



Safe Water

CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE

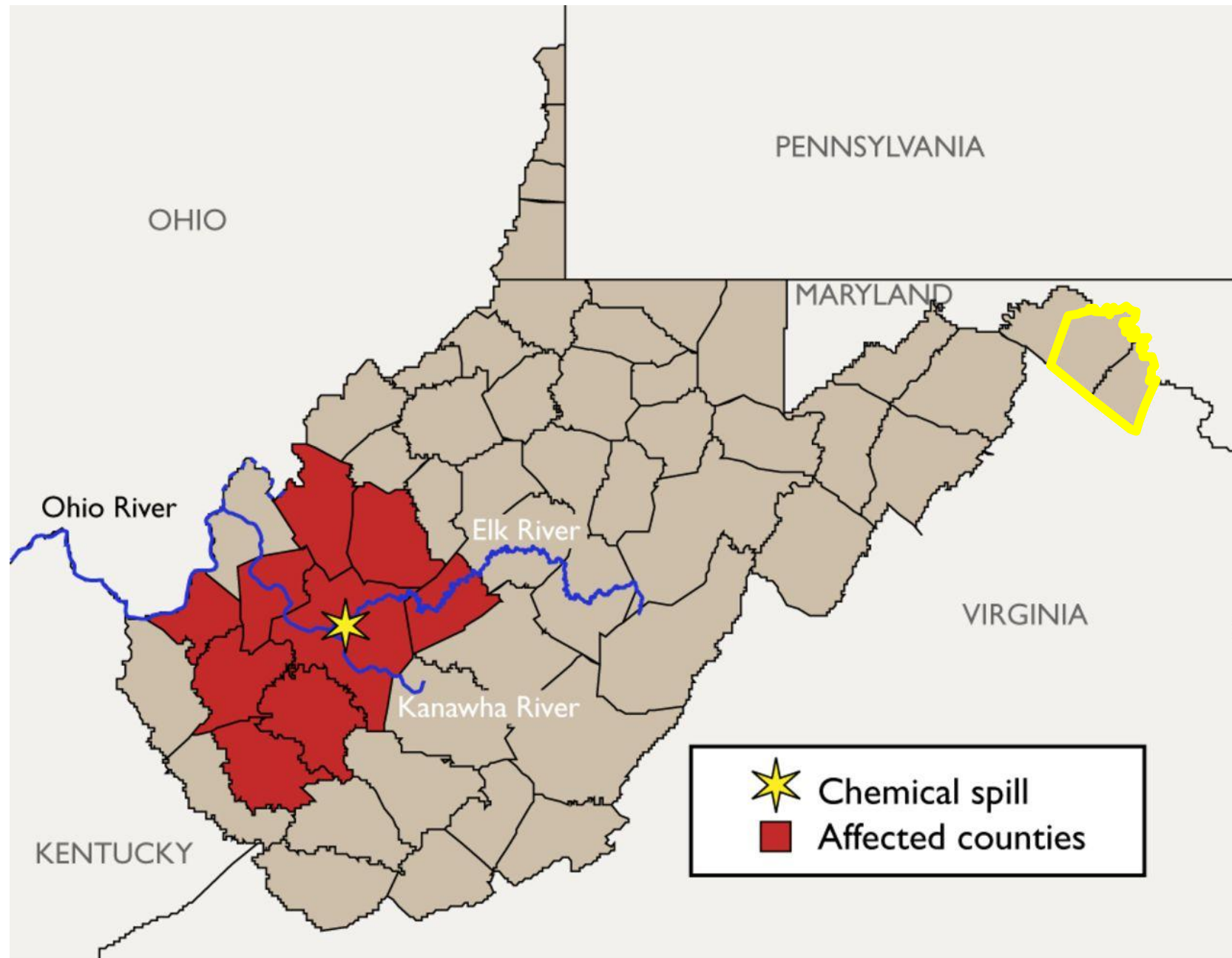
LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM: DEVELOPING COLLABORATIVE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS

JUNE 3RD, 2021

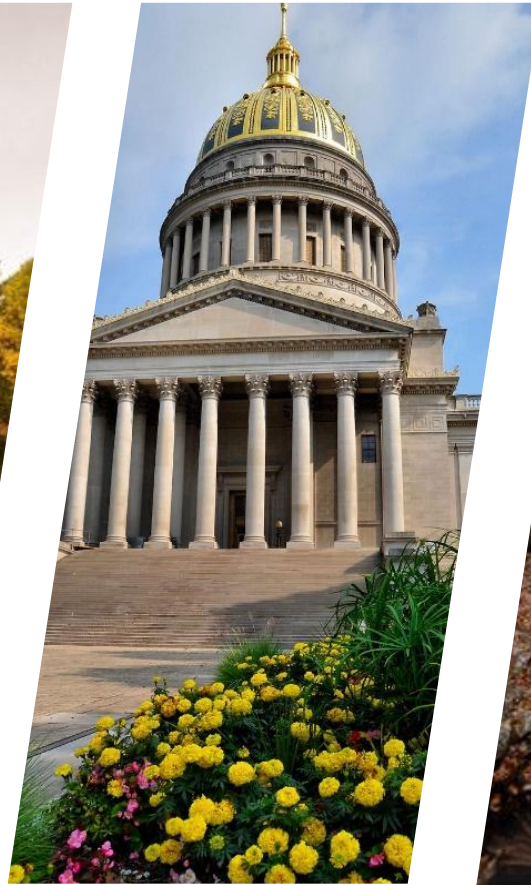
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A brief history...

- **January 2014** – Elk River Chemical Spill
- **March 2014** – SB 373 requiring all water utilities to have Source Water Protection Plans
- **July 2016** – SWPPs go into affect across the state
- **2017-2018** – WV Rivers creates Safe Water for WV Program and begins forming Safe Water Conservation Collaborative
- **2019-2020** – hired part-time coordinator, initial successes
- **2021** – strategic plan implementation



Who we are



What we do

Mission "Protecting Drinking Water through Land Conservation"

Vision "A vibrant network collaborating on land conservation and stewardship practices to protect safe, clean drinking water for communities in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia"

Goals

Education Community members, community leaders, and public policy makers understand the links between protected lands and safe drinking water and have taken action to support our efforts.

Implementation Accelerated adoption of conservation easements, implementation of stewardship practices, and community engagement in source water protection.

Funding & Collaboration A sustainable partnership with adequate financial resources, mechanisms for collaboration, and engaged partners providing leadership and support on action plan strategies.

Policy Strengthened policies that increase funding, resources, and time for land conservation, stewardship practices, and source water protection.



Lessons learned

“True collaboration is all about people, and their time is our most valuable asset.”

The good things

- Working together
- Cross-sector collaboration
- Building relationships
- Fostering trust
- Developing shared outcomes
- Implementing plans

...and the challenging things

- ...takes time
- ...getting people to come together
- ...with organizational history/baggage
- ...which must be maintained
- ...requires in-depth communications
- ...requires time, money, and people

...and the solutions

- ...capacity/jurisdiction to engage
- ...dedication to mission
- ...communication skills
- ...through 1:1 conversations
- ...through strategic planning
- ...working together



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WEST VIRGINIA
RIVERS

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