

# What Happens When A Dam Removal Project Spans More Than A Decade: A Case Study

National Stream Restoration Conference 2023



**Kleinschmidt**

**AMERICAN  
RIVERS**

# Introductions

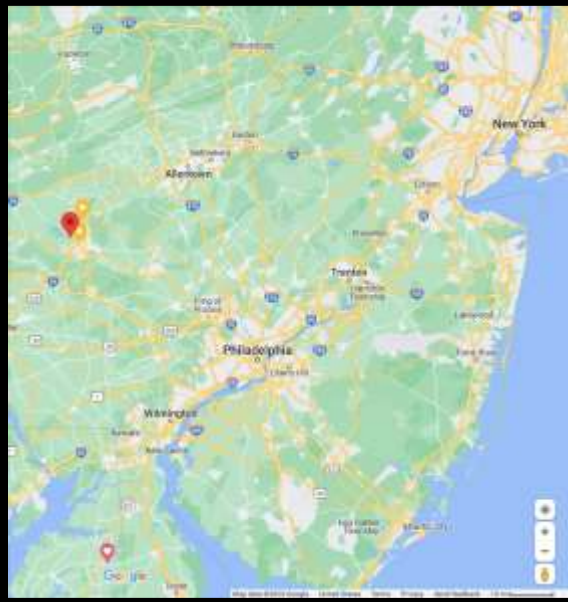


Jessie Thomas-Blate  
Director, River Restoration, American Rivers  
Role: Overall Project Manager



Gabe Martin  
Water Resources Engineer, Kleinschmidt  
Role: Construction Support





## Van Reed Paper Mill Dam, Reading, PA

Cacoosing Creek, tributary to Tulpehocken Creek  
Delaware River Basin



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Credit: USFWS



## Process Hurdles

- The Utility Story
- The HOA Story
- The Bog Turtle Story



Aerial Photo: PFBC



July 2022



August 2022



## Construction Hurdles



October 2022

Credit: Flyway Excavating



July 2023

## The Never-Ending Dirty Story



# Facing Challenges in Project Management

## Expecting the Unexpected

- Always plan for the unexpected. Have contingency funds.
- Connect with surrounding community, especially anyone directly impacted by the project early on. Revisit these connections if the project takes a while to complete.
- Hire good contractors who will lay things out on the table. Ensure you have a confident project team.



# Acknowledgements

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- **Contractors**

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- **Partners**

Trout Unlimited, Berks County Conservation District



# Life Depends on Rivers<sup>SM</sup>



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