At this time each year we reflect back on the accomplishments and challenges of the previous twelve months. But no year stands alone, especially this one. This marks the end of our three-year Strategic Plan, as well as the close of the three complete years of our partnership as president and board chair in leading River Network.

Three years ago, we began a journey to invigorate River Network’s brand and value proposition. With care and deliberation, we focused our attention on three areas: strong champions (strengthening coalitions, organizations, and leaders), clean water (promoting clean water solutions and innovations) and ample water (advancing water supply security and sustainability). We also launched a new website and upgraded our internal systems, technologies, and culture of inclusion, building the backbone necessary for River Network’s success and evolution.

By dreaming big yet being methodical, garnering the support and enthusiasm of our funding and strategic partners, and digging deeply to expand our impact, we grew our net assets from slightly over $860,000 in 2014 to $1.89 million in 2017. Along the way, we invested in 29 coalitions working toward greater impact in specific geographies and on threats to our rivers and communities, provided financial resources for 134 local events, attracted over 5,000 to our educational events, and reached nearly 200,000 with important news about the waters of our country.

These past three years also witnessed a significant shift in the social and political context of water. As became clear to our team through the events harming the people of Flint, Michigan, and other areas threatened by contamination, flood risk, and drought, the costs of water are not equally distributed, nor are the gifts of access to healthy rivers. We brought these issues to center stage through our quarterly River Voices publication and blogs, our national River Rally annual conferences, and our first Trends Report: Our Water, Our Future. We also did hard work ourselves, examining our values, how we do our work and with whom, as well as our recruitment practices.

As we look forward, we are excited to ignite the power of the network to build a future that includes clean and affordable water as well as healthy rivers for all. In fact, the power of the network will be a central tenet in our next strategic plan which we anticipate releasing in early 2018. This will be a game-changing moment for us, requiring that we grow our community to achieve impact as well as address water equity and inclusion. That’s an exciting way to celebrate our 30th anniversary!

We humbly thank all who have helped us accomplish so much during the past three years—staff, volunteers, members, and supporters. We are also excited to welcome Rebecca Wodder as new chair of River Network’s board of directors. Together, we are ready to move with confidence into our next chapter.

With gratitude,

Nicole Silk    Lynn Broaddus
President    Board Chair
CLEAN WATER
We promote clean water solutions and innovations. More specifically, we improve local understanding of the causes of water quality decline, advance policies and restoration practices that can turn this situation around and sustain improvement over the long term, and foster opportunities for expanded impact through collaboration.

DEFENDING CLEAN WATER
Clean-water safeguards, science-based policy-making, and federal funding for environmental protection and community health are under attack by Congress and the current administration. Responding to our network members’ call for increased communication and clarity on critical federal issues, River Network actively synthesized federal policy information and regularly updated our state networks and partners, providing key resources and opportunities to take action.

In 2017, we developed and produced the Federal Budget Toolkit explaining the budget process and how to best tell stories about the impact of federal budget cuts on local communities. Working with the Clean Water for All Campaign, we developed materials on the benefits of environmental and public health regulations for groups to customize to increase strong, documented support from their communities. In the Pacific Northwest and Delaware Basin, particularly, we helped groups connect local efforts to safeguard clean water protections and fight against rollbacks of our bedrock laws and policies.

CONQUERING URBAN WATER CHALLENGES
Over the last decade, flooding and weather-related natural disasters have become more severe worldwide. 2017 was no exception. With the goal of fostering more resilient communities, River Network launched the Urban Flooding and Equity for Vulnerable Communities Collaborative to support organizations working at the intersection of water, equity, and climate change. We provided funding, training, and networking support to organizations in Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, Oregon, and Rhode Island. They are engaging community members in identifying and documenting instances of localized flooding, proposing community-informed and -led solutions, and moving local decision-makers to support solutions that advance equitable outcomes.

River Network continues to coordinate the Urban Waters Learning Network (UWLN), now a 350-plus member group, to provide peer-to-peer support and best practices for protecting and restoring urban waters and urban communities. We hosted 12 webinars that engaged 662 individuals, published 10 Impact Stories showcasing urban waters successes, and convened 70-plus members at a day-long Urban Waters Learning Network Forum to explore ways to foster stronger upstream-downstream connections in communities. In 2017, our first ever Urban Waters Learning Network Awards celebrated Network members’ achievements improving their waterways and revitalizing neighborhoods in cities across the U.S. through stormwater management, environmental education, and community engagement.

FACILITATING COMMUNITY RIVER CLEAN-UPS
Businesses depend on clean water just as much individual citizens. River Network has partnered with Anheuser-Busch facilities across the U.S. since 2010 to engage corporate employees and their families with local river and water conservation organizations. In 2017, River Network supported 21 unique river, lake, and coastal clean-up events, including four new events in Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and Texas. More than 17,000 volunteers donated 45,000 hours of time to remove 336,000 pounds of litter, plant 2,500 native trees and shrubs, remove 1,700 invasive plants, and restore 500 miles of river and streambank. These events supported and leveraged River Network’s diverse base of knowledgeable local experts to design events which have lasting benefit to their communities’ water resources.

“...the experience really helps you to appreciate how much of our trash just ends up in the environment. It’s not ‘out of sight, out of mind’ when you throw away your trash. It’s always going somewhere it shouldn’t and impacting natural habitats."

—Caroline, Great LA River Clean Up volunteer

River Rally 2017: GRAND RAPIDS
River Rally 2017 attracted 476 water advocates and enthusiasts from 44 U.S. states and Canada to learn, celebrate, and gain inspiration for a future of clean and ample water for people and nature. Held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan from May 8–11, participants and presenters shared practical solutions for keeping our rivers wet, clean, and healthy, as well as approaches for strengthening coalitions and organizations for greater impact. The event was framed by the challenges surrounding the politics of water across the country.

River Rally attendees included staff and board members of local, regional, and national NGOs; representatives of tribal nations; municipal, state, and federal employees; engaged corporate leaders; as well as lawyers, engineers, academic experts, community representatives, and college students. Thanks to more than $120,000 in scholarship funding, 199 participants who would not otherwise have been able to attend received assistance to participate and were able to bring the benefits of Rally back to their communities.

AMPLE WATER

We advance water supply security and sustainability. More specifically, we grow local caretaker familiarity with the challenges and opportunities associated with securing an ample supply of water for healthy rivers and communities, craft solutions that meet both human and ecosystem needs, and foster expanded impact through collaboration.

PROMOTING WATER-SMART DEVELOPMENT

By 2050, the U.S. population is projected to grow to approximately 439 million, a 42 percent increase from 2010. Development in expanding communities across the U.S. means increasing stress on watersheds and significant impact on water quality and quantity. And yet, with smart development, a community’s future net water use can be neutral or even reduced. Over the last three years, River Network collaborated with the Alliance for Water Efficiency and the Environmental Law Institute on Net-Bloc, a toolkit that helps communities create locally tailored policies to keep water use at the same or reduced levels as populations grow. By encouraging or requiring developers to integrate water-use offsets (like replacing inefficient fixtures with efficient ones) in land-use and water management planning, communities stretch water supplies, decrease need for new infrastructure, and help ensure ample water for fish, wildlife, and recreation. River Network worked with citizen groups and seven partner communities in California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Montana, New Mexico, Texas, and Wisconsin to gather information to develop the Net Blue toolkit and presented it to the first wave of communities and organizations interested in adopting this innovative approach.

MATCHING WATER PROJECTS WITH CORPORATE FUNDING

Water is an essential ingredient in most consumer products, often a critical component of source materials and the manufacturing process. With enduring drought, climate change, and increasing concerns about water supply for nature and humans, interest in investing in projects that restore or replenish water is growing, particularly among companies with corporate sustainability and water-neutrality goals. However, local NGOs often don’t have the capacity to identify and pitch projects to national corporate investors. As a result, larger NGOs have received millions of corporate funding over the past 15 years, leaving smaller NGOs out of the picture. To expand financial support for worthy projects sponsored by smaller NGOs, River Network teamed with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). This year, with support from the Turner Foundation and the Coca-Cola Company, we launched the Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank, an online clearinghouse that connects businesses with on-the-ground projects that restore river flows and recharge ground water. River Network dues-paying members can upload eligible projects into the Project Bank. Businesses can then be “matched” with projects, a win-win solution. Our next step is to educate our network about this incredible resource.

EXPANDING RIVER HEALTH AND RECREATION IN COLORADO

Many communities in Colorado have economic interest in maintaining healthy rivers but few have strategies to protect streamflows. River Network seeks to change that predicament. Colorado’s Water Plan provides a groundbreaking opportunity for the people of Colorado to have a voice in their water future. The Water Plan identifies a gap (insufficient water) to meet the flow needs of high value rivers and streams. Local coalitions and watershed partnerships have an important role to play in the design and implementation of solutions to address this gap. This year, the State of Colorado allocated $5 million to support local projects that protect or restore watershed health and stream function, including the development of stream management plans.

With support from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Gates Family Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Walton Family Foundation, River Network has launched a two-year project to enrich and increase the number of local coalitions by demystifying stream management planning, building a repository of technical and capacity-building resources, and fostering collaboration with Colorado’s water management, NGO, academic, research, and science communities. The resulting restoration will support Colorado’s burgeoning recreation industry, a primary economic driver that accounts for $6.4 billion in annual direct expenditures in western Colorado alone. This project gives local communities the tools and awareness to do more for their local waters.

COLORADO RIVER FLOW RESTORATION

The Colorado River supports 40 million people, 4 million acres of farmland, 16 million jobs, and $1.4 trillion in annual economic activity on its 1,450-mile journey through seven states and into Mexico. Literally the lifeblood of the region, it is also over allocated; more water is committed through compacts, water rights, and other agreements than is actually in the system. During the past few decades, conservation organizations have invested in policy reforms and restoration projects to keep more water in the river for the benefit of nature and downstream communities. During the past ten years, increasingly large investments in environmental water transactions—voluntary agreements between conservation organizations and farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, utilities, and others to keep water in, or restore flows to, the river—have begun to make a difference.

Today, efforts include over 100 conservation practitioners and a handful of NGOs. Over the past two years, with support from the Walton Family Foundation and previously the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, River Network has helped connect practitioners, build greater competency in environmental flow transactions, and examine conditions necessary for success. This year, we facilitated a three-part webinar series to build common ground among ranchers, farmers, and conservationists; hosted a multi-day meeting in Yuma, Arizona, that provided education on large basin investments and the challenges of stewarding water across state lines; helped practitioners remain connected to each other outside of events; and supported a film exploring how ranching and river health can be compatible. According to participant feedback, 100 percent gained crucial knowledge that they will apply to their work.

“River Network is playing a valuable role in bringing together the NGO practitioners engaged in water transactions, ensuring players in far-flung locations get the benefit of a basin-wide perspective.”

–Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River Project, National Audubon Society
HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

STRONG CHAMPIONS
We strengthen coalitions, organizations, and leaders. More specifically, we ensure that new and existing leaders, organizations, and coalitions are strong, effective, sustainable, results-oriented, and equipped to make the greatest impact for our rivers and other waters in a rapidly changing world.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY WITH FUNDRAISING ESSENTIALS
Our staff continues to provide individualized, in-depth services to build the capacity of organizations across the country. This past year we provided direct support to over 70 organizations on a wide array of topics—facilitating the development of strategic plans and advocacy campaigns, helping them secure the financial resources they need to carry out their missions, guiding their exploration of organizational collaborations or mergers, and training their boards to lead their organizations effectively and strategically. We provide these services in person—traveling onsite to work with board-staff teams—or through individualized mentoring sessions at regional meetings and River Rally. Our staff also led training sessions at regional conferences and meetings, including the Delaware River Watershed Forum, Watershed Connections (a statewide conference for Pennsylvania watershed groups), the Michigan Watershed Summit, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum and others. As we near the end of the year, we have launched Fundraising Essentials for Success, a new five-month training series to help groups learn essential best practices and strategies for focused, effective fundraising.

THE NEW CONSERVATION LENS: EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION
We believe that clean, affordable water is a fundamental human right. Every human being needs water, but not every human being has access to it. River Network promotes solutions to close gaps of water inequity across organizations and communities. This year, we clarified and publicized our organizational commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), and our Board EDI Committee finalized a Case for EDI, vital to River Network’s mission. Also we developed our Principles for Equitable and Inclusive Work to guide us as we re-envision our activities through the lens of equity and inclusion.

In 2017, River Rally keynote speakers illuminated issues of inequity and exclusion in river conservation and water advocacy arenas, exploring the lack of diversity and the role of privilege at the root of the conservation movement, inequitable impacts of contaminated and unaffordable drinking water, and lessons learned from Standing Rock.

We hosted two seminal online EDI trainings that drew the largest audience ever to attend a River Network webinar. And we explored local stories of water equity and civic engagement in our spring issue of River Voices.

BOOSTING BACKYARD CONSERVATION WITH RAIN BARRELS
Conversations about water conservation begin at the individual and community level. River Network has partnered with Coca-Cola North America since 2003 to supply free upcycled rain barrels to communities across the U.S. and Canada through the National Rain Barrel Program. In 2017, River Network connected 47 different local organizations with 1,400 rain barrels made from recycled Coca-Cola ingredient drums. More than 3,200 people attended one of 53 workshops in 25 states, including 18 workshops in low-income communities. These rain barrels will help homeowners reduce their water footprint and save money on water bills by capturing up to 1.8 million gallons of rainwater annually. This reduces demand for treated tap water, limits stormwater runoff, saves water for use during droughts, and most importantly encourages strong local river and water champions.

“Our organization is just starting to have discussions about how our work can become more inclusive and equitable. It can feel like such an overwhelming and heavy lift. The sessions covered a lot of ground, but also helped me see a number of entry points that can become our focus so we can start digging deeper (rather than spinning our wheels all over the place) and making some progress.”

—EDI webinar participant

“Conversations about water conservation begin at the individual and community level. River Network has partnered with Coca-Cola North America since 2003 to supply free upcycled rain barrels to communities across the U.S. and Canada through the National Rain Barrel Program. In 2017, River Network connected 47 different local organizations with 1,400 rain barrels made from recycled Coca-Cola ingredient drums. More than 3,200 people attended one of 53 workshops in 25 states, including 18 workshops in low-income communities. These rain barrels will help homeowners reduce their water footprint and save money on water bills by capturing up to 1.8 million gallons of rainwater annually. This reduces demand for treated tap water, limits stormwater runoff, saves water for use during droughts, and most importantly encourages strong local river and water champions.

“This was a great opportunity for my kids to learn about the water cycle and the positive impacts that rain barrels can have on our garden.”

—Participant in Coosa Riverkeeper’s Montgomery Alabama workshop

Coca-Cola Rain Barrel Workshop. Photo courtesy of Colorado Foundation for Water Education.

Coca-Cola Rain Barrel Workshop. Photo courtesy of Pace Academy.

Our organization is just starting to have discussions about how our work can become more inclusive and equitable. It can feel like such an overwhelming and heavy lift. The sessions covered a lot of ground, but also helped me see a number of entry points that can become our focus so we can start digging deeper (rather than spinning our wheels all over the place) and making some progress.”

—EDI webinar participant
Our heartfelt thanks go to the following individuals, corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies for charitable contributions, grants, and support to River Network during our 2017 fiscal year. Their support for River Network’s programs and projects makes everything we do possible.

FOUNDATIONS, GOVERNMENT, AND NONPROFITS

Anonymous
Alabama Rivers Alliance
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Alliance for Water Efficiency
Amazon Smile Foundation
American Rivers
Bullitt Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Clear Choruses Clean Water
Coca-Cola Foundation
Colorado Water Conservation Board
East Coast Greenways Alliance
Earth Share of Oregon
Coca-Cola Foundation
Charles Stuart Mott Foundation
Bullitt Foundation
American Rivers
Amazon Smile Foundation
Alliance for Water Efficiency
Alabama Rivers Alliance
AND NONPROFITS

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS TO RIVER NETWORK DURING OUR 2017 FISCAL YEAR

Their support for River Network’s Conservation Network Foundation (NFWF)
Water Environment Federation
Wege Foundation
Weinco Family Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
William Penn Foundation
CORPORATIONS
Anheuser-Busch
Brownsboro Retail Operations
Coca-Cola Company, Inc.
Founders Brewery
Klean Kanteen
McWane Foundation
Patagonia
Prada Outdoor Brands
Storm Water Systems, Inc.
The Fellowship
The Rain Barrel Depot
Your True Nature, Inc.

INDIVIDUALS (UNDER $1,000)

Mollie Ayer
Hilary and Seth Arens
Moid Alwy
Jolyon Artington
Lindsey Babbitt
Judy Ball
 просмотр следующих инициатив: 1. Увеличение объема финансирования деятельности River Network.
2. Поддержка и развитие сети национальных водных ресурсов.
3. Укрепление связей с местными сообществами.
4. Прекрасная экология и здоровье.
5. Улучшение качества жизни для людей.

A LEGACY OF CRITICAL SUPPORT, NATIONALLY

“Think globally; act locally. That adage is what River Network is all about. River Network provides information and tools that help folks across the country with their local rivers. This assistance is critical to the future of our rivers, be they urban, rural, or suburban. That’s why I support River Network.” — Suzi Wilkins Berl, Asheville, North Carolina

Suzi Wilkins Berl, Legacy supporter.

We are grateful to Suzi and others who support the River Network community well into the future by making a planned gift to River Network. There are many ways to support our work and to leave a legacy of strong champions for our rivers and waters. Please contact us at 303-736-2724 or development@rivernetwork.org if you are interested in learning more or if you would like to share your own plans for leaving a legacy.

DONORS

The Healdwaters Society recognizes individuals and families who contribute $1,000 or more annually to River Network. We thank the following Healdwaters Society members for their generous support during our fiscal year 2017.

Tod Ambs and Beth Wentzel
Catherine and Paul Armington
Suzi and E. Ennals Berl
Alan Black
Bill and Joanne Brandt
Lynn Broaddos and Mark Gorelick
Walker Brock
Dall and F. Dixon Brooke
Chris Brown and Mary Rollefson
Stuart and Joanna Brown
Britt and Judy Butler
Yvon and Malinda Cheuinhair
Susan Clark
Sally Davidson
Virginia De Lima
Mary Ann Dickinson
Muffy and Andy DiSabatino
Margo Farnsworth and Jim Pasco
Fresh Sound Foundation
Vivian Friederick
Peggy Hill
Marc Hult
Tammy and Eva Latoussak
Scott Low

Karen Wogslan
Victoria Yu
Robert Zimmerman

IN-KIND DONORS
Anheuser-Busch
Basket Art House
Christ Brown and Mary Rollefson
Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation
Flewelling and Mitton, PC
Founders Brewery
Peggy Hill
Healing Our Waters–Great Lakes Coalition
Beth Stewart
Rebecca Wodder and James Van Eren

Mary McFadden and Dr. Lawrence Stiller
Katherine Moore
Jack Ohly
George Ohrstrom
Margaret Purves
Jon Radtke
Elizabeth Raisbeck and Zell Steever
James and Amy Ray
Dr. Robert and Joan Rechtin
Brian Richter
Gary Ridder and David Albersworth
F. Peter Rose
Frank Schmitz
Arlene Silk and Douglas Giancoli
Thomas Silk and Kathleen Foote
Paul and Margaret Sloan
Bill Stetson and Jane Watson Stetson
Greer Tidwell
Dan Valens and Rex Holt
Marion Weber
Rebecca Wodder and James Van Erend
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

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** Includes River Rally, Membership, Communications, and other Community Engagement programs.

Audited financials and form 990 will be available online and by request.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as of September 30, 2017 ($ thousands)

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<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</td>
<td>$2,074</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STAFF*

Katherine Baer, Director of Science and Policy
Caroline Bott, Mid-Atlantic Leadership Development Manager
Ryan Carter, Information Technology Specialist
Jorie Emory, Director of Community Strategies
Adam Griggs, Science Manager
April Ingle, Science and Policy Associate
Gayle Killam, Science and Policy Deputy Director
Zachary Lance, Community Engagement Coordinator
Francisco (Paco) Olarevies, Great Lakes Leadership Development Manager
Radha Marcum, Director of Marketing and Communications
Nicole Silk, President/CEO
Nicole Seltzer, Science and Policy Manager
Alice Srinivasan, Director of Community Engagement
Diana Toledo, Director of Leadership Development
Emer Wall, Research and Communications Assistant
Tara Watkins, Director of Finance
Victoria Yu, Membership and Operations Associate

*Current board members, STAG, as of September 30, 2017

SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (STAG)*

Robert J. Naiman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Washington
Seattle, WA
Mary C. Freeman, Ph.D., Research Ecologist, USGS
Athens, GA
Jonathan G. Kean, Ph.D., Lead Biologist, USGS
W. Trenton, NJ
Christopher P. Konrad, Ph.D., Research Hydrologist, USGS
Tacoma, WA

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals who donated their time, expertise and services to make our work possible this year.

Suzi Wilkins Berl
Kendall Gilbert
Barb Horn
Nancy Kissane
John Kinch
Ellen Kohler
Bailey Lynne
Kala Megrdichian
Chauncey Moran
Mary Nagy
John Wathen
Bill Wilkhuis

*Includes Foundation, Corporate, and Government Grants
** Includes Registrations, Membership Dues, and Technical Assistance Fees

Annual Report 2017
River Network
River Network
River Network
River Network
Mission, Vision, and Focus

River Network empowers and unites people and communities to protect and restore rivers and other waters that sustain all life. We envision a future of clean and ample water for people and nature, where local caretakers are well-equipped, effective, and courageous champions for our rivers. Our three strategies for focused investment are strong champions, clean water, and ample water.

www.rivernetwork.org