

## **Kentucky River Authority**

### **FY2008 Watershed Grant** **FINAL REPORT**

#### **Grant Applicant:**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tom Edwards

Organization Friends of Muddy Creek

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 254 Ogg Lane Richmond, KY 40475

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ 859/200-8717 (cell) 859/779-6483 (office)

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ thomas.edwards@ky.gov

#### **Focus Watershed:**

Name of Local Waterbody \_\_\_\_\_ Muddy Creek

Hydrologic Unit Code – 11#, if known \_\_\_\_\_ 14 digit is: 05100205032838

### **Project Summary:**

Muddy Creek is listed as a 303(d) stream impaired by pathogens. Studies conducted by Eastern Kentucky University have concluded the creek is also impaired by sediment.

The funds provided through this Kentucky River Authority grant were used to file for incorporation and as startup funds for the Friends of Muddy Creek (FMC) conservation organization. The mission of the Friends of Muddy Creek is to improve and preserve the water quality, ecology, recreational benefits and scenic beauty of Muddy Creek in Madison County, Kentucky. This grant was used to initiate and maintain all aspects of this mission.

The primary objective of FMC supported by this grant was to make the community aware of the current conditions of Muddy Creek. Various public awareness tools were used to accomplish this. The incorporation of FMC and the establishment of the MuddyCreekFriends.org webpage were significant actions toward this goal. Due to our non-profit corporation status we gained assistance from the Eastern Kentucky University Small Business Development Center. This assistance enabled FMC to dramatically improve its ability to develop the webpage and get technical advice for webpage maintenance. Being recognized as a legitimate entity as attracted members of the community who have a desire and need for an organized avenue for public involvement in local stream improvement and protection. Individuals and small groups

have participated in stream cleanups and asked for information regarding the streams condition. Recently we have been contacted via the webpage by Muddy Creek land owners for advice on stream restoration and best management practices.

Recognizing the need for public information regarding stream conservation projects, FMC has been in contact with the Madison County District Conservationist and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in planning for installing a cedar revetment on Muddy Creek at EKU's Meadowbrook Farm. FMC is working with the NRCS to draft a permit application with the KY Division of Water asking for approval for the revetment. Pending approval, FMC will, with help from the USFWS, install the revetment this fall to reduce stream bank erosion and serve as opportunity for the public access to view this BMP.

Also during this grant period, FMC was approached by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to be involved with an experimental Running Buffalo Clover recovery effort. RBC is a federally endangered species and the USFWS sought FMC to conduct the labor for the experimental planting and monitoring of this plant to serve in providing information on future large scale restoration efforts. FMC is currently monitoring survival of 50 RBC plants on EKU's Farm on the banks of Muddy Creek. We will experiment with various manipulations to help determine best management strategies.

Stream trash cleanup efforts have been a major activity made possible through the KRA grant this year. The FMC "Adopt-A-Bridge" program has been very well received. This program has sought out groups, corporations and government entities to "adopt" a bridge or culvert road crossing on Muddy Creek. The response has been excellent. The Wildlife Society student chapter at EKU, Blue Grass Army Depot, KY Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Bluegrass Whitewater Association, Tokico (USA), Inc and Madison County have all participated in several trash cleanups at bridges over Muddy Creek this grant period. In fact, during the spring of 2009 trash pickup during Earth Week each of the bridge crossings over Muddy Creek were visited. The Blue Grass Army Depot and Tokico (USA), Inc released employees to participate in the Muddy Creek cleanups. As a token of our appreciation, FMC, using these grant funds, developed a "Certificate of Appreciation" to award to every individual participant and one for the organization. These certificated have been very well received and serve to encourage future participation.

The "Adopt-A-Bridge" program has been so well received that the Madison County Judge Executive and Fiscal Court have approved the posting of bridge crossing signs recognizing the entities who have adopted each bridge. FMC is working with the KY River Basin Team to develop and possibly standardize such a sign for other watershed groups.

The developing relationship with Madison County government has been very beneficial to this project. In November of 2008, the Madison County Judge Executive approved the use of the Madison County Road Department to remove two old vehicles from Muddy Creek. The activity was reported on by the Richmond Register and was received by the county residents.

As a result of becoming a Corporation, FMC has had several dealings with the KY Secretary of State office and the Internal Revenue Service. We have internally responded to requests for information from the Secretary of State office with invaluable volunteer assistance from Mr. Ken Cooke. To address information needs from the IRS,

we approached the Richmond H & R Block. Because of our being formally incorporated as a non-profit conservation organization, H & R Block agreed to donate their services for any IRS filings that require a FMC response.

FMC also received assistance from EKU's Environmental Research Institute during this grant period. FMC approached the ERI to request help with attempts to source track pathogens in the stream. ERI staff member, Reagan Weaver spent a day assisting with sample collection and sample processing. We hope this will develop in FMC being involved in this significant research. Identifying the source of pathogens in Muddy Creek will help FMC with future public education and mitigation efforts.

As the grant year progressed, FMC began formalizing members and providing feedback to them. A mid-summer update newsletter was printed and mailed to members and interested persons. An annual meeting of FMC was conducted in June, 2009 and an election of officers was conducted.

Using these grant funds, several items were purchased that were required. Funds were used to pay for starting up a banking account and creating checks, to file for incorporation and file annual report to the Secretary of State's Office. Moneys were used to purchase a canoe, paddles, life jackets, trash bags, trash pickers, gloves and safety vests. A FMC banner was made to use at events. Roadside caution and directional signs were made. Other promotional items purchased were bumper stickers and FMC decals. A GPS unit was purchased for use in the Running Buffalo Clover project and to mark locations of stream needs, monitoring efforts and improvement projects. Funds were used to purchase food, drinks for stream cleanup projects and the meetings. Office supplies such as paper, blank certificates, envelopes, postage were purchased

The only departure from the initial budget request was the \$200 requested for filing with the IRS for 501(c)3 status has not yet been done. The fee for IRS filing was found to be \$300 and the paperwork required for this filing has not been completed. However, the funds requested for this purpose were utilized for the Running Buffalo Clover project. FMC will file for 501(c)3 status in the summer of 2009 using another source of funding. All funds provided by this grant were expended as described above.

## **Agencies and Groups Involved:**

Eastern Kentucky University's student chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Blue Grass Army Depot, Environmental Division  
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central KY WMA staff  
Tokico (USA), Inc. Berea, KY  
Bluegrass Whitewater Association  
Madison County District Conservationist and NRCS  
Eastern Kentucky University Environmental Research Institute  
Eastern Kentucky University Meadowbrook Farm staff  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

## **Date of Completion:**

Grant funds received were the source of funds enabling the initiation of numerous Muddy Creek projects were are on-going.

## **Final Photos:**

Attached