for Sound Rivers does the most for the environment out of all the jobs we do, and we do a lot of jobs," Robert said. "A lot of the projects we're contracted to do are just fulfilling requirements of environmental regulations, but the ones we do for Sound Rivers are designed to improve water quality — their whole purpose is to protect the environment."

Robert said he enjoys working with Sound Rivers because Backwater and Sound Rivers' environmental efforts align, which is reflected in a great working relationship — an outlook echoed by Clay.

"Being grant-funded by a wide

variety of grants, this work requires some flexibility and adaptability," Clay said. "We're always racing a timeline or zeroing out a budget, or getting special requests from campus administrators, and Backwater Environmental is always super-happy to accommodate and problem solve and take on any challenge that we're facing."

In three years, Backwater Environmental has completed 10

"These guys take a good amount of pride in their work and are always checking in about past projects, asking if there's anything they need to take a look at. That's what I'd call going 'above and beyond' in this business."

CLAY BARBER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Campus Stormwater Projects: the constructed wetland at Beaufort County Community College in Washington; a rain garden, regenerative stormwater conveyance system (RSC) and wetland restoration at Vance-Granville Community College in Henderson; a bioswale and wetland restoration at Wayne Community College in Goldsboro; two rain gardens and a bioswale at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount; and a linear



(Above) Backwater Environmental Operations Manager Robert Osborne in the field.

wetland at Havelock High School.

Clay said Robert, Project Manager Gabe Adams and project Superintendent Chris Wheeler have shared so much of their knowledge about construction do's and don'ts, stormwater management best practices and maintenance best practices, that he can now easily pass the information along to maintenance staff at campuses across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds.

"These guys take a good amount of pride in their work and are always checking in about past projects, asking if there's anything they need to take a look at," Clay said. "That's what I'd call going 'above and beyond' in this business."



Sound Rivers bids farewell to key board members



(Left) JoSeth Bocook during filming of Sound Rivers' 40th Anniversary documentary, "A Sound River." (Above) Adrian Atkinson at a Sound Rivers staff/board retreat in 2023.

Sound Rivers is saying goodbye to two longstanding board members: JoSeth Bocook and Adrian Atkinson.

For six years, these active board members have dedicated time, energy and valuable insight to Sound Rivers' behind-the-scenes operations.

They will be missed, said Sound Rivers Executive Director Heather Deck.

"Adrian and JoSeth brought a wealth of personal and professional knowledge to Sound Rivers, and we are a stronger, more inclusive organization because of it," Heather said. "I am so very grateful for their six years of volunteer service on our board of directors, and the efforts they both did to connect our wider, regional work to their local communities."

For Adrian, the experience of serving on the board has been memorable.

"Working with such an amazing group of individuals and the incredible staff of Sound Rivers has been a remarkable experience for me," Adrian said. "What I appre-

ciated the most was the intentionality in looking at ourselves as an organization, acknowledging where

"Adrian and JoSeth brought a wealth of personal and professional knowledge to Sound Rivers, and we are a stronger, more inclusive organization because of it. I am so very grateful for their six years of volunteer service on our board of directors, and the efforts they both did to connect our wider, regional work to their local communities."

HEATHER DECK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

we could and should be better, then actually taking the necessary steps to be better ... I feel like we have been impactful about bringing more awareness about the organi-

zation, its mission, its projects/programs and establishing ourselves as a trusted advisor and partner to the community."

According to Sound Rivers Board of Directors President Catherine Kastleman, JoSeth's work on the board provided a much-needed perspective.

"JoSeth brought an inclusive, collaborative and grounded leadership style to the Sound Rivers board as a past president, and never failed to ask thoughtful questions to guide our work," Catherine said. "Over the course of several years with the board, he leveraged his significant expertise in planning and his many connections to the City of Rocky Mount, a major hub within the Tar River watershed, in service of Sound Rivers' mission. He also offered valuable insights on increasing diversity, equity and inclusion on the board and in Sound Rivers' work across a diverse geographic region."

Sound Rivers' staff and board are grateful for Adrian and JoSeth's many contributions and look forward to keeping them engaged as a part of the Sound Rivers family.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

A LOOK AT SOUND RIVERS' WORK ON THE NEUSE & TAR-PAMLICO



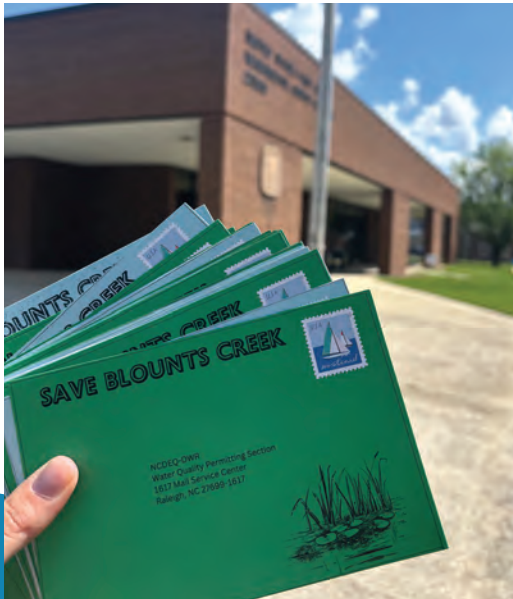
Cummins employees Miriam Espinosa and Kenny Farmer celebrate the new Tarboro trash trap.



Clay Barber inspects a completed regenerative stormwater conveyance system.



Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop addresses the crowd at the Havelock Town Hall.



A small sampling of public comments that earned a public hearing for the Blounts Creek wastewater permit.



Stormwater Education Coordinator Sierra Stickney.

STORMWATER PROGRAMS

LITTER-FREE RIVERS

In a single year, Sound Rivers doubled its fleet of trash traps across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds. Following previous installations on Jack's Creek in Washington, Duffyfield Canal in New Bern, Little Rock Creek in Raleigh and Adkin Branch in Kinston, in 2024, two more passive litter-collection devices were installed on Greens Mill Run in Greenville and East Tarboro Canal in Tarboro. An additional three traps went to Marsh Creek and its tributaries in Raleigh as part of partnership between Sound Rivers, N.C. State University and The Great Raleigh Cleanup.

More than three tons of trash has been collected and removed from the Litter-Free Rivers program's fleet of traps – before it could make its way downstream from these urban tributaries to the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers.

Under the guidance of Program Director Clay Barber, Sound Rivers' stormwater programs took off in 2024. In addition to mapping out the Jack's Creek Watershed Restoration Plan with the City of Washington, the Campus Stormwater program expanded to include a slew of new projects to mitigate flooding, erosion and pollutants entering waterways from school campuses across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico watersheds. Projects included a rainwater harvesting cistern at Havelock High School; a rain garden, regenerative stormwater conveyance system (RSC) and wetland inlet pipe repair at Vance-Granville Community College; a rain garden, rainwater harvesting cistern and RSC at Southern Nash High School; two rain gardens, a bioswale and naturalized wetlands at Northern Nash High School; and launching Stormwater Education Week with ag students at West Craven Middle School.

HAVELOCK TOWN HALL

Sound Rivers and the Town of Havelock teamed up in February to host "Water Quality and Recreation at Slocum Creek," an open-invitation event for Havelock residents. Approximately 80 people attended the town hall, in which Havelock Mayor Will Lewis and Public Utilities Director Rick Day talked about the town's sewage spills and efforts the city has made to update its sewer system. Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop also spoke about the separate issue of Sound Rivers' investigation into the ongoing pollution of Slocum Creek – how it was discovered through Swim Guide results and its source in Wolf Pit Branch narrowed down through process of elimination. Samantha said having both the town and Craven County work with Sound Rivers to determine the source of the pollution has set an example of cooperation and teamwork that she hopes other local governments will follow.

BLOUNTS CREEK PUBLIC HEARING

On Nov. 19, a large crowd of Blounts Creek-lovers attended a public hearing to speak out against the renewal of a mining company's wastewater discharge permit – a permit that could potentially destroy the creek's entire ecosystem. That the public hearing happened at all is testament to how strongly residents feel about protecting the creek and Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman's efforts to inspire folks to make their voices heard about 12 million gallons of freshwater per day being dumped into the headwaters of the brackish creek. After launching an Action Alert, presenting information at community meeting and hosting a postcard-writing campaign, enough public interest was conveyed to North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to require a public hearing. Now, everyone awaits the NCDEQ decision about issuing the permit.

SOUND RIVERS PODCAST

Sound Rivers joined the podcasting trend this year, launching "Sound Rivers: Riverkeeping Tales from the Neuse & Tar-Pamlico" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music and soundrivers.org. Hosted by Communications Director Vail Rumley, the podcast's inaugural episode tackled "The Story of Blounts Creek" and the 13-year battle to protect the creek from a mining company. This was followed by "To Swim, Drink, Fish," a deep dive into Swim Guide's origins and how the recreational water-quality program has informed Sound Rivers investigations, and "Muddied Waters," featuring Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop taking a hard look at sediment pollution across the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico. Next up is "Investigation – Sound Rivers" with Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register, who leads listeners on a behind-the-scenes look at pollution investigations. Be on the lookout for it!

STORMWATER EDUCATION

The Sound Rivers staff grew in September, as Resilience Corps NC AmeriCorps member Sierra Stickney signed on as the new stormwater education coordinator. Since her arrival, Sierra has assisted Program Director Clay Barber with Campus Stormwater Program projects, determining protocols for proper maintenance and inspection of green stormwater infrastructure projects, and hosted a workshop with Craven County schools to devise outreach opportunities for hands-on learning at partnering schools. In partnership with West Craven Middle School, Sierra held the first Stormwater Education Week for agricultural students in December. In addition to all-things-stormwater, Sierra has also pitched in, and waded in, for Sound Rivers' growing Litter-Free Rivers program. Sierra came to Sound Rivers via the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, funded through the North Carolina Governor's Commission on Volunteerism.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Wetland walks and major partnerships. Pollution investigations. A 7th Swim Guide season. Stormwater infrastructure ... and more!



Cummins employees remove trash from the Tar River at a Sound Rivers/Cummins cleanup.



Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop, leading a Little Rock Creek Walk.



Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register takes a water sample at a Smithfield outfall.



A clear creek meets the sediment-filled runoff from the Moriah Energy Center.



Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman collects a sample for water-quality testing.



Program Director Clay Barber explains the watershed plan at an open house in May.

CUMMINS PARTNERSHIP

Sound Rivers and Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant teamed up this year to promote a healthy Tar River. The partnership began with the company seeking opportunities for its employees to care for and enjoy their environment. Since October 2023, Cummins employees and Sound Rivers staff have joined forces for cleanups of Tar River via the land and water. In 2024, a generous Cummins Water Works grant sponsored Sound Rivers' Swim Guide, the construction of green stormwater infrastructure at Nash County public schools and the installation of a trash trap on East Tarboro Canal in Tarboro.

"The expansion to a larger strategic grant was natural, due to the positive relationship our employees had with the organization and the great work the organization does for the community," said Scott Saum, Cummins Water Works program manager.

WATER WALKS

In 2024, Sound Rivers staff and supporters donned waders and water shoes to venture into the heart of Sound Rivers' work — the waterways. Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop hosted a Lick Creek Walk to explore sediment pollution in southeast Durham; a Wetland Walk at the Croatan National Forest; a creek walk at the site of Moriah Energy Center to look at the effects on previously clear-running streams; and an Ellerbe Creek Wetland Walk to witness wetlands surrounded by an urban environment. Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman also joined in with a creek walk of Greens Mill Run in October.

"It's a great way to get people in touch with nature surrounding them, and give them a firsthand look at how these waterways are threatened every day," Samantha said.

POLLUTION INVESTIGATIONS

Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop, Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman and Water Quality Specialist Taylor Register completed more than 100 investigations on the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico in 2024. Tips, monitoring and being out in the field were sources for these pollution investigations with outcomes that ranged from simple (alerting NCD-EQ to a sediment dump in Mine Creek, resulting in a cleanup and a fine for the entity responsible) to more in-depth investigations identifying the problem while resolution remains elusive (Rocky Mount sewage spills caused by failing infrastructure with no immediate plan for a fix and the elusive source of pollution at Smithfield stormwater outfall).

Whether open and shut or ongoing, the Sound Rivers' Riverkeeping team is committed to each case until the issue is resolved and the pollution stops.

MORIAH ENERGY CENTER

In late 2023, Person County approved the construction of Dominion Energy's Moriah Energy Center, a liquified natural gas facility, despite major opposition. By spring, once-clear creeks running through the 70 acres of clearcut land were muddied. Sediment was pouring into these tributaries of Deep Creek and Flat River, home to the endangered Neuse Waterdog and several species of mussels. Concerned community members, along with Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop, attended a Dominion open house to get answers, and walked away with none. In May, a site visit prompted by ongoing pollution reports from Samantha and community partners prompted an NCDEQ visit, which led to the agency warning Dominion to strengthen its sediment and erosion controls. Samantha continues to monitor and report her findings to NCDEQ.

SWIM GUIDE

For a seventh year, Sound Rivers' volunteers and three summer "Swim-terns," with guidance from Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz, gave river lovers water-quality results they could count on. From Memorial Day until Labor Day, Sound Rivers' Swim Guide program participants tested more than 650 water samples from 52 popular recreational sites on the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico, delivering them every Friday — all so people could know where it's safe to swim, from the Piedmont to the Pamlico Sound. Sites that consistently failed to meet recreational water-quality standards prompted two investigations: at Runyon Creek in Washington and Cotton Patch Landing on Blounts Creek. Swim Guide also kept Sound Rivers' data current on the Slocum Creek investigation, where a 100% fail rate proved the Havelock creek's pollution is worsening.

JACK'S CREEK RESTORATION PLAN

Sound Rivers, the Mid-East Commission and the City of Washington completed a two-year study aimed to not only mitigate flooding but improve water quality of an urban tributary to the Pamlico River. The Jack's Creek watershed drains a large area of the City of Washington, (15th Street to the Tar-Pamlico River; some areas west of U.S. 17 Business to east of Jack's Creek), and the 9-Element Watershed Plan identifies a wide-ranging list of stormwater projects that could be implemented within the watershed: trading unused paved areas for grass or rain gardens; use of nutrient-loving plants around the city dog park; rainwater harvesting cisterns collecting runoff from rooftops and constructed wetlands. Sound Rivers recently submitted a multi-million-dollar grant to the EPA to fund some of these projects.

A CLOSER LOOK: SEDIMENT POLLUTION



(Above) Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman collects water samples from a stream near the Republic Services landfill near Rougemont.

A housing development in Durham. An international airport in Raleigh. A liquified natural gas facility in Moriah. A landfill in Rougemont.

At first glance, these places may not seem to have much in common, but one thing ties them together: sediment pollution.

Sediment pollution is the No. 1 pollution by volume in the state of North Carolina, and it's extremely prolific because it's not necessarily an industry or a bad actor responsible for it.

"Sediment pollution happens when dirt from our ground is transported to our surface waterways where it doesn't belong," said Neuse Riverkeeper Samantha Krop. "That can happen naturally, through rain causing erosion and dislodging that dirt, but it can also happen through the clearing of land which is a human-driven activity."

New industrial facilities, new housing developments, a new shopping center — any time there's a forested area where something is going to be built, the very first thing that happens is land-clearing.

"We need homes; we need growth; but we also need our environmental regulations to catch up with the pace of where that's at, because right now, development is outpacing efforts to protect the waterways across North Carolina."

SAMANTHA KROP
NEUSE RIVERKEEPER

small, aquatic insects that fish eat and need to survive," she said.

Stoneflies, mayflies and caddisflies are some of those aquatic insects, known by fisherfolk across the state as food for the larger fish they hope to reel in. Without those insects, larger species can't survive, and dirt flowing into the streams can be a reason.

"Sediment pollution impacts stream ecology and has significant consequences for the ability of that stream to be a thriving aquatic ecosystem in the future," Samantha said. "The problem is twofold: you have sediment suspended in water which causes its own harm by blocking sunlight so plants can't photosynthesize; it makes it hard for fish to see and therefore find prey; and nutrients and pollutants can piggyback on soil particles and flow into streams."

When sediment settles, it causes more problems.

"When it settles to bottom, it actually covers and chokes the habitats that aquatic insects need to survive," she said.

The reasons why sediment pollution is not adequately addressed are



(Above left) Water Quality Specialist takes a turbidity reading from a sediment-filled Lick Creek in southeast Durham. (Above right) Muddied water flows from the Moriah Energy Center property in Person County.

complex. Fine particulate soils, such as the Triassic soils found in southeast Durham, often aren't captured by the required state regulatory Sediment and Erosion Control practices. But because developers are employing the practices, as ineffective as they may be, there's little recourse to stop the pollution. Another issue is the cumulative effect.

"There's so much land-clearing going on that it's not just about one impact versus another impact. It's about the big picture, and in these places where hundreds and hundreds of acres are being cleared at once, next to hundreds and hundreds of acres, we're seeing streams run orange more than they run clear because of the constant onslaught of sediment from cleared lands," Samantha said. "We have an inadequacy in our regulatory system when it comes to sediment pollution and no one is being held accountable."

According to Samantha, a pro-development faction is also successfully lobbying state legislators to loosen what regulations exist, and the two state agencies under the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that are responsi-

ble for enforcement of sediment and erosion controls often don't communicate with one another.

"The Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources is responsible for monitoring construction sites, and the Division of Water Resources monitors water quality, so there's one regulatory agency on the construction site and another in the stream" she said. "One is checking the boxes for all the baseline controls in place, and that's the extent of what they can do unless they witness, with their own eyes, sediment pollution running into a waterway. Many times, both groups are pointing at each other, and no one is taking any action."

But Samantha and Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katey Zimmerman are trying to change that, by regularly collecting data proving sediment pollution and reporting it NCDEQ, forcing the agencies to look harder at specific sites and cumulative impacts.

They're also advocating for stronger policies on local levels where sediment pollution is rampant, and at the state level.

"Sound Rivers is pushing for the

state to look at this cumulatively, on a watershed scale," Samantha said. "We're also asking for developers to be required to not pollute nearby streams, more frequent inspections, for developers to be required to sample discharges for turbidity and sample the streams on their properties."

The goal is to raise the bar, and promote growth that doesn't threaten North Carolina's natural resources.

"We have a long way to go to bring our environmental protections up to a place where they can continue to uphold the promise of the Clean Water Act while promoting new development," Samantha said. "We need homes; we need growth; but we also need our environmental regulations to catch up with the pace of where that's at because right now, development is outpacing efforts to protect the waterways across North Carolina."

Learn more about sediment pollution in NC — listen to our podcast, "Muddied Waters," with the QR code!



2024 OYSTER ROAST

The annual Oyster Roast in Washington is Sound Rivers' biggest fundraiser of the year, and **this year, not only did tickets sell out in six days, but we raised more than \$50,000 – again!** These funds are used for a single purpose: supporting your Riverkeepers' work to protect the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico rivers, and all their many tributaries.

As always, we thank the many volunteers who helped set up and break down the Oyster Roast; volunteers who worked check-in, and those who cooked 85 bushels of oysters and delivered them, steaming, to hungry guests, as well as live musicians Bob Daw and the Chuck Phillips Band. We're also very grateful for the brewers who supplied the craft beer to wash those oysters down: Mother Earth Brewing, Tarboro Brewing Company and Two Rivers Alehouse. We could not possibly host this event without the help of Sound Rivers' sponsors and dedicated volunteers – **thank you all!**



(Clockwise from top right) Volunteer Coordinator Emily Fritz (on ladder), Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper Katy Zimmerman and Katy's mom, Linda, string lights on Oyster Roast tables during setup; a crowd of more than 400 shucked oysters under the stars on the Washington Civic Center grounds; an aerial view of the outdoor part of the event.

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Why I give ...

Members and donors are the backbone of most nonprofits, but here at Sound Rivers, they are especially important to the work your Riverkeepers do to monitor and protect the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico. Without generous supporters across both watersheds, it would be challenging for Sound Rivers staff to take on their many investigations, cleanups, outreach opportunities, advocacy work, stormwater infrastructure projects and more.

We asked two dedicated Sound Rivers' supporters why they choose to give time and effort – and money – to the cause.

Jim Kellenberger joined the Neuse River Foundation when he lived and worked in Raleigh. Now, 20 years later, he's an Oriental resident. It was contemplating the Neuse River at both ends that inspired him to become a member of the organization that would become Sound Rivers in 2015.

"The Neuse River is 17 feet wide in Raleigh, but then you get down to where the Neuse is one of the widest rivers in North America, and you wind up thinking about where is all this stuff (trash, pollution) coming from? Where's it going?" Jim asked.

Jim said his faith in the organization, its leadership and staff keep him invested.

"In the 501(c)3 business, if you don't have one or two or five dogged people in there, you ain't never getting nothing done," Jim said. "Following that, I think that the staff of this 501(c)3, is what I might call 'TD,' and that stands for Top Drawer. ... The other thing that I really like is the way Sound Rivers manufactures grants. There's a lot of scrutiny around the purpose of a 501(c)3, and what I think Sound Rivers has been able

to do is manufacture grants that stay within our purpose, but allow us to do some interesting things, like the Campus Stormwater Program. As a highways guy, I'm really impressed with that."

For Sound Rivers board member Miriam Espinosa, her introduction to Sound Rivers came through her job as environmental manager at Cummins Rocky Mount Engine Plant, but it soon transitioned into her personal life.

"I wanted to do something for the community, not just as part of my job, but personally. I started participating as a Sound Rivers volunteer, and when I got invited to be more engaged, it was an easy decision for me," Miriam said.

Donating to the cause was also an easy decision, according to Miriam.

"I read all the newsletters, and I see that Sound Rivers is very engaged with different communities and is following critical issues for these communities," she said. "It's important to support Sound Rivers, so we can keep track of these problems and highlight the communities being affected."

Miriam has also leveraged her involvement with Sound Rivers into a partnership with Cummins Water Works, which is funding a variety of projects, including a Tarboro trash trap and Nash County Public Schools stormwater assessments and projects, as well

as providing opportunities for Cummins employees to participate in cleanups on the Tar River, via land and kayak.

"The main thing is, Sound Rivers has a worthwhile cause with a good use of dollars," Jim said. "I would tell anyone who has the opportunity to use their required minimum distribution that this is a fantastic way to use those funds."



Jim Kellenberger



Miriam Espinosa



Legacy giving is an effective way to make a difference to future generations. Legacy giving is a meaningful way to affect your waterways. Every small gift – and your legacy can be any size – makes a difference, because maintaining stable and continuous funding for Sound Rivers also maintains the breadth and quality of your Riverkeepers' work. We, at Sound Rivers, are so grateful to everyone who supports our mission.

If you are interested in learning more about a legacy gift for Sound Rivers, please contact Sound Rivers Development Coordinator Jay Potter at jay@soundrivers.org.

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