

NEWS RELEASE:

Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA)

MONTOUR RUN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 15509

Pittsburgh, PA 15244-0509

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 24, 2018

CONTACT:

Robert C. Dolence, MRWA Board Member

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MRWA Moving Forward with \$1,119,089 AMD Treatment Project

In the coming months, construction will begin on a new passive water treatment system in the Montour Run Watershed contiguous to Mahoney Road in North Fayette Township located in western Allegheny County. The purpose of the system is to treat abandoned mine drainage (AMD) flowing to Milk Run, which is a tributary of Montour Run. Milk Run flows parallel to Mahoney Road and has been polluted for nearly a century. The discharge, known as MKR3, is the single largest source of acidity and aluminum in the Montour Run watershed.

This AMD has been flowing from an old, abandoned, underground coal mine into Milk Run since the early 1900s. Sulfur, typically pyrite, in and around the Pittsburgh number 8 coal seam oxidizes when exposed to air in the mine. When the oxidized sulfur comes into contact with ground water, it creates dissolved iron and sulfuric acid. The acid dissolves additional minerals, including aluminum, found in the clay strata underlying the coal seam. When the mine drainage that contains dissolved aluminum is mixed with alkaline or higher pH water, the aluminum precipitates out as a white substance, giving the stream a milky appearance.

The Montour Run Watershed Association has been working with government agencies and officials, private companies and environmental advocacy groups on the new passive treatment system for several years. The project is funded by a Range Resources reclamation in-lieu of penalty project (\$949,089), the U.S. Office of Surface Mining (\$150,000) and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Waterways (\$20,000). The Pennsylvania Department of

Environmental Protection (DEP); the Allegheny County Conservation District (ACCD); the not-for-profit Stream Restorations, Inc. (SRI); Independence Conservancy; landowners Continental Communities, LLC and Great Rentals, LLC; and the Washington County Conservation District have also been instrumental in seeing the project come to fruition.

BioMost, Inc., a design-build firm that specializes in passive treatment systems and has constructed other facilities within the Montour Run Watershed, is the MRWA's contractor that designed and permitted the system and will build the Milk Run treatment system in 2018 (www.biomost.com). Extensive design and permitting activities have been taking place since 2015 on the project. In the late fall of 2017, BioMost received the last of the necessary permits to begin construction. Ground breaking will take place when the weather breaks in the spring, most likely in March. The passive system will require no electricity, no pumps and no operator. The design uses natural limestone and gravity to treat the water. Once completed, the system will restore one mile of stream and improve Montour Run for miles by removing an estimated 72,000 pounds of acid and 7,000 pounds of aluminum per year.

The Montour Run Watershed Association will monitor the system and if necessary, see that corrective actions are taken. The funding from Range Resources mentioned above includes designated operation and maintenance funds of \$191,000 to ensure the system remains effective for decades to come.

For more information on the Montour Run watershed and other MRWA projects, visit www.mrwa.info.

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End of News Release

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P.O. Box 15509
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 10, 2017

CONTACT:

Mark Fedosick, MRWA President
412-956-0230

The S. Kent Rockwell Foundation Selects MRWA for \$100,000 Maintenance Grant

Pittsburgh, PA – The Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA) was selected to receive a \$100,000 grant by the S. Kent Rockwell Foundation. These funds will allow the MRWA to perform necessary maintenance on its passive water treatment systems.

The S. Kent Rockwell Foundation Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is dedicated to working with others in finding solutions to the problems that exist with our natural resources and wildlife areas. A goal of the S. Kent Rockwell Foundation is to continue to help the world provide resources to continue to fight against its own self-inflicted flaws and obstruction. The foundation believes that it is important not only to protect the existing resources that we have, but to also continue to work together to repair the damages that have occurred as our world has continued to develop. See

<http://skentrockwellfoundation.org/skrfoundation/demo/whoweare.html>

“It is our hope to continue to help spread awareness in the importance of promoting Conservation, Community, Education, and Innovation so that our goals for continued improvement can also be seen by others,” explained Rockwell Trustee Kris Rockwell. “And this grant to the MRWA falls squarely within our mission. We are pleased to be able to help the MRWA maintain a viable fishery with improved water quality. Because of the MRWA efforts, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission now stocks the stream with trout annually,” he said.

Mark Fedosick, President of the MRWA, expressed his gratitude to the S. Kent Rockwell Foundation and explained “Our passive treatment systems are in need of repair after being in place for as much as 15 years. Without the Foundation’s generous grant, pollutants of iron and acid would be coming back into Montour Run and would jeopardize its clean water and fishery status. We plan to use the funding to clean out and repair the North Fork, McCaslin Road, Boggs Road and Clinton Road projects.” For details on these projects see <http://www.mrwa.info/projects.html> .

The Montour Run Watershed is located in the southwest corner of Allegheny County approximately 12 miles from downtown Pittsburgh and is comprised of portions of six communities, Coraopolis, Imperial, and Findlay, North Fayette, Moon and Robinson Townships.

Established in April 2000, the Montour Run Watershed Association was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in order to protect the Montour Run, to remediate threats to the stream and its environ, and provide long-term stewardship of the Montour Run Watershed. This includes land, water, and biological resources of the watershed, as we strive to make the Montour Run valley healthier for all its residents. We accomplish our goals through formal and informal partnerships with citizens groups; businesses; local, regional, state and federal governmental agencies; elected officials; the general public; and foundations such as the S. Kent Rockwell Foundation. The MRWA actively conducts watershed assessment projects, public outreach and education projects, and stream improvement projects. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.mrwa.info/index.html> .

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