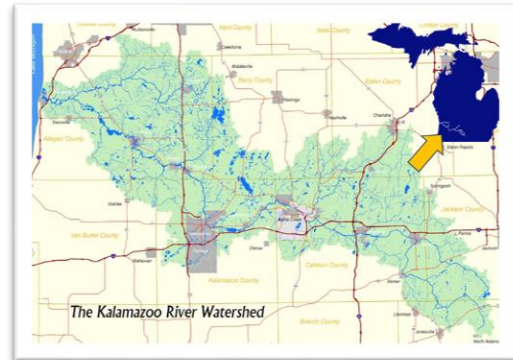




## Kalamazoo River Watershed Council Activities Report for Fiscal Year 2024 – A Brief Summary

Dear Partners and Stakeholders,

I am pleased to provide this brief summary of our activities across all major project categories at the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council (KRWC) during our 2024 fiscal year, from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. A more detailed report is also available, and can be accessed from our website ([www.kalamazooringer.org](http://www.kalamazooringer.org)). As a 501c3 nonprofit formed in 1993 to be the Public Advisory Council of the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern, our mission is to restore and protect the health of the Kalamazoo River, its tributaries, and its watershed by collaborating with the community, government agencies, local officials, and businesses. The largest portion of our funding comes from government grants; however, private donations from individuals and businesses who are aligned with our mission are also essential to our success. We are especially grateful for this year's Watershed Benefactors, including Bell's Brewery, Stryker, and Georgia Pacific. The following key initiatives have driven our mission forward over the past year.



### *AOC Public Advisory Council (PAC) Grant*

Our role as the Kalamazoo River Area of Concern (AOC) Public Advisory Council (PAC) has been central to our organization since 1993 and to efforts focused on restoring the Kalamazoo River from the negative impacts of aging dams and contamination of the river environment with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). Our work with all parties involved in restoring the river from these impacts provides important public access to the decisions and progress that are leading toward a cleaner, healthier Kalamazoo River.



### *Kalamazoo River Youth Experience (KRYE) Grant*

Through a combination of government and private funding and the efforts of key partner organizations, our Kalamazoo River Youth Experience (KRYE) program has become the cornerstone of our new efforts to better engage disadvantaged youth in the benefits of a healthy Kalamazoo River watershed. This year, working together, we provided new indoor and outdoor experiential learning opportunities for five youth-focused nonprofit organizations. We are committed to offering this program in the next fiscal year.

### *TMDL Administration Contract*

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Administration project funded by a group of signatories to the Lake Allegan/Kalamazoo River Phosphorus TMDL, continues to support our efforts to monitor and reduce nonpoint source pollution levels in the river, including phosphorus and sediment. Our



main activities included coordinating quarterly meetings with stakeholders to review water quality data, planning and executing the Kanoë the Kazoo (KtK) program to raise awareness of nonpoint pollution concerns, and managing financial reporting and TMDL program compliance.

*Eat Safe Fish/River Walker Grant*

Our Eat Safe Fish program implementation efforts, carried out through a grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, continue to provide critical information to the community about safe fish consumption practices.



*Forest to MI Faucet (FTMF) Grant*

Our work as part of the Forest to MI Faucet program, funded through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, serves to increase public awareness of the value of healthy forests to the protection of drinking water for residents in the Kalamazoo River watershed.

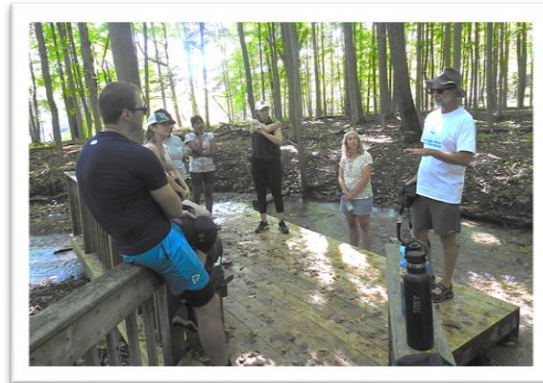
*Responding to New Opportunities, Concerns, and Funding Initiatives That May Impact Kalamazoo River Water Quality*

Addressing the many new inquiries that we receive from people who care about the Kalamazoo River as well as the new concerns not covered by existing grants is also critical to our mission. In this fiscal year, we worked to minimize potential adverse impacts to the river from development of the Blue Oval Battery Park in Marshall, supported efforts to address the Morrow Dam STS sediment release catastrophe, began a new initiative to reduce trash inputs to the river, and more.

*KRWC Organizational Development and Administration*

Our administrative efforts are the foundation that supports all of our projects, and included meeting financial management and reporting needs, building new partnerships and pursuing new sources of funding to support our work, and hiring KRWC's first Community Outreach and Event Coordinator.

This year has been one of significant progress and growth for the KRWC. Each of the topic areas described above contributes to our ongoing work to help restore the Kalamazoo River and engage the community in the enjoyment, learning, and stewardship of this valuable southwest Michigan natural asset. I am very grateful for the support of our partners, stakeholders, and community members as we continue this important work together.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas B. McLaughlin".

Dr. Douglas McLaughlin  
Executive Director  
Kalamazoo River Watershed Council