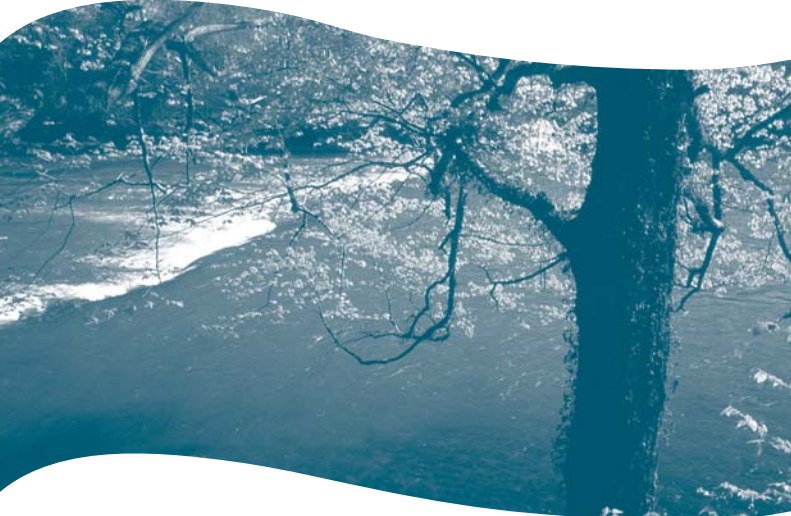




COOSA RIVER BASIN INITIATIVE

ANNUAL REPORT

2006



STATE OF THE BASIN

In 2006, Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) issued an updated list of the state's polluted streams, rivers and lakes that gave insight into trends impacting the Upper Coosa River Basin.

The list included more than 900 miles of streams and rivers and more than 13,000 acres of lakes in our river basin. Most notably, EPD added large portions of Carters Lake and Lake Allatoona to this list. The suspected source of pollution in both cases: non-point source pollution associated with urban runoff.

Difficult to identify, non-point source pollution washes off land and into our streams and rivers whenever it rains. Stormwater run-off carries a witch's brew to our streams--dirt from construction sites, chemical fertilizers from lawns and gardens, livestock manure from farms, and heavy metals and oils from city streets---to name just a few.

As the population grows, the problem of non-point source pollution also grows. This is especially true in the Etowah

River Basin where, in portions of this watershed, it is estimated that 54 acres of tree canopy are lost each day and replaced with 28 acres of concrete, asphalt and buildings.

Meanwhile, the summer drought highlighted the need for aggressive water conservation measures throughout the state and the need to limit interbasin transfers from the Coosa. These water transfers permanently remove water from the Coosa River Basin, reducing flows and lake levels in order to supply water users in Metro Atlanta. During the summer months, low flows, combined with hot water discharges from Georgia Power's Plant Hammond, resulted in water temperatures in the Coosa near the Alabama state line that exceeded state standards.

Thus, the summer of 2006 may provide a glimpse of things to come for the Coosa and its dependents unless restrictions are placed on interbasin transfers.

Through Georgia's Statewide Water Planning process, state officials have the opportunity to implement such restrictions. During 2006, stakeholders across the state, including CRBI, participated in numerous meetings to formulate this plan which is scheduled to be completed during 2007.

Against this backdrop, the states of Georgia and Alabama once again sat down at the table to reach an agreement on sharing the water of the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa river system. The states' governors emerged from closed-to-the-public, court-ordered mediation sessions in the later part of the year to announce that an agreement was imminent.

ADDRESSING THE ISSUES

As a Georgia Water Coalition (GWC) member, CRBI assisted in numerous lobbying efforts at state and local levels. During the 2006 General Assembly session, we lobbied successfully to defeat SB510, a bill that would have reduced buffers on streams feeding drinking water supplies. CRBI was also instrumental in introducing legislation restricting interbasin transfers, keeping this issue at the forefront of public debate.

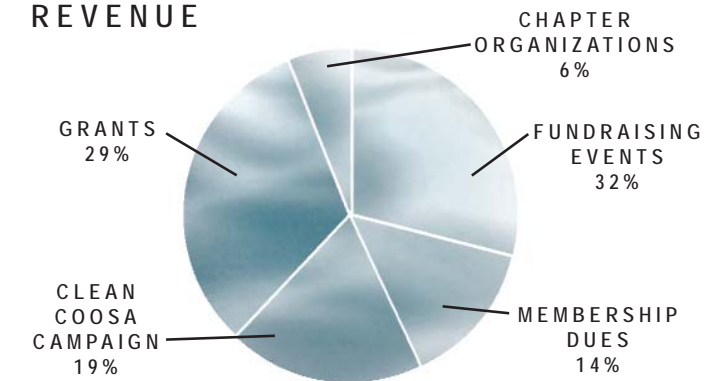
We lobbied for aggressive water conservation measures in Metro Atlanta, presenting information to legislative caucuses and testifying at legislative committee meetings, and we assisted in the successful restoration of funding for the state's Solid Waste Trust Fund and Hazardous Waste Trust Fund by getting 15 local governments in the Coosa River Basin to adopt resolutions supporting this funding.

CRBI ALSO...

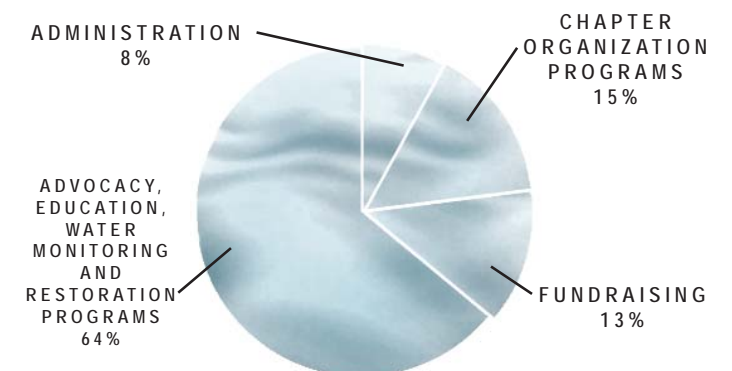
- Worked with local residents and state and federal regulatory agencies to propose solutions to bank erosion problems on the Etowah River associated with the operation of Allatoona Dam and opposed a plan to build a massive wall along the banks of the river to control bank erosion.
- Settled an appeal of a state permit regulating stormwater discharges from industrial facilities along with Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and Altamaha Riverkeeper. This settlement improved regulations and protected citizens' rights to review industrial stormwater management plans.
- Acted to protect 5,000-linear feet of streams and the federally threatened Cherokee darter by appealing a state environmental permit issued to the developer of a 98-acre commercial site near Canton.
- Participated in Get The Dirt Out: The Stormwater Project in which we conducted construction site evaluations in Polk, Bartow and Floyd counties and began a sediment survey on Hills Creek and Coots Lake in Polk County.
- Implemented a letter-writing campaign to Georgia and Alabama's governors calling on them to limit interbasin transfers from the Coosa River.
- Participated in Georgia's Statewide Water Planning Process as a member of the Coosa-Tallapoosa-Tennessee Basin Advisory Committee, advocating for policies restricting interbasin transfers.
- Stopped the continued pollution of Silver Creek in Rome by a Styrofoam manufacturing facility releasing its product to the creek through a stormdrain system.
- Responded to 22 calls to our Pollution Prevention Hotline, investigating issues ranging from sewage overflows in residential neighborhoods to sedimentation and erosion issues associated with construction activities.
- Worked to generate interest among local governments and citizens in creating a plan to permanently protect land along the Etowah River in Bartow and Floyd counties and improve public access to this river.
- Published more than 36 news articles, op-ed columns or letters to the editor in local and state newspapers on CRBI issues and participated in 10 local radio interviews.

CRBI FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Coosa River Basin Initiative
408 Broad Street
Rome, GA 30161

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 30
Rome, Georgia

EDUCATION

We reached more than 1,400 elementary school students in Floyd, Gordon, Polk and Cherokee counties with our non-point source pollution education program.

CRBI ALSO...

- Organized our 2nd annual Environmental Fair. Attended by more than 500 people, the Fair featured live music, exhibits from regional environmental groups and businesses, a raptor demonstration, an environmental scavenger hunt for children and an Environmental Quiz Bowl competition involving 40 kids from five elementary schools.
- Served on the Steering Committee for the 3rd Annual Celebrate Etowah, an 8-week, watershed-wide celebration of the Etowah River. CRBI sponsored steam clean-ups and paddling trips for the celebration which attracted more than 4,500 people to 30 scheduled events.
- Implemented a "Dump No Waste Drains to the Coosa River" stormdrain stenciling project, completing efforts at the Rome-Floyd County Public Library and Rome High School that involved 20 middle and high school students.
- Facilitated five paddle trips that allowed more than 100 people to experience our rivers and assisted with Georgia River Network's Paddle Georgia, a 7-day, 120-mile canoe adventure on the Etowah and Coosa rivers that involved more than 300 participants.
- Helped teach chemical and biological water monitoring to about 200 high school and college students in Floyd County.
- Educated more than 600 adults about the Coosa River Basin and CRBI through presentations to civic clubs and other organizations.

RESTORATION

Through five clean-up days, CRBI organized more than 370 volunteers to remove more than 18,320 pounds of trash from the Etowah and Coosa rivers and from Silver and Euharlee creeks. This debris included everything from derelict boats and shopping carts to tires and soda bottles.

Additionally, we organized 12 volunteers to participate in a Hands On Rome workday to improve trails and wildlife viewing areas at Lock and Dam Park.

WATER MONITORING

We continued to monitor the permits of 57 wastewater treatment facilities, documenting all spills and violations. We also submitted comments to EPD regarding 11 different facilities whose permits were renewed or modified.

We conducted extensive weekly water quality monitoring at eight sites on the Coosa between Ga. 100 and the Alabama state line, as well as monthly water monitoring at 27 sites, testing for dissolved oxygen, settleable solids, pH, air and water temperature, ammonia, phosphates, and nitrates.

Additionally, we certified 40 new Georgia Adopt-A-Stream citizen water monitors, through six group trainings and multiple individual trainings.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2006, CRBI set fundraising and membership records, on its way to meeting the largest budget in the organization's history. The organizational budget grew by 33 percent while our membership grew by 60 percent to more than 1800 members.

Additionally, CRBI...

- Assisted in the formation of an Ellijay-based chapter, the Coosawattee Watershed Alliance.
- Continued assisting our Calhoun-based chapter, the New Echota Rivers Alliance. NERA expanded to 150 members while implementing advocacy, education and restoration projects in Calhoun and Gordon County.
- Generated more than \$33,000 for CRBI programs through three major fundraisers, including our first-ever River Revelry attended by 150 supporters, our 6th Annual Canoe-a-thon involving more than 150 paddlers and our 5th Annual Fish Fry involving more than 36 volunteers who served 675 plates of catfish.
- Completed renovations to our historic Broad Street offices, utilizing more than 50 hours of volunteer labor.
- Continued to earn the support of foundations, receiving major grants from the Sapelo Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, the Fund for Wild Nature and Patagonia.

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR MONETARY AND IN KIND DONATIONS...

More than \$5000

Georgia River Network • Holly Rock LLC • Sapelo Foundation • State Mutual Insurance Co. • World Wildlife Fund

\$1000-\$3000

Cook Designs • Evans Construction Company • Fund for Wild Nature • R.H. Ledbetter Properties • Patagonia • Profile Extrusion • Temple-Inland • Tip Top Poultry • Wheeler's Building Supply

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Adventure Rome 'N Around • Amsouth Bank • Anheuser Busch Cartersville • Michael Carvalho • Carver & Carver Plumbing • Rick Causey • Dempsey Auction Company • Tom & Shauna Farmer • Greater Rome Bank • George Goldin • Robert Harbin • William Harbin, II • Ben & Jackie Harrison • Sue & Gus Hiller • Hooters • Lifoam Industries • MACTEC, Inc • Charlie May • Metal Container Corp • Mohawk Carpet Foundation • North GA Equipment Co. • Redmond Regional Medical Center • Rome News-Tribune • Sam's Club • SCANA Energy • Paul & Cindy Shumpert • Snowbird Mtn. Lodge • Suntrust Bank • Southeastern Mills • US Biofuels • United Community Bank • Vision Graphics • Ed & Allison Watters • Whittington & Jones CPA • Woman of the World Lingerie

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