

Inaugural Kentucky Watershed Network Collaborative Summit SUMMARY REPORT IN BRIEF

November 2-3, 2023

Lost River Cave, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Thanks again to our speakers and all attendees. We really appreciate all that you do to protect, restore, and celebrate Kentucky's waterways. We are thrilled to offer more opportunities to network, collaborate, learn, and take action for a greater impact on waterways together in 2024!

Check out [this great video](#) about Inaugural Kentucky Watershed Network (KWN) Summit and Lost River Cave by Jeff Kennedy, Fishing Local Waters.



We had 70 people representing all seven major river basins and a wide variety of affiliations from community volunteers, nonprofits, local government, state, federal, academic, consulting firms, and more! We were thrilled at the turnout and have planned KWN Summit at a larger venue in 2024.

We learned many lessons at/for The Summit that are helpful for guiding our thinking and planning right now. We want **growth** in the KWN. Ways we are working on that is by making The Summit more accessible for community/volunteers by including a weekend day and seeking travel stipend funding as well as planning and promoting the event earlier so more/diverse partners can plan to attend. We want to see elected officials so we are working hard to incorporate those folks into the event. We want the event to be more engaging for all watershed stewards so are offering multiple workshop tracks and geographically focused breakout groups.

Overall we want to see more **information sharing**. This is no small task, but we are planning more workshops throughout the state and are drafting aspects of the KY Watershed Stewardship Handbook. Furthermore, **KWN NOW HAS A FORUM!** Many of you said you want to stay connected to your Kentucky Watershed Network. Confluence for Watershed Leaders is hosting KWN in a private group so we can stay connected on the many aspects of information sharing we want and need. There will be a training on how to use the platform on April 17. You can access/join the forum now with [this link](#).

At the end of this abbreviated report, following the save the date page, you can see more complete data if you wish to see more details of what is driving our 2024 planning.

Thank you again for your participation in and evaluation of Kentucky Watershed Network so far. **We hear you and we are planning accordingly for 2024.**



SAVE THE DATES!

2024 Workshops TBA!

April 17, 2024 12:30-1:30pm EST - KWN Online Forum Virtual Training via Confluence For Watershed Leaders. Register [here](#).

May 17-19, 2024 – Wild & Scenic Red RiverFest

- Upper Red River Cleanup mini-documentary film screening
- Clean Water Event Tent + workshops
- KY Watershed Watch stream sampler certification training
- Red River fun float

August 25-26, 2024 – 2nd annual Kentucky Watershed Network Summit in Morehead, KY

- Networking time and informal socials including pre-conference social 8/24
- Speakers / presenters
- 2 workshop tracks
- Breakout groups
- Big Ideas for Big Improvements New & Next Steps
- KY Watershed Watch stream sampling certification training
- Site visits at Triplett Creek and Minor E Clark Fish Hatchery (raising hellbenders!)
- Recreation at Cave Run Lake



Inaugural Kentucky Watershed Network Collaborative Summit EXTENDED SUMMARY REPORT

November 2-3, 2023

Lost River Cave, Bowling Green,
Kentucky

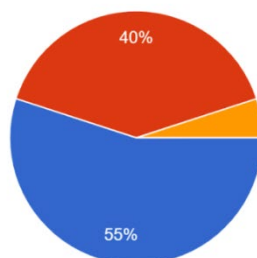
KWN goals & priorities

- Growth
 - more people engaged with KWN
 - Representation from more local volunteer/community groups, agencies, local elected leaders, and legislators
 - More diversity in age, race, geography, and expertise
 - Sub-committees
 - Partnerships
 - Mentorships
 - Advocacy toward common goals
- More information sharing
 - Communication across network – online forum
 - Funding resource list
 - Member directory
 - active watershed groups & watershed coordinators
 - Watershed professionals
 - Grant writers
 - Legal assistance
 - Transferrable graphics for common activities / messaging
 - Community Education & Action for Clean Water Playbook (aka KY Watershed Stewardship Playbook) with how-tos for volunteers to professionals – not working in silos and starting from scratch but building off past successes and lessons learned
 - Workshops in every basin every year



What is your level of satisfaction with the event?

20 responses



- very satisfied
- satisfied
- neutral
- somewhat dissatisfied
- very dissatisfied

FROM EVENT EVALUATION

Liked the most

- Breakout groups
- Networking
- Presentations
- Learning about various watershed
- Connecting local groups to agency staff
- Success stories
- Panel discussions
- Environmental justice
- One minute Big Ideas for Big Improvements
- Activism discussions
- Funding presentation



Disliked/room for improvement

- Crowded!!
- More time for interaction
- Want a statewide list of watershed plans and coordinators (contacts)
- More representation/discussion on agricultural contributions to watershed health
- Desire for more citizen representation
- Desire for concurrent sessions / separate focused tracks
- More focus



Enough time for networking & collaborating

- Many agreed there were good opportunities, especially if you participated in the informal socials and site visits
- Breakout groups were good but smaller groups desired and there was want/need for more!
- In the future, breakouts based on geography or common interest
- "speed dating" in the future

Enough time for learning?

- Most thought YES

- Some though there is never enough
- Desire for more field visits and visuals, not lectures

Valuable takeaways

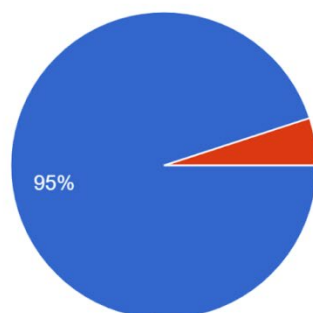
- Connections
 - New & varied partner potential
 - Getting in a room with Division of Water and Forestry
- information
- Evaluating personal/group priorities
- New perspectives on
 - watershed planning
 - funding
- Enthusiasm and motivation

What are you looking forward to for Kentucky Watershed Network in 2024

- Growth
 - More community/volunteer watershed individuals and groups
 - More (varied) agency representation
 - Elected officials
- Hands on workshops
- See ideas from KWN Summit 2023 put into motion!
- Networking
 - Connecting, learning, and sharing with/from others
 - Bringing awareness to issues in personal priority areas
- Collaboration
- Agriculture voices
- More focus
- More information on water testing opportunities to get the help needed to clean up waterways
- Opportunities to improve technical skills practiced by watershed coordinators to do common tasks, such as prioritize best management practices (BMPs)

After attending this event, do you think that there is a need for the Kentucky Watershed Network?

20 responses



- yes
- no
- maybe
- not sure

If you are the person who was neutral on the event and thinks that there is not a need for KY Watershed Network (same person), please reach out to me! I would really appreciate hearing and learning from your perspective on how KWN can improve!

