



Prairie Rivers Network is Illinois' advocate for clean water and healthy rivers.

We champion clean, healthy rivers and lakes and safe drinking water to benefit the people and wildlife of Illinois.



prairieriversnetwork 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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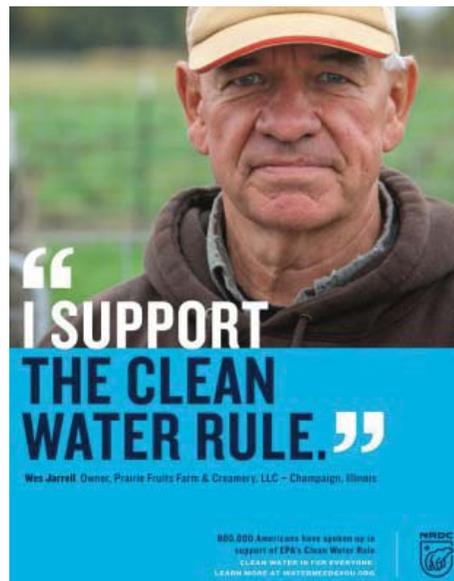
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Thanks to our members, supporters, staff and board of directors, Prairie Rivers Network continued its trajectory of growth in 2015. Our programs are strengthened by a growing network of people and organizations that allow us to have more influence in pursuit of clean water and healthy rivers in Illinois. I am so pleased to be able to share with you the evidence, in both progress and financial stability, of another strong year for Prairie Rivers Network.

We are especially proud of our “Clean Water is Good for Business” campaign to protect the Clean Water Act, our most important clean water law. Our campaign was used by our national partners and our video was featured on the U.S. EPA’s website. **We also received national recognition for our campaign leadership and creative video and social media work.**

- Carol Hays, Executive Director



CLEAN WATER & HEALTHY RIVERS: *Protecting Vulnerable Habitat & Vital Waters*

Much of our work is carried out in partnership with other groups and organizations. We thank them for effective working relationships to protect our rivers and streams.

DEFENDING THE CLEAN WATER ACT

The **U.S. EPA finalized the long-awaited Clean Water Rule**, which protects the nation's smallest, most vulnerable streams and wetlands that give life to our larger river systems. We worked with many groups across the country to support EPA's efforts to clarify clean water protections.

We helped garner and amplify important voices like small businesses and farmers in support of the Clean Water Rule through our widely popular social media campaign: #4cleanwater.

Because a federal court has placed a temporary hold on the rule, we continue to work hard to see that the rule is upheld.

PROTECTING WILDLIFE HABITAT

We successfully coordinated the Middle Illinois River Conservation Collaborative — bringing together conservation entities to acquire, restore, and protect floodplain habitats along the Illinois River. This effort led to the **addition of 283 acres to The Wetlands Initiative's Dixon Waterfowl Refuge**, an acquisition that will restore upland habitats, protect a rare seep, and reduce agricultural pollution on the site.



Elliot at the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge.

REDUCING THE THREAT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

As part of an advisory group to Congress on Asian carp and other invasive species moving between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River, **we are advocating for revitalization of the Chicago River** as a necessary component of any invasive species solutions. We developed consensus recommendations for Congress to fund robust and aggressive programs to protect against Asian carp now, while we work on long-term solutions for dozens of other invasive species.



Robert discussing the threat of Asian carp while on a boat tour of the Chicago River.

REDUCING NITROGEN & PHOSPHORUS POLLUTION

Illinois finalized its plan for reducing the nitrogen and phosphorous pollution that clogs our waters with noxious algae, depletes oxygen, and contributes to the Gulf of Mexico dead zone. Prairie Rivers Network sits on the state's policy committee to address nutrients and will work for aggressive reduction of this harmful pollution.

SAVING WETLANDS

Prairie Rivers Network is **co-leading a campaign to stop a highly destructive Army Corps project** that would devastate fish and wildlife on the Middle Mississippi River and put Illinois river towns at great risk of flooding. The New Madrid levee would destroy more than 50,000 acres of wetlands that provide vital spawning and breeding habitat for fish and wildlife. The **campaign has gained support of key leaders** like Senator Dick Durbin, and state floodplain experts.

FIGHTING BAD RIVER MANAGEMENT

Navigation practices and outdated infrastructure continue to degrade the health of our largest rivers. With a coalition of regional and national partners, we are **advocating for small-scale, non-structural alternatives for navigation** as preferable to new locks and dams.



Overlooking the Mississippi River.

We object to costly and destructive navigation projects while promoting the importance of wetlands and green infrastructure for environmental protection and flood risk reduction.

ENERGY & WATER: *Reducing the threats from coal mining & coal ash*

ACHIEVING STRONGER FEDERAL REGULATION OF COAL ASH

In April 2015, the U.S. EPA finalized the first-ever regulations for the storage and disposal of toxic coal ash. **Years of advocacy—including testifying, organizing, commenting, and, ultimately, bringing a lawsuit—finally forced the U.S. EPA to regulate coal ash dumping** and closure requirements for these dumps.

WORKING FOR STRONGER ILLINOIS REGULATIONS OF COAL ASH

We are **working to achieve strong state rules regarding the closure of coal ash dumps in Illinois**. Strong state rules are needed to close several gaps left by the federal coal ash rules, and ensure that responsible clean-up and monitoring is required at all of the state's polluting coal ash dumps.

EXPANDING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Responding to calls for fairness and transparency, Illinois DNR is advancing proposed rules that will improve the ability of citizens to participate in coal mining permitting.

Expect improved public access to important permit documents, earlier notice of mining plans, and an end to IDNR's adversarial positions during permit hearings.

THWARTING THE BULLDOG MINE

The proposed Bulldog coal mine in East-Central Illinois originally planned to begin mining in January 2014. We **worked with residents and advocates to highlight discrepancies and flaws in the mine's permit applications**, which prompted serious review and extensive questioning of the permits. As it stands, the **Bulldog mine has not secured either of the permits it needs to begin mining.**



Tyler testifying at one of numerous hearings on coal ash.

Membership & Financials

PRAIRIE RIVERS NETWORK ENDOWMENT



In 2015, we introduced the Prairie Rivers Network Endowment, a permanent investment fund to enhance and sustain the work of Prairie Rivers Network. The Endowment is an investment in Illinois' future and an opportunity to leave a legacy of clean water and healthy rivers for future generations.

Prairie Rivers Network's Legacy Society is a group of dedicated members whose outstanding support and long-term vision allows us to protect the rivers and streams of Illinois and the countless wild species that inhabit them now and into the future.

We thank the following Legacy Society members who have given or pledged to the Prairie Rivers Network Endowment.

Ellyn and David Bullock
 Glynnis Collins and Nick Brozovic
 Jean Flemma and John Epifanio
 Jane and Eric Freyfogle
 Nancy Goodall
 Rosemary Laughlin

Anna Keck and Jason Lindsey
 Jon McNussen
 Becky Mead
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 Bill Van Hagey
 Carol Wock

Statement of Activities for the year ended December 31, 2015

Revenue and Support

Donations & Special Fundraising Events	\$212,740
Grants	\$379,401
Investment & Dividends	\$13,381
In-Kind Donations	\$4,740
Miscellaneous	\$14,464
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(\$12,183)
Total Revenue \$	\$612,543

Expenses

Program Staff Salaries	\$291,175
Program Staff Taxes & Benefits	\$49,995
Direct Program Costs	\$122,372
Fundraising (including salaries & taxes/benefits)	\$67,032
Management/General (including salaries & taxes/benefits) \$	\$37,326
Total Expenses	\$567,900

Net Assets

Beginning of year	\$342,372
End of year	\$387,015

Donations & Fiscal Management

Prairie Rivers Network's revenue comes mainly from private foundation grants (62% of 2015 revenue, some of which is earmarked for 2016 spending) and member donations (34% of 2015 revenue). Over 80% of 2015 expenditures were in pursuit of our clean water and healthy river programs. Fundraising and administrative operations combined accounted for 18% of spending.

Our finances are audited each year by an independent certified accountant and are available upon request. Our Federal 990 tax forms are also available upon request or through guidestar.org.

Thank You Members and Supporters!

Community Partners

A special thank you to our community partners. We encourage you to support and thank those businesses and organizations that protect our rivers and streams.

Businesses

Platinum \$5,000 and above

McKenzie Wagner, Inc.*

Gold \$1,000–\$4,999

Common Ground Food Co-op **
Fox Development Corporation *
Patagonia-Enviro Department **
UpClose Marketing and Printing **

Silver \$500–\$999

Blue Moon Farm
Elliott Counseling Group
Marco Technical Documentation
Paul's Machine & Welding Corporation
Share Power Responsible Investing

Bronze \$250–\$499

Champaign Telephone Company
Hartke Engineering and Surveying
Kickapoo Landing**
Neutral Cycle*

Members \$1–\$249

Art Theater Co-op*
Big Grove Tavern*
Brown, Hobbs, and McMurray Insurance
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J.T. Pierce Custom Lawn
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RENew Design*
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Treadway Clay*
Upper Sangamon River Conservancy*

Groups/Public Entities

Bangs Lake Advisory Committee
Champaign County Audubon Society
Des Plaines River Association
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana Green Team
Illinois Smallmouth Alliance
Laborers Local Union #393
National Wildlife Federation
Northwest Illinois Audubon Society
Prairie Group of the Sierra Club
SCARCE
Vermilion County Conservation District
Wesley United Methodist Church

We are grateful to all of our donors and funders, especially those who have been with us for many years. Your annual support ensures that the fight for clean and healthy rivers is carried on.

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The Energy Foundation
Environmental Law and Policy Center
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The Joyce Foundation

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RE-AMP
River Network
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The Bruce Hannon Friends of Illinois Rivers recognizes those members who have pledged an annual gift of \$1,000 or more to sustain the work of Prairie Rivers Network into the future. Members of the Bruce Hannon Friends of Illinois Rivers are highlighted in our donor listing below.

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Elizabeth and David Nicol
Janet L. Peters

James R. Payne

Anonymous

Michael Scully

Ann Boisclair and
Jeffrey Jens

Wayne Tipword

Luan and Don Davis

Honorary Gifts

Kristina Boerger's Birthday

Kay Holley
Carol Washburne and Shelley
Masar

Katherine Flugge, in honor of
John Louis Sitch

Joan and Jim Hocker, in honor
of Canton Area Citizens for
Environmental Issues

* In-kind supporter

**In-kind and monetary supporter

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our supporter recognition. We apologize for any errors and urge you to notify us of any corrections.

Thank you!

