



2010 Annual Report



The Voice of the River



The Flint River, Brent Run Headwaters

If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.

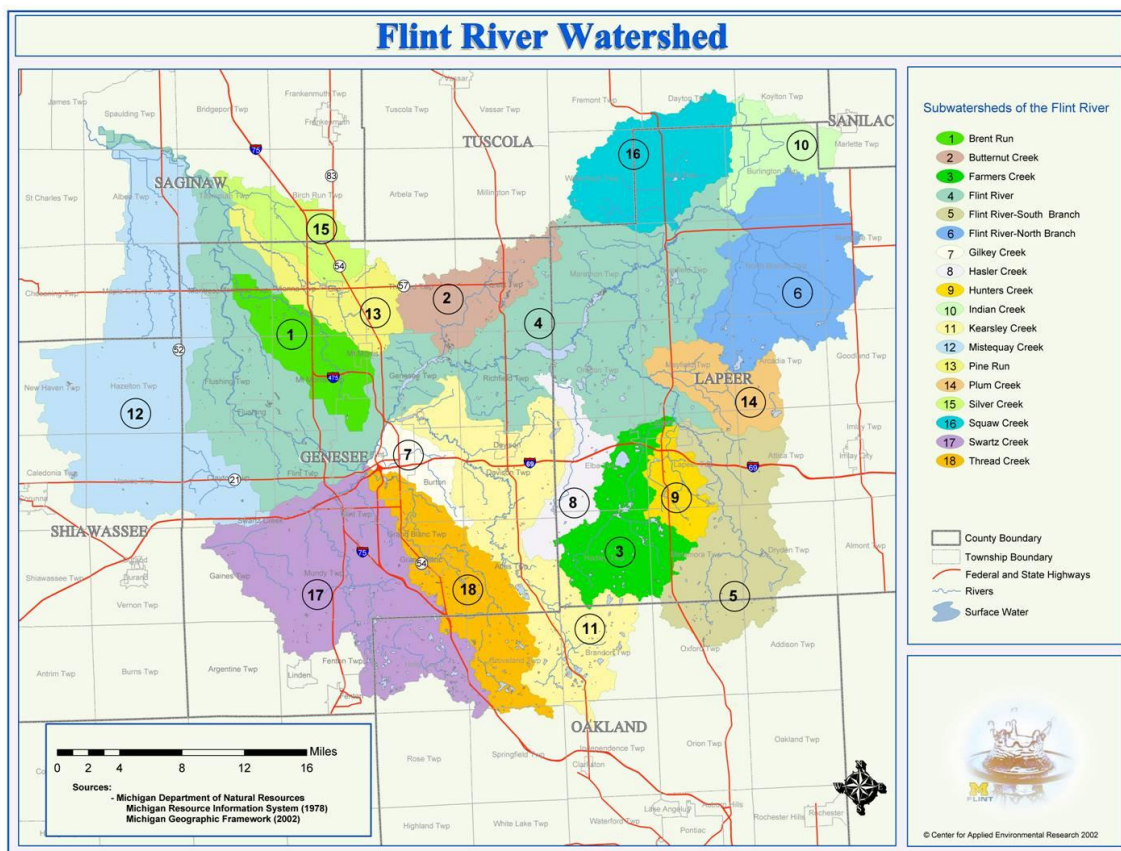
--LORAN EISELY, *The Immense Journey*, 1957

About the Flint River Watershed Coalition

The Flint River Watershed Coalition represents concerned citizens, local government, business interests, educational institutions, and others who feel strongly that the Flint River and its tributaries are a vital resource to protect, preserve, and improve. With offices in Flint, Michigan, the Coalition serves as the Voice that speaks for the entire Flint River drainage basin including parts of Genesee, Lapeer, Oakland, Shiawassee, Saginaw, Tuscola, and Sanilac counties. We are involved in a variety of education and advocacy efforts and are engaged in state and federal issues that have a direct influence on our local water quality.

The Coalition first convened in the fall of 1997 and incorporated as a 501©3 organization in August of 1998.

Currently, we are engaged in a variety of educational and advocacy programs throughout the nearly 1,400 square miles of Flint River Watershed. You can read all about the FRWC, its programs and successes here and on our website at www.flintriver.org



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AFL-CIO

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Kettering University

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Outreach and Education Coordinator

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Jaime Welch

Program Assistant

Casey Foote

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Report from the Executive

From the Executive Director

I'm pleased to present the FRWC's 2010 Annual Report. In this report, you will find some of the highlights and successes of our key projects over the past year along with our financial information.

This was a fantastic year of change for the Flint River Watershed Coalition, and I'm excited about what is to come for our organization and for our watershed. We welcomed two new staff members—Jaime Welch as our new Program Assistant and Casey Foote as our very first Director of Development—and both have had an immediate and substantial impact on our capacity to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River and its watershed. We also revamped our website, began reaching out to members and concerned citizens in new ways, and hosted our very first benefit concert featuring recording artist Ty Stone!

But what is most important is the impact we had. I hope you join me in the joy of watching someone's attitude about the Flint River completely change after participating in one of our programs:

- A teenaged participant in the Flint River GREEN program as she shares her water quality testing data – "I didn't realize I could make a difference!"
- A kayaker following his inaugural trip down the Flint River – "It's like I'm up north!"
- An angler finding that sweet spot in the river – "This is the perfect spot, and I'm not sharing where I caught this fish!"
- A clean up participant at a site plagued by illegal dumping – "Why would someone want to spoil such a beautiful place?"

You can read about the specific achievements of each of our programs throughout this report. We could not achieve any of this without you, our supporters. Thank you and we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2011 for a healthy Flint River!

Water Quality Monitoring

Twice a year, every spring and fall for the last 12 years, a corps of volunteer water quality monitors hit the streams of the Flint River Watershed to collect data on the health of our waterways. Participants are trained to record details about each site and collect an appropriate sampling of aquatic organisms. Details such as stream depth, width, and flow provide information about the habitat while aquatic organisms help determine the quality of the water and local habitat. Based on the number and diversity of organisms collected, each site receives an overall rating of: Poor, Fair, Good, or Excellent.

Volunteers who are trained as Monitors are a key to the success of this program, their time, dedication, and commitment is essential. The data collected is shared with MiCorps, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment- Surface Water Quality Division, as well as the Genesee County Drain Commissioner. In addition, the FRWC has an interactive map on our website: www.Flintriver.org under the programs tab with results for each site, as well as photos, site descriptions, and directions.

In addition to our successful monitoring seasons, the FRWC has completed the certification process to become an official MiCorps Monitoring program. As a part of this program, the data collected by the FRWC is now comparable to programs from other parts of the state. And with the various data quality assurances included in our plan, our future data can be used with more authority at the state level.



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Gilkey Creek Stream Profiling

The FRWC continues to coordinate local stream profiling efforts throughout the Gilkey Creek sub-watershed. Many of our benthic monitors assist with this process, and hail from various organizations such as the Sierra Club, Flint River Corridor Alliance, and local boy scout troops. The final report can be found on our website at www.flintriver.org.



Watershed Management

The Flint River Watershed Coalition has traditionally focused on our very successful education and outreach programs. Our mission to protect, preserve, and improve the Flint River Watershed, however, extends beyond these wonderful programs. As such, the board of the FRWC determined during our strategic planning process that our work also should include on the ground efforts to improve the quality of our watershed.

In 2009, the momentum behind this type of work began to pick up, and we are very excited about the great progress we've made.

South Branch Watershed – the FRWC helped bring together a coalition of nonprofit and governmental agencies, as well as interested citizens and business owners, to chart out how we can collectively begin implementation of the management plan written for that portion of the watershed. The Lapeer County Conservation District submitted a major funding request to the state, and we look forward to working cooperatively to help implement this project.

Swartz Creek – similar to our efforts in the South Branch, the FRWC has pulled together stakeholders in the Swartz Creek watershed to begin implementation of that watershed management plan. The FRWC continues to seek out funding to begin on the ground improvements in that watershed.

Gilkey Creek – The Genesee County Drain Commissioner and the Center for Applied Environmental Research are leading efforts that include developing a regional storm water detention basin (including land acquisition and construction) and a branding/education program. The FRWC participates on the citizen's advisory council, and has been hired to carry out stream profiling (discussed later under the monitoring sections).

Flint River Corridor Alliance – The FRWC is working with city leaders in downtown Flint to use our combined influence and resources to transform the downtown stretch of the Flint River from a distressed waterway to a natural resource that is an asset to the community and a national example of urban river restoration. Our efforts most notably have resulted in a new vision for the decaying Hamilton Dam, which includes a naturalized waterway rather than a brand new dam.

Flint River and Community Cleanup

It was a heartfelt experience when many volunteers came out on a cold, 40 degree, day with spitting rain to pull trash from the watershed. When it was all said and done, 415 people participated to help protect the Flint River Watershed by removing bags of trash, estimated to over 2,600 cubic feet. In addition to the bags of trash, large items such as doors, couches, 127 tires, roofing materials, and mattresses were also removed from one of the 16 sites between Genesee and Lapeer Counties. Many thanks to our Sponsors and Site Coordinators who were essential for this event to happen and who provided a safe, fun, and enjoyable experience for volunteers to participate.

Our Water Public Education Events

Paddling Events: River: Putting People on the River!

In 2010, FRWC coordinated a total of six paddling programs to help educate and bring awareness of the Flint River watershed. Starting on Earth Day in April, we joined efforts to bring awareness and celebrate the opening of a new Canoe/Kayak rental business in Flushing. At this event 15 paddlers learned about the Flint River Watershed and environmental concerns such as Storm Water runoff. This paddle was led by FRWC Board Member, Linda Berker, and enjoyed by people from Davison, Fenton, Flint, Lapeer, Linden, and Wales. People of all ages participated on one or more of the scheduled programs, the youngest being age three. It was rewarding to have the families, especially those with young kids, participate. Some families even brought their friendly, family pets to join the paddles. Programs like this have been helping to bring the river back to the people to enjoy. Approximately 78% of the participants had not paddled the Flint River before.

The Fresh Water Forever event in August had 54 people learning about the watershed, and had 50 people paddling from Flushing Township to Montrose. FRWC wrapped up the season with a weekday paddle on the Fall Equinox.

2010 Paddling Participants came from the following cities:

Arlington, TX	Fenton	Lansing	Montrose	Burton	Flint	Lapeer
Mt. Morris	Clarkston	Flushing	Linden	Ortonville	Clio	Hope
Grand Blanc	Midland	Wales	Davison	Milford	Swartz Creek	

Our Water: River Walks

River Outreach: Walking Through the Watershed

In 2010, FRWC coordinated a total of six river walk programs to help educate and bring awareness of the Flint River watershed.

The first River Walk of the season was held in April prior to the Friends of the Flint River Trail Clean Up. While learning first-hand about Storm Water runoff concerns, participants were able to see first-hand the need for people to help with the FFRT's annual clean up efforts.

River Walks during the summer brought out people of all ages and family groups. Each walk highlighted different aspects of our watershed. Participants were provided information on the Seven Simple Steps, FRWC brochures, and other watershed educational materials.

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'Our Water' Public Education Events

The last walk of the season included a cook-out at Richfield Park. Participants enjoyed the habitat and the trails that run along the river. Walkers learn about the water monitoring site located in the park and they receive an introduction to FRWC's Water Monitoring program.

Participants of the 2010 River Walks came from the following municipalities:

Burton	Linden	Chesaning	Flushing	Montrose
Clio	Grand Blanc	New Lothrop	Davison	Lapeer
Flint	Flushing			

Community Outreach: Awareness, Education & Action

The Genesee County Community Water Quality Consortium (GCCWQC) supports FRWC's efforts to inspire people to enjoy their watershed while learning how they can help protect, preserve and improve the Flint River Watershed. Through the Our Water program, the GCCWQC supports FRWC's efforts to conduct a number of activities focused on public awareness and education of "Our Water". People participating in River Walks, Paddling Programs, Storm Drain Awareness, Community Presentations and/or Outreach events, can learn about simple actions we can all take to lessen the impact on the Flint River Watershed.

Getting the Words Out:

In 2010, 17 community presentations highlighting the Flint River watershed and the Our Water program and information reached 374 people from 23 municipalities. Community groups included the Touch the Earth Garden Club, West Flint Business Association, the Flushing Senior Center, and St. John Vianney School group of parents, teachers, and students.

In addition to community presentations, FRWC provided information at 10 various community events in which over 2,400 people participated. Community events included the Annual Earth Day & Garden Celebration, Ortonville Creekfest, the Genesee County Fair, the Flint River Valley Steelheaders Expo., and the Keep Genesee County Beautiful Conference.

Our Water: Storm Water Awareness

Heading Off Non-Point Pollution Storm Water Awareness hit many homes in 2010! This program is conducted by volunteers who stencil neighborhood drains to bring awareness that what enters the drains will flow to the local river or stream. These volunteers also distribute Our Water: Seven Simple Steps brochures to the residential homes. These brochures provide helpful information on how they reduce or eliminate undesirable items from entering the storm drains.

The Sierra Club and Flint River Wild Ones sponsored sites on Earth Day to provide an opportunity for others to join them in bringing awareness to this issue in the communities of Burton and Mt. Morris. A few weeks later, the Flushing Environmental Science Club also joined with others to stencil and share this in their own communities.

In July, thanks to the Catholic Heart Work Camp, volunteers were able to stencil neighborhoods in Goodrich and the southern part of Davison Township. This is good news for the Thread Creek and Kearsley Creek sub-watersheds.

Overall, more than 3,000 homes received information on Storm Water Awareness and how they can help protect and preserve the Flint River Watershed.



Flint River Green

Global Rivers Environmental Education Network

Students, Teachers & Mentors Bringing Education Outdoors and to the Community

The Flint River GREEN program takes learning outside to provide educational awareness and the collection data for reporting on the health of their watershed. Teachers incorporate STEM principles (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) with their watershed curriculum, whereas environmental professionals serve as classroom Mentors helping students make a connection to real-life environmental careers. Thanks to our funders and the individuals who support this program, over 1,650 students were able to participate in this educational program – a record breaking year! This began in 1990 with 5 Flint School Teachers participating. In 2010, 44 teachers coming from either: Genesee, Lapeer, or Oakland counties; along with 33 Mentors from diverse environmental backgrounds participated in this program.

The highlight of this event was the Student Summit. Mott Community College hosted this event on May 14th, providing a wonderful opportunity for students to present their data to their peers, general public, and community leaders. It was a rewarding experience to see Genesee County students compare their information with students from the Headwaters in Lapeer County.

In addition to student presentations, teachers and students were able to participate in the Break-out sessions on environmental topics. Nineteen environmental professionals provided a variety of sessions that ranged from "Bees and Beekeeping"; "Gilkey Creek Restoration"; "Animals, Birds, and Water!"; "Eating Your Backyard"; and the all-time favorite "Rats In your Drinking Water."

Many of the students from this program took their learning one step further by participating in Service Learning projects in their communities.

The FRWC is reaching new and current members!

The Flint River Watershed Coalition had an exciting year with events and fundraisers. Each fundraiser was a fun way to raise awareness of our organization and increase membership. Our fundraisers this year have increased our membership by 94 people and educated many more about the Flint River Watershed Coalition. It is the mission and continuous effort of the FRWC to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River, and we are bringing awareness to our cause!

We held our first fundraiser at the Klaty Manor. We are very thankful for the generosity of Robb and Tamra Klaty. They graciously opened their home to us and hosted a night in which members new and old were able to enjoy camaraderie and learn more about the Watershed Coalition. We also held a silent auction which was made possible by the generous donations of Grace Sauve and Vintage Jewelers. This fundraiser brought in 37 new members; a total of 87 watershed supporters were in attendance.

Our wine tasting event at the Fenton Winery was also a great success! We had wine and beer tasting, fun engaging Watershed fact quizzes, and a silent auction. We had 41 new members join our organization at this event and a total of 74 people came out to support the Watershed Coalition. Artwork for our silent auction was generously donated by Ernest Carter, and our jewelry was donated by Vintage Jewelers.

Our most exciting event this year was a benefit concert the FRWC hosted at the Machine Shop. Our feature artist was 'Ty Stone' who currently tours with Kid Rock, Rehab, and Uncle Cracker; additional artists were 'Maybe August' from Saginaw, and 'Concilio' a local band in Flint. We were very fortunate to have them perform for us and we are very grateful to all the bands for donating their time and talent to support the FRWC. Over 80 people came out to enjoy the performance and have fun with the FRWC.

This year we have made great strides networking with organizations and communities, and have raised public awareness of our great recreational resource right here in our own area. As we develop and implement new initiatives for the Flint River Watershed Coalition support for our mission continues to grow. With great thanks, we welcome our new corporate sponsors: The Ichthus Foundation, Vintage Jewelers, Metropoulos Amplifications, The Spencer Agency, Wellness Massage Therapy and Yoga, and Vern's Collision.

It is by the support of our members and sponsors that allows the Flint River Watershed Coalition to continue to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River.

FRWC Chapters

Friends of the Flint River Trail

The Friends of the Flint River Trail host Sunday rides every Sunday, May through October – and along with our “regulars” – some of whom have been riding on Sundays for more than ten years, brings new riders to the trail almost every week. In addition, the Friends lead rides on a number of Saturdays on other trails within about an hour drive from Flint. These rides proved more popular than ever!

Flint River Paddlers

The Flint River Paddlers encourage recreational canoeing and kayaking on the Flint River. Members of the chapter also volunteer many hours to our other events, including the Boats, Bikes, and Bricks triathlon coordinated by our partner organization the Flint River Corridor Alliance.

Lapeer County

As one of our oldest chapters, the volunteers in the Lapeer County Chapter bring a tireless voice of river conservation and protection to their community. Projects include maintaining a canoe path throughout the county, coordinating water quality monitoring and cleanup efforts, and advocating water quality protection measures to local officials and decision makers.

Kearsley Creek Chapter

Focused primarily in Ortonville, but reaching all of the northern Oakland County portion of the Flint River Watershed, The Kearsley Creek Chapter monitors local planning and zoning issues that will impact the last remaining cool water fishery in the Flint River Watershed. Members also play a significant role in organizing the annual Ortonville Creek Fest event, as well as coordinate our only Oakland County site for the annual Flint River and Community Clean Up.

Grants

The following individuals and organizations are the major source of grants and financial support for the operations and projects of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. Without the generosity of these foundations and businesses, we would not be able to carry out the FRWC mission.

We look forward to a continued good relationship with our supporters in 2011 and beyond.

Sources of Program Support and Grants	Programs Supported
Carriage Town Neighborhood Association	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Coldwell Banker	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Fenton Winery	General Operations
Flint Downtown Development Authority, Gerard Burnash	General Operations
Genesee County Drain Commissioner	Our Water Campaign Programs: GREEN, Benthic Monitoring, Outreach
General Motors Corporation	Flint River GREEN
HealthPlus of Michigan	Flint River 500
Highfield Foundation	General Operations and Development
Representative Dale Kildee	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Genesee County Land Bank	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Mott Community College	Flint River and Community Cleanup
CS Mott Foundation Matching Gifts Program	General Operations, River and Community Cleanup, FR500
CS Mott Foundation	General Operations
Ruth Mott Foundation	General Operations
Ruth Mott Foundation, Applewood Estate	Benthic Monitoring
Rowe, Inc.	Flint River and Community Cleanup
Sierra Club Nepessing Group	Flint River and Community Cleanup
University of Michigan - Flint	Benthic Monitoring
Wade Trim	Flint River and Community Cleanup

The Flint River Watershed Coalition would like to thank the following partners who have helped build the success of the organization and our many programs.

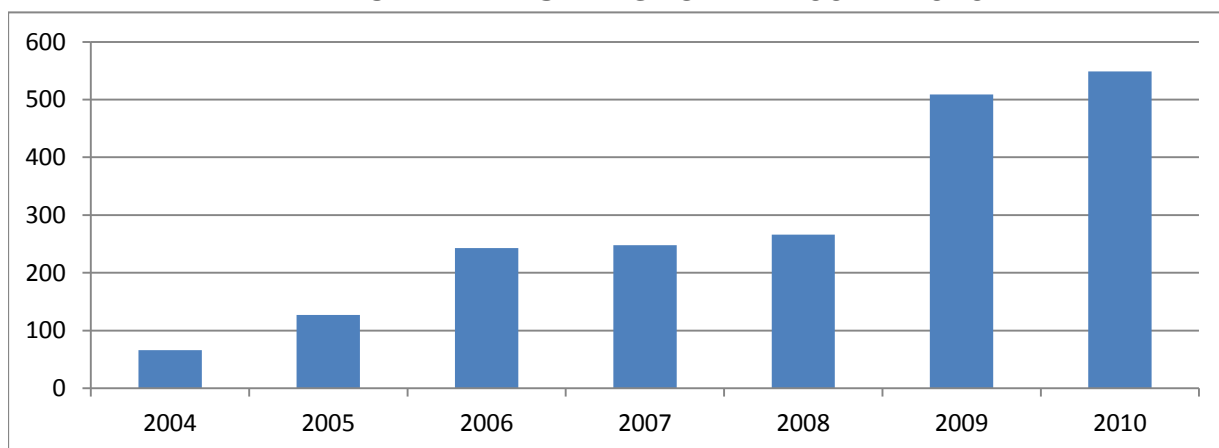
C. S. Mott Foundation
Ruth Mott Foundation
Johnson Foundation
Genesee County Drain Commissioner
Genesee County Water Quality Consortium
Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
University of Michigan – Flint
Flint River Corridor Alliance
Crim Fitness Foundation
Genesee County Conservation District
Lapeer County Conservation District
North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy
Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy
Center for Applied Environmental Research at UM-Flint
City of Flushing
City of Flint
City of Lapeer
Epic Technology Solutions
Earth Force
General Motors

Membership

The Flint River Watershed Coalition is a grass roots organization that depends on its membership for financial and volunteer support. We have made a lot of progress since 1997 in terms of increasing our membership base, and in expanding the ways that we reach out to our supporters.

During 2010 we stayed with our tried and true ways of growing and sustaining our memberships by focusing on river enthusiasts, volunteers, and past supporters. We also tried some new techniques in order to reach out to some non-traditional groups, individuals, and business who were not familiar with the watershed, and who may not have previously considered becoming a contributor. Through three very 'unique' fundraisers in the fall, we gained 79 new members. These folks will be a little harder to keep engaged, but we plan to hook them on our mission and goals so that they will become sustaining members, and will become involved in our volunteer activities. See how we do in the future!

FRWC MEMBERSHIP GROWTH 2004 – 2010



There are many ways that our supporters can become members of the Flint River Watershed Coalition. We accept contributions in the traditional way with cash and checks, but now, at any time during the year, members can use the convenience of the internet - by going to the FRWC website at www.flintriver.org and pressing the 'Donate Now through Network for Good' button on the home page, credit card users can become new members or renew their membership in the Coalition. In 2011 we piloted the ability to accept credit cards at our events as well. If all goes well, we will implement this at future venues in 2011 and 2012.

There are several levels of membership available. Please contact any one of our Board members or staff if you are interested in membership or volunteer opportunities with the Coalition. Also, included with this report is a membership brochure and form. Please feel free to detach this and give it to an individual or business that may be interested in joining the FRWC.

FRWC MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Student	\$10.00 / year	Individual	\$25.00 / year
Family or Group	\$40.00 / year	River Sponsor	\$100.00 / year
River Patron	\$250.00 / year	Watershed Protector	\$500.00 / year
Watershed Patron	1,000.00 / year		

Auditor's Note



Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

July 28, 2011

Board of Directors
Flint River Watershed Coalition
Flint, MI

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of Flint River Watershed Coalition as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the related statements of activities, cash flows and functional expenses then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amount and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Flint River Watershed Coalition as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Taylor & Morgan, P.C.,

Taylor & Morgan, P.C.
Certified Public Accountants

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To Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed



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