

**QUITTAPAHILLA WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
MEETING MINUTES  
ANNVILLE TOWN HALL  
February 18, 2016**

Present: Dave Lasky, Ann Lasky, Mike Schroeder, Russ Collins, Kent Crawford, Joe Connor, Alicia Norris, Beth Lutz

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Mike announced that work on Phase 2 of the Streambank Restoration Project has been unavoidably delayed until June 2016 in consequence of recent snowfalls and the contractor being backlogged with other jobs elsewhere.
2. Mike made a number of other announcements, to wit:
  - a. The Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance (LCCWA) has received a grant of nearly \$50,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to identify and reduce water pollution in the county, thanks to the efforts of Karen Feather of Lebanon Valley College's Center for Municipal and Corporate Sustainability (CMACS) and Julie Schneider of the Center for Watershed Protection. The grant is intended to facilitate Lebanon County municipalities' compliance with MS4 regulations.
  - b. Mike's presentation before three groups of 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Annville Elementary School on December 4, 2015, arranged via teacher John Brewer, has prompted several follow-up emails from students pursuing science projects asking how they can most effectively help the Quittie and keep trash from flowing into the creek. Mike suggested that there exist many opportunities for outreach and education among area schoolkids that the Association ought to more actively pursue, and that such presentations should become a regular part of the Association's activities.
  - c. The following upcoming events:
    - i. Project Clean Stream. At 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 2, as part of "Project Clean Stream" sponsored by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (<http://cleanstream.allianceforthebay.org/>), volunteers will gather in the parking lot of Yogeys Minuature Golf & Ice Cream Parlor, just off Route 422 on South 22nd St. (behind Commerce Bank and Taco Bell and directly across from the Lebanon Valley Mall), divide into teams of 3-4 persons each, and fan out in the woods along the banks of Quittapahilla Creek to pick up trash and hunt for plastic artifacts suitable for display in the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum. Trash bags will be provided. Sponsored by the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum and the Quittapahilla Watershed Association.
    - ii. Quittie Creek Nature Park Day of Caring Spring Cleanup. April 23 at 9:00 am to 12:00 pm (meet at the main entrance to Quittie Creek Nature Park off Bachman Road next to the Swingholm Pedestrian Bridge). This annual Spring Cleanup is sponsored by the Lebanon County United Way and the Quittie Creek Nature Park Committee of the Friends of Old Anville. Community volunteers will divide into crews, and help spread mulch along the trails, pick up trash, remove invasive

- species, and spruce up the Nature Park for the coming summer. Joe Connor suggested that special attention be given to the area east of the Spruce St. Bridge.
- iii. “Let’s Talk Trash!” April 19th at 11:00 am (Chapel 101, LVC campus) Michael Schroeder, Executive Director of the Quittapahilla Creek Garbage Museum in Annville PA, will offer a broad-ranging presentation on the systemic contamination of Pennsylvania’s waterways and the world’s oceans with millions of tons of plastic trash, using Lebanon County’s Quittapahilla Creek as emblematic of today’s throwaway society and an ongoing global process of environmental degradation.
  - d. Stephanie Harmon of the Lebanon County Conservation District asked that the following information be shared: If anyone wishes to order from the LCCD’s native tree and plant sale, orders are due February 22 (<https://www.lccd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NEW-2016-Brochure-Order-Form-Online-Colored-Version.pdf>). Stephanie is also looking for volunteers to help with the Lebanon County Envirothons. Volunteers must have (or receive prior) their PA Child Abuse Certifications. Anyone interested should contact [Stephanie.Harmon@lccd.org](mailto:Stephanie.Harmon@lccd.org) and she can send the links for the certifications. Also needed are volunteers help run the stations and score the students tests. Volunteers are on-site about a half day (times vary per event). The Envirothons are scheduled to take place in the following times and places:
    - i. High Schools: April 28th at Levitz.
    - ii. Middle Schools: May 6th at Middle Creek.
    - iii. Elementary Schools: May 12th at Coleman Park
  - e. Russ Collins of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited sent the following email to Mike: “We at Doc Fritchey will be working on a near and long term strategic plan, I would welcome a strengthening in a partnership with the QWA. To that end, if there are ways that we can coordinate applications for grants, gather man power for projects, develop other partners in the community and so, I think we can accomplish some great things. I have had a number of offers from those interested in working on stream restoration projects.” For the follow-up discussion, see item 4 below.
3. Kent observed that the time is ripe for the Association to pursue grant money for efforts to improve the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay; that Pennsylvania is way behind schedule in ensuring that its waterways that flow into the Bay are improved; and thus for the Association to identify and apply for grants for a wide range of initiatives, including riparian buffers. He suggested that the QWA work with the Lebanon County Conservation District, local chapters of Trout Unlimited, and other groups, to secure such funds, and volunteered to pursue such opportunities. He also noted the recent announcement of the PA-DCNR’s Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants.
  4. Russ followed up by reiterating the position of the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited that it is eager to partner with the QWA for such efforts. He further suggested that the Association might consider placing an ad in the Doc Fritchey Annual Banquet booklet to advertise our interest to local members of TU and raise the profile of our group among local TU members, at a cost of \$25 for a quarter-page. The date of the Annual Banquet is April 9.
  5. Ann moved, and Dave seconded, that the Association allocate \$25 from its treasury for the placement of such an ad. The motion passed unanimously. The deadline for submission of an ad is early March. Mike agreed to draft the ad and circulate among Board members for approval.

6. Ann reported that the QWA treasury currently holds \$809, and that the annual membership fee of \$10 is now due.
7. Joe Connor noted that he has spoken to Dan Kreider, whose family owns the farm across from Cleona Park (where the crops are planted right down to the edge of Quittie Creek); that he and Dan are in Leadership Lebanon Valley (a group organized by the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce; <https://www.lvchamber.org/leadership-lebanon-valley>); and that he will have ample opportunity in coming months to discuss with Mr. Kreider the family's farming practices with respect to the watershed. Joe also noted that Beck Creek is ripe for work with farmers.
8. The foregoing comments by Joe sparked a discussion about the QWA's plan to develop relationships with area farmers and to develop an agreement with one or two farmers for riparian buffers, which might then serve as a model that other area farmers might be more amenable to emulating. Beth Lutz, in her capacity as Agricultural Conservation Specialist for the Lebanon County Conservation District (LCCD), agreed to serve as a liaison between the QWA and the LCCD and to help identify and work with area farmers.
9. Dave noted that up to the year 2002, the QWA was instrumental in installing some 55,000 feet of riparian fencing, with buffers as small as 15 feet, after which the PA-DEP changed the rule for riparian buffers built with State funds, extending the minimum size of riparian buffers to 50 feet, and that since that time the Association has installed zero feet of fencing on area farms.
10. Mike reported on Williams / Transco's proposed Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project, and noted that the pipeline is planned to cut under all the waterways it traverses, including Swatara and Quittapahilla creeks; that the company is currently preparing an environmental impact statement (IES), which it expects to submit to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in March or April; and that soon afterward, FERC will hold public hearings on the proposed pipeline project. Discussion ensued regarding the nature of the pipeline; the hydrostatic testing process, in particular Williams' proposal to withdraw some 2.9 million gallons of water from Swatara Creek for hydrostatic testing; and the process by which FERC approval is sought and received. Mike expressed his opposition to the project; described the recent activities of the grassroots citizens group Lebanon Pipeline Awareness (of which he is Vice President); and encouraged the Association's members to keep a close eye on the FERC approval process.
11. Mike suggested that the Association develop a new and improved brochure; volunteered to draft such a brochure and circulate among Board members for comment and approval; and that the Association consider devoting up to \$160 from its treasury to pay 1,000 copies from GotPrint.com. Consensus was reached that this was a good idea.
12. Dave offered a narrative summary of some of the main actors involved in past QWA projects, and agreed to circulate the narrative summary, after additional revisions, among the Board, for possible inclusion on the QWA website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Schroeder, Secretary Pro Tem