

Curtis A. Meurer – Grant Recipient

Project Summary: The Danville High School KRW was able to take 102 students on field trip to the Cumberland River Wolf Creek Dam Environmental Education and Visitors Center (<http://www.fws.gov/wolfcreek/media/WolfCreekRackCard.pdf>). This trip was originally scheduled to be local watershed viewing, but the high rainfall of 2009 precluded many planned days and it is difficult to reschedule that many students.

Additionally, in collaboration with Dr. Mike Lauer (also at Danville High) the AP Environmental Science class, along with the most promising 9th graders, took multiple trips over a 10 day period to the junction of the Balls Branch creek with Clark's Run creek. These students used stream sampling tools to survey the aquatic life in both streams, and compare them, as well as collecting water samples for analysis in the lab.

For the classroom, the materials to construct three large sand tables were purchased, and these tables were constructed. These tables will be used for several years of Integrated Science for Freshmen, in order to teach about the water cycle, erosion, and water pollution.

Overall the grant provided the much needed funding (actually increasing base departmental funding by 200%) to purchase needed supplies (water quality test kits, stream sampling tools, materials to build sand tables) of a durable nature. It also provided funding to expose a large number of students to a newly established and well equipped environmental education center.

There were however some significant delays in the getting the project off the ground, and as I write this final report I truly feel that it is an interim report. The grant was awarded in the spring of 2008, but the money was not available for use until the beginning of 2009. This was not a fault of the KRWG Authority, but rather a local issue of timing. The grant award check arrived in the summer of 2008, and since the accounting department was unaware of who the grant was going to, they placed the money in escrow awaiting someone to claim it. After multiple inquiries within the district, I finally went direct to Dr. Ebrahimi and determine that the check had been sent (and cashed) and he was able to provide a check number and amount. With this I was able to go back to accounting and claim the money in escrow. Therefore, no work on this grant was started prior to January 1, 2009. On the upside, the materials purchased were of a durable nature, or in the case of water testing kits and reagents in sufficient quantity, that they will be available for use throughout the 2009-2010 year.

Date of Completion: In accordance with this grant, the date of completion is June 30, 2009 but in reality this project will continue to the end of the 2009 year with no additional funds needed.

Photos and Samples: Will be submitted at a later date when all student release forms are completed.