

Laura Jordan, External Affairs Manager  
Laura.Jordan@amwater.com  
Office: (304) 340-2089  
Mobile: (304) 932-7158  
[www.westvirginiaamwater.com](http://www.westvirginiaamwater.com)

## WATERSHED PROJECTS IN KANAWHA, BOONE AND FAYETTE COUNTIES RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS FROM WEST VIRGINIA AMERICAN WATER

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (April 19, 2012)** – West Virginia American Water announced today that four watershed initiatives in Kanawha, Boone and Fayette counties have earned financial support through the company's 2012 Environmental Grant Program. This first-annual program offers funding for innovative, community-based collaborative environmental projects within the company's service area that improve, restore or protect watersheds, surface water or groundwater supplies.

A panel of judges selected this year's winners from approximately a dozen grant applications, which were evaluated on such criteria as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability. West Virginia American Water awarded a total of \$5,000 to the following four projects:

- **Coal River Paddle to Tire:** The Coal River Group, based in St. Albans, plans to remove approximately 4,000 tires from the Big Coal and Little Coal rivers in four river cleanups. The Coal River Watershed is a tributary of the Kanawha River formed near the community of Alum Creek (Boone County). These cleanups, in partnership with the WVDEP, will introduce youth to stream ecology and sustainability. The purchase of canoes to float tires to designated pick-up locations will provide the basic elements needed for annual cleanups along the watershed.
- **Morris Creek Watershed Water Monitoring Enhancement Project:** Led by the Morris Creek Watershed Association based in Montgomery (Fayette & Kanawha counties), this project addresses the need for a sustainable water monitoring and data collection program as well as educational outreach. The Morris Creek Watershed is a tributary of the Upper Kanawha River. Since 2001, the association and its partners have made great strides to restore the stream from a waterway that was completely void of all aquatic life to now supporting three species of trout.
- **Paint Creek Tributary Stream Improvement Project:** Led by the Paint Creek Watershed Association based in Hansford (Kanawha County), this project will improve the water quality of Tenmile Fork – a tributary of Paint Creek. The stream, which is high in aluminum and magnesium, will be treated with limestone to

achieve significant reductions in heavy metals. The stream will be periodically sampled after treatment, and the association will perform customer education and outreach related to the project and to encourage volunteer participation.

- **Wolf Creek Stream Restoration Project:** The Plateau Action Network, based in Fayetteville, plans to restore the headwater tributary of Wolf Creek (Fayette County), which flows into the New River. The project will involve restoring 600 feet of stream and will reduce the frequency of flooding, improve drainage and restore stream habitat.

“In our first year offering this Environmental Grant Program, I’m excited that so many community groups share our dedication to the stewardship of West Virginia’s water resources,” said West Virginia American Water President Jeff McIntyre. “These grant recipients deserve our support since their projects protect and improve the watersheds that ultimately flow into our source waters, and we are proud of the opportunity to support such worthy projects.”

*West Virginia American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water services to approximately 600,000 people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs approximately 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in more than 30 states, as well as parts of Canada. More information can be found by visiting [www.westvirginiaamwater.com](http://www.westvirginiaamwater.com).*

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