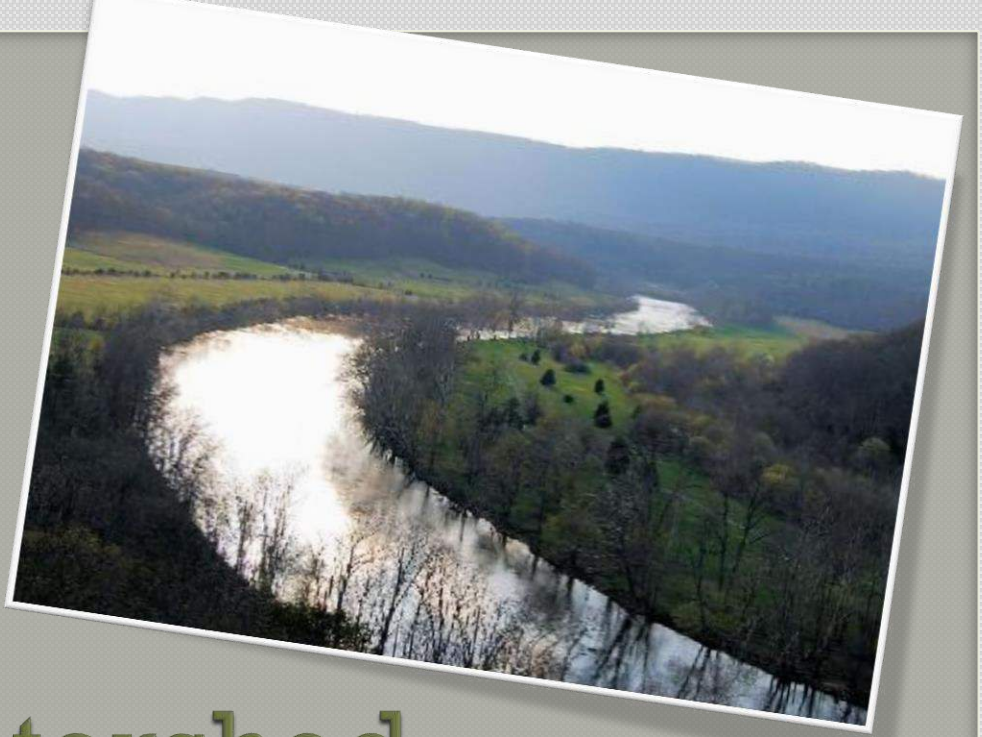


South River Watershed Contamination Public Outreach Comparison

Donald S. Kettelkamp, DVM, MPH

Back ground

- Practicing Veterinarian for 16 years
- Currently Veterinary Medical Officer with the USDA
- Final project for the completion of Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Iowa (Graduated May 2018)
- Practicum idea from Mike Liberati
- David Hirschman practicum advisor

Practicum Project

- Compare & contrast public outreach strategies used in South River mercury remediation with other sites
- Discover public outreach strategies for the possible use in the Shenandoah watershed

Data Collection

Shenandoah Watershed public outreach

Methods Used

- Phone Interview
  - Project Coordinator
  - Writer and journalist for SRST
- Web search

Public outreach at other sites

Methods Used

- Boolean worded web-search
- Phone Interviews

Shenandoah Watershed Public Outreach Continued

- Comprehensive Public Outreach
- Few novel outreach strategies found
- Enhance strategies already in use

Remediation Sites Researched

32 sites researched

- **28 CERCLA sites**
- **4 RCRA sites**

  - 17 of the sites researched had intriguing public outreach strategies

Many more remediation sites to research

Public Outreach Used Elsewhere

Honeywell and Onondaga Lake , Central New York State

- Honeywell Hometown Solutions
  - A corporate citizenship initiative that provides STEM programs for students and teachers
    - Summer Science Week
    - FMA Live! – interactive concert that teaches physics

Public Outreach Used Elsewhere

Honeywell and Onondaga Lake continued

- Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps
  - Classroom worksheets and study guides

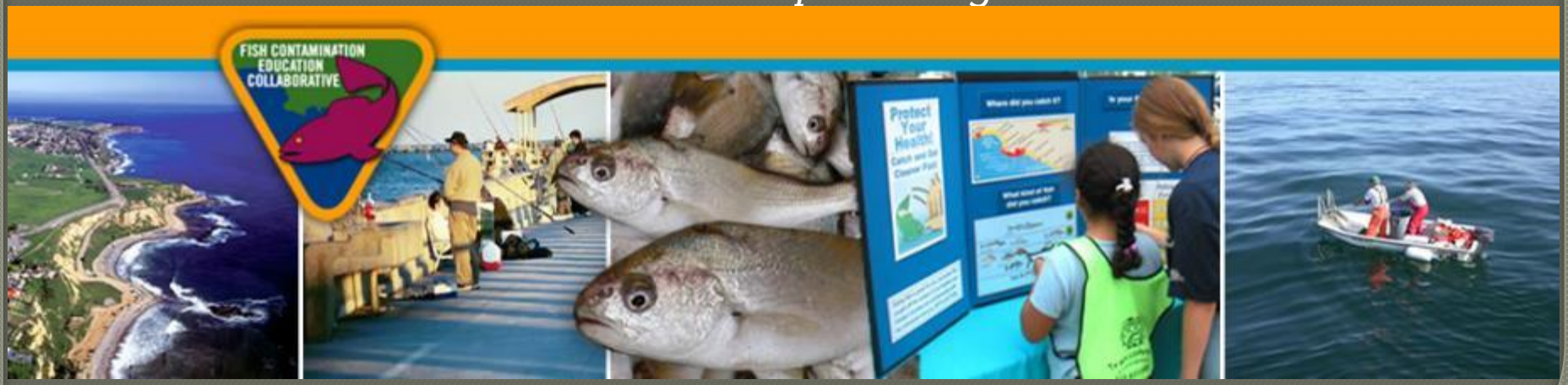
    http://www.lakecleanup.com/habitat-conservation/onondaga-lake-conservation-corps/
  - Christopher Lajewski of OLCC and the Audubon Society

Public Outreach Used Elsewhere

Montrose Chemical in Torrence, CA

- Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC).
  - angler and community outreach
  - Developed through the Institutional Controls Program with the EPA

www.pvsfish.org



Public Outreach Used Elsewhere

Blackburn and Union Privileges in Walpole, MA

- Social media outreach on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and a Blog site
- Technical support for use of social media outreach from the EPA

https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100000141.pdf

Outboard Marine Corp in Waukegan, IL

Eat Fish Safely Program Posters

- Cooperative effort between EPA, Illinois EPA, and Waukegan Community School Districts
  - **Youth poster contest**

Petro-Chemical Systems and Turtle Bayou in Liberty, TX

During remediation process

- Large portion changed back to natural state
- Also created public green space, walking and bike trails
    - Placards explaining the history, the remediation process, and ongoing concerns

California Gulch in Leadville, CO

The Greater Arkansa River Nature Association

- Stream Explorers program teaches
  - Fish anatomy
  - Fly taxonomy
  - Fishing lessons

- Public Lands Agency Career Exploration program
  - For high school juniors and seniors
  - Learn about careers in environmental conservation
  - Help with data collection and monitoring activities

Misc. Public Outreach

- County Fair education booth
- Watershed Heroes – set up by EPA to honor outstanding volunteers
- Get involved! – volunteer programs
- Create public green space for the disabled
- Public tours of the remediation site
- Photo essay of remediation history, process and future
- EPA Institutional Controls Program for resources

Links to More Information

- **Educational outreach**
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
    https://www.ed.gov/stem
  - Curriculum based on common core & Virginia core teaching standards
    http://ny.audubon.org/education/onondaga-lake-cleanup-classroom-worksheets
  - Teacher assistance programs
    http://puyallupriver.org/watershed-resource-library
  - Technical help available through the Institutional Controls Program with the EPA
    https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement

Links to More Information

- **Educational outreach continued**
  - Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) website:
    - http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/common_core/index.shtml

Links to More Information

- **Social Media Postings**
  - Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, and a Blog site
  - Technical assistance available from the EPA at https://semspub.epa.gov/work/HQ/100000141.pdf

Questions